

Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers

351 South Virgil Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90020-1315
louisehr@LACHoreographersAndDancers.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

***Fri & Sat 11/2-3- 8:30 pm Friends/Family/Dance Festival 2012,
Porticos Dance Space, Pasadena CA***



**Fri 11/16 @ 4 pm, Sat 11/17 @ 4 & 7:30 pm,
Sun 11/18 @ 4 pm, CA**

*The Baggage Project/Tap Dance Widows Club,
Miles Playhouse, Santa Monica*

Fri-Mon1/4-7/13 *International Performing Arts For Youth (IPAY), Philadelphia PA*

Fri-Mon 1/11-14/13 *APAP & Showcase of The Patchwork Girl of Oz +, New York*

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HAPPENING NOW
The Baggage Project/ Tap Dance Widows Club in LA
The Patchwork Girl of Oz in NY
and inside a review of 2012

Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers

NEWSLETTER
2012/2013



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NEWSLETTER 2012/2013

Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers' mission is to create high-quality, innovative concert work for Los Angeles artists, communicate to a diverse audience by using LA cultural influences, and to enlarge an educated dance audience in populations typically underexposed to the arts, especially youth. While involving audiences with participatory activities we explore humanistic themes. In this way, **LA C&D** is committed to using dance as a unifying force that crosses cultural, generational, language and socio-economic lines. Founded in 1979, **LA C&D**, a non-profit organization, has presented

multiple educational programs and created many new works. Two professional companies, **Louise Reichlin & Dancers** (modern) and **Zapped Taps™ / Alfred Desio** (electronic and acoustic tap) made up **LA C&D** until Desio's death in 2007. The mission for each of our dancers echoes that of our company: to focus but remain adaptable, to have persistence, to present inspiration, excellence and quality coupled with dependability and consistency, examining and deepening the connection with each other and our world.

2012- in Review & Still Moving

By Louise Reichlin, Director

It is October as I write this, and we definitely are still moving as one of our biggest events of the year, the official premier of **Tap Dance Widows Club** is coming up November 16-18 and we are currently active in three schools in which we move every second! We began January 2012 with our first performance in New York of the **The Patchwork Girl of Oz** at the Long Island Children's Museum. The theatre is a jewel box and charming for the dance/multimedia project that we revived for current touring. Last performed in its entirety in 2005, we put it together with performances here in LA at the Frida Kahlo Theater last December, and we were able to add new media by Audri Phillips with the help of an ARC grant through the Center For Cultural Innovation. We also performed excerpts at the Alvin Ailey Citygroup Theater in APAP showcases produced by Jodi Kaplan/ Booking Dance. We will be showcasing in New York again this January and Booking Dance has been representing us at the booking conferences this season. Check our website for NY Showcase information or if you are reading this in January, call my cell at 213-458-3066.

2012 included **multiple school partnerships** with every possible age, both during curriculum time (partnerships with Frederick Douglass Academy HS through ICEF school district, currently in partnership with LA County Arts For All), with Nelson, Rancho, and Aeolian El Schools (all 6th grades) and the Los Nietos School District through both the LA County Arts For All program and Don Knabe Partnership, Jordan HS (students



Photo credits:

- Screen shot of the 3 Tap Dance Widows
- Tap legends Fayard & Harold Nicholas in a clip.
- Alfred Desio (inventor of Tap-Tronics(tm) and his widow Louise Reichlin in Celtic Suite.
- Lower photo by Paul Antico. It is of Louise Reichlin's newest piece. Pictured are Steven Nielsen, Angela Todaro, Elizabeth Ann Poinsette, and Jenni Kiilholma.

Official Premier of Tap Dance Widows Club on Nov 16-18, 2012

By Louise Reichlin, Director

I was inspired to create **The Baggage Project** after my husband and partner of 39 years Alfred Desio passed away five years ago. Even though Alfred is no longer physically here, I believe his support and nurturing spirit still remain with me. While no two people grieve identically, one commonality of grief is this lingering "baggage" (in a positive way) carried after losing a loved one.

In **Tap Dance Widows Club** the work brings together multiple dance forms in a unique multimedia piece using the power of Dance and is an inside story from 30's Hollywood to now. Alfred Desio's widow Louise Reichlin

(me), Jon Zerby's widow Loretta), and Fayard Nicholas' widow Katherine Hopkins met to share memories, photos, and videos of our well-known husbands. Our conversations about moving forward without our husbands' physical presence were both hilarious and moving; this became the audio for the transformative work. It has turned out to be a 50' video/film and live media work that besides amazing clips of our husbands' early years, includes visual art by Audri Phillips, and live dance from our dancers, both modern, and also tap with M'ssada Nia who recreated Desio's opening number from **Caution, Men At Work: TAP** when we began forming the work two years ago. Another live section **Brandenburg** draws on styles from the film clips used. **Remembrance** is an older work with new visual digital art by Phillips, some of which uses images of those who have passed on that some of you have contributed, also

2012- in Review & Still Moving (cont.)

and teachers) and ABC District doing professional staff development (both also through Don Knabe Partnership), and Baca Arts Academy, this one with second graders through a grant from LA County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. Our first afterschool program of the year was at Selma El in partnership with the Hollywood Arts Council, and we began work with LA's Best, through them enjoying after school programs at Noble, Columbus Ave, Buchanan, Victory, Kim, and Lankershim Elementary.

Free performances for the community included the **Lummis Festival** in Highland Park and the **SP♥TriArt Festival** in San Pedro, both attracting thousands. All summer we had fantastic help from Anna Finch, a recent USC Annenberg Communications major who was funded by our intern grant from the L.A. County Arts Commission. Links to www.TriartSP.com will let you see her web design and her flyers are linked to our LACHoreographersAndDancers.org web site. Using our **Patchwork Girl** narration and dance photos, she also designed a storybook for the work, and the video version is now on our youtube.com/LouiseReichlin site.

Highlights and **Dark Moments** in the summer included the selection of me and my **Baggage Project/ Tap Dance Widows Club** by Marc Bamuthi Joseph as one of seven national artists to give a pecha-kucha presentation of my current creative work during the closing session of the Dance USA annual conference (highlight), and the passing of Joe Caccavalla, founder and producer of the TriArt Festival in June, and of Katherine Hopkins Nicholas, one of the three widows in **Tap Dance Widows Club**, on August 15. (dark moments).

We previewed the newest part of **The Baggage Project** at a Max 10 that evokes New York in the '60's, and again showed it in progress as part of our own company's offering for the new **SP♥TriArt Festival** along with excerpts from our original company signature work **The Tennis Dances**, and newer works **Mourning Light** and **Brandenburg**, which will be seen at our concert Nov 16-18th. The last two works will also be part of the Friends/Family/Dance/Festival on Nov 2-3 at the new Porticos Art Space in Pasadena. 12 choreographers are featured. For the **Friends/Family/Festival Porticos** concert see www.nancyevansdancetheatre.com. For tickets for **The Baggage Project** at the Miles Memorial Playhouse on Nov 16-18 see www.LACHoreographersAndDancers.org or call 213-385-1171 for reservations. ■

Tap Dance Widows Club (cont.)

part of the program. The program opens with the original piece from the suite **Mourning Light** choreographed by Reichlin with media also created by Phillips; in it only one of the dancers is real, the others memories of those who have passed on. There will be a sneak peak at another longer piece for this suite, and right now it has no official title but it is inspired by my early days as a young dancer in New York and by Patti Smith's book "Just Kids" about the mutual support young artists are able to give each other. We call it '**new york 1960's, hot sidewalks, moondog on 6th ave, splatter paint**'. Also on the program is **Tribute**, performed by guest tap artists at each performance. Hiroshi Hamanishi curates this part of the program and will also dance. There will also be a discussion with the artists (including the Widows) after the dancing.

We have been showing the work in progress, and have had a great audience response with reviews very favorable. "The project worked because the attitude of everyone involved was upbeat, nostalgic, yet going forward with a wonderful spirit and zest for life." (Beverly Hills Outlook). Buy tickets from our website now - when we showed this in progress at the Miles before, it sold out. ■

WHAT: Tap Dance Widows Club and The Baggage Project

WHEN: November 16-18, 2012. Fri @ 7:30 pm, Saturday @ 4:00 & 7:30 pm, Sunday @ 4:00 pm

WHERE: Miles Memorial Playhouse

1130 Lincoln Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90403

ADMISSION:

\$20 General Admission, \$17 Students/Seniors/DRC w/ID

TICKETS ONLINE: LACHoreographersAndDancers.org

RESERVATIONS: (213) 385-1171

FREE PARKING: The parking lot is on Lincoln Blvd, 100 yards South of Wilshire Blvd. The ramp is on the East side of Lincoln, leading down into a subterranean garage. Say you are coming to the Miles performance for free parking.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DANCE DIRECTORY OVER 550 LISTINGS

Yes, this is a reoccurring part of our newsletter, and will remain so based on the amount of feedback we always receive. The Southern CA Dance Directory that Reichlin began in 1995 is alive and well with over 550 listings of professional dance companies and related organizations. This free service is accessed by thousands of people each month, and I've heard that dance jobs have often come about through the information! But....if the wrong email or phone number is there, it's up to you to contact us and it will be fixed, usually within 24 hours. If you are not there and would like to be, please email the information in the format that is there. This is a special project that is a labor of love - no grants funds involved - so if you want to use it, please help keep it up to date. You can reach us at 213-385-1171 or louisehr@LACHoreographersAndDancers.org.

LAC&D HOT LINKS

- LACHoreographersAndDancers.org
- YouTube.com/LouiseReichlin
- YouTube.com/AlfredDesio
- Facebook.com/Louise.Reichlin (friend)
- Facebook.com/LACD.Reichlin (company fan page)
- LAArtsConsortium.org
- triartSP.com (our official website for the TriArt Festival)
- lacheographersanddancers.org/enews.html (email us to be added)
- lacheographersanddancers.org/p1randomlengths_ace_03-24-11.pdf
Article by Aisha J. Shah, Random Lengths, Baggage, the Dance of Love & Grief: Review of Baggage, Reichlin Grieves, by Diane Monroe,
- [Beverly Hills Outlook:bhoutlook.us/](http://BeverlyHillsOutlook.com) (click on Dance, Archives, August 27,2011)



Why Should You Donate To Us?

When I founded our company in 1979, I chose Los Angeles Choreographers and Dancers as our non-profit (95-3509028) name not only to support my own work, but also my partner and late husband Alfred Desio's work. I also planned on presenting other choreographers and companies - and we have done this big time. (24 through our early New Works Dance Festivals, 18 through my tenure at the Dance At Brand Series, at least a dozen each year with the free showcase TriArt Festival (this year with 22 curated groups - 16 professional and 6 preprofessional to introduce to the community), and more than 550 companies on the free online So. CA Dance Directory.

We create vital relevant new work each year, and maintain a resident company of dancers who get rehearsal and performance honoraria as well as teaching work at a number of our teaching residencies. We self produce as well as guest at theatres and festivals each year. And we have done this consistently since (and I am repeating on purpose) 1979.

For all of these activities, still current, we probably bring something extra to your lives, whether it is inspiration through one of our professional or school performances, production and marketing support, or through your participation in one of our dance classes- either personally or at your venue or school.

You can earmark your contribution for a specific activity, or just send a check marked 'contribution' to Los Angeles Choreographers and Dancers, 351 S. Virgil Ave, Los Angeles CA 90020. Or contribute through our web site: www.LAChoreographersAndDancers.org. We thank you and so appreciate your support!

Photos:

- Jen Hunter, Steven Nielsen, Elizabeth Poinsette, & Angela Todaro between school performances at Nelsen El. This was the culminating performance of the 90+ students in the 6th grades in our Arts For All Residency there. Top photo by Louise Reichlin.
- Other performance photos by Alvin Ligh.
- Address Cover: "The Patchwork Girl of Oz" at the Long Island Children's Museum.



MANY THANKS TO OUR LA C&D SUPPORTERS

We would like to thank the following for their support last year and this, including government, foundations, businesses and individuals. We are pleased to have you as friends and hope you will continue to support our performances and outreach program

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