

#### **Madrid Theatre**

21622 Sherman Way, Canoga Park CA 91303

**Saturday, May 10, 2008** 

2 performances @ 2:00 and 7:00 pm.

Tickets: \$25, \$20 general,

\$20, \$15 DRC/senior/student

Box Office: 818-347-9938 or

www.culturela.org/madridtheatre/tickets.html

Additional Information/ group sales: 213-385-1171 (LA C&D)

Web site: www.LAChoreographersAndDancers.org

See videos on www.YouTube.com/LouiseReichlin

LAC&D NEWSLETTER

**SPRING 2008** 

Also featuring

excerpts from "The Tennis Dances".

Plus tribute

to tapper

Alfred Desio.

# Togeles Choreographers & Dancers

351 South Virgil Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90020-1315

#### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

9/14/08 - Louise Reichlin & Dancers in San Pedro TriArtsFestival at the Warner Grand (310-831-0158) 11/13/08 - Louise Reichlin & Dancers at Sun Valley Youth Arts Center Dance at the Stone House (213-385-1171)

## AUDITIONS - LOUISE REICHLIN & DANCERS MAY 18 AND JUNE 1, 2008

Experienced Male and Female Dancers, all ethnic types, for paid performances with Louise Reichlin & Dancers for the 08-09 season. Also teaching activities. Rehearsal honorarium.

Dancers should have modern, strong ballet and jazz background, strong stage presence, expressiveness, musicality, and technique. Floor work important. The company, a performing unit of Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers, was founded by Reichlin in 1979. For information and appointment call 213-385-1171 or e-mail louisehr@lachoreographersanddancers.org LAChoreographersAndDancers.org

cover image: 'The Shampoo" photo by Dustin Pearlman Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Los Angeles, CA Permit No. 36115

# To Pancers & Dancers & Dancers

**SPRING 2008** 

Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers' mission is to create high quality, concert work opportunities for Los Angeles artists, to present works that communicate to a diverse audience by infusing dance with the cultural influences found in LA, and to enlarge an educated dance audience by reaching out to segments of the population that are typically underexposed to the arts. By directly involving audience members in concerts with participatory activities and indirectly involving them through the utilization of varied, cultural elements used to explore

humanistic themes, the organization aims to demystify dance while preserving the artistic integrity of the medium. In this way, LA C&D is committed to using dance as a unifying force that crosses cultural, generational, language, and socio-economic lines. Since its inception in 1979, LA C&D, a non-profit organization, has presented multiple educational programs and created many new works through its two professional dance companies **Louise Reichlin & Dancers** (modern) and **Zapped Taps**<sup>™</sup>/**Alfred Desio** (electronic & acoustic tap).

#### DANCE/MULTIMEDIA PREMIERE AT THE MADRID ON MAY 10

"Do you dream of performing on stage with a dance company? Come to a performance of Louise Reichlin & Dancers and you might get your chance. Choreographer and company director Louise Reichlin is a great believer in interactive dances. .... In ultimate audience involvement, she included some of them into the work itself, when her company performed recently at the Rosalie and Alva Performance Gallery." That is the beginning of a review in "Random Lengths" for the March preview we did in San Pedro. You can read the entire review on our web site and linked on our current performances page, or even better - come to the premiere at the Madrid on May 10 and experience it for yourself. We showed "Los(t) Angeles" in progress at a Max-10 in November at the Electric Lodge and then previewed at Matt Lincir's beautiful Alva's Performance Gallery adding the media component for the first time. That ended with a conversation with the audience for feedback on further development of the work.



Right & Below: Dancers from Identity photos by Paul Antico

#### "THE REALITY SERIES"

The Reality Series uses ubiquitous ideas, objects, and movement that usually go unnoticed in order to raise our awareness of the world around us. Each of the three pieces for the current performance uses members of the audience either as volunteers, or to propel the work as it unfolds on stage.

"The Shampoo": Company director Louise Reichlin asks the audience, "Who wouldn't mind getting their hair wet?" as hairdresser Lynn Campbell stands by in her black smock near a sink basin ready to simulate a real shampoo. A member of the audience receives a hair wash as the dancers explore the feelings of sensuality and energy created through the tactile experience of hair, bubbles and water.

"Los(t) Angeles": Although it's technically one city, LA's diverse cultures spawn innumerable perceptions and realities, often dividing the city along multiple lines. Volunteer audience members explore modern hip-hop and traditional ethnic dance forms with dancers, while others are content to watch. Through this process, the disconnectedness between the cast, the audience members participating and those watching mirror many of the realities of one of the most diverse cities on Earth. continued p.2



#### Details on how to buy your tickets today:

**EVENT: The Reality Series:** 

"The Shampoo" "Los(t) Angeles" "Identity"

Louise Reichlin & Dancers/LA Choreographers & Dancers in the premiere of their new interactive dance/multimedia series based on parts of our lives that we often don't pay too much attention to. Also a revival of selections from "The Tennis Dances"

Tribute to tapper Alfred Desio includes Alfred on DVD, as well as live performances by Channing Cook Holmes, Hiroshi Hamanishi, and a few of Alfred's former students.

WHERE: Madrid Theatre

21622 Sherman Way, Canoga Park CA 91303

WHEN: Saturday, May 10, 2008, 2 performances @ 2:00 & 7:00 pm.

TICKETS: \$25, \$20 general, \$20, \$15 DRC/senior/student

BOX OFFICE: 818-347-9938. Also sold on line: www.culturela.org/madridtheatre/tickets.html

Additional Information or group sales: 213-385-1171 (LA C&D).

Come with a group (25 people or more) and prices drop to \$10. In advance only.

"Identity": Have you ever received spam email asking you: to buy the willing wife? to save a dying man? to trust an assassin? to make a deal with an entrepreneur, to hide money for a soldier?

Reichlin was inspired by some of the creative appeals she actually receives, and this work is both a dance and an interactive identity mystery. The audience discovers clues and controls movement themes between shadowy dancers, working together to strip away layers of realities in order to solve the mystery. The piece was developed in collaboration between Reichlin and the dancers with the content humorous, frightening, and touching.

#### TRIBUTE TO ALFRED DESIO

As part of the Madrid performance, there will be a tribute to tapper Alfred Desio. It includes Alfred on DVD, as well as live performances by Channing Cook Holmes, Hiroshi Hamanishi, and a few of Alfred's former students Joshua Villanueva and Rachel Rosenbaum. Channing Cook Holmes, always a magical performer, evokes his mentor's choreography with some of his own improvisations. Channing's multi-talents as a drummer, tapper, and singer, have taken him from touring with Alfred while still in high school to the dance company Jazz Tap Ensemble, to stage including Riverdance and to the big screen in

Gangs of New York. Currently he produces and performs in his own show Lil' Chan Can Tap Dance. Hiroshi Hamanishi is widely known as a tap teacher, currently at El Camino and the Colburn School, but his performance also takes him to the St. Louis Tap Festival this summer. Hiroshi worked with Alfred in a number of shows including Caution, Men at Work: TAP, and corporate productions.

#### THE COMPANY, PEOPLE AND THEATRE

**Louise Reichlin & Dancers was founded in 1979**, using the non-profit base of Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers. With a long history of creating works for families, as well as educating children and youth, LA C&D has presented both Reichlin's company and **Zapped Taps(tm)/Alfred Desio**. Some of Reichlin's well-known works, which have toured to 14 states and Mexico include "The Tennis Dances", "Celtic Suite", "Urban and Tribal Dances", the multimedia "The E-Mail Dances" and "The Patchwork Girl of Oz" and the choreography for the cirque-music show "Dream Scapes". Louise Reichlin and Alfred Desio often performed their work together in concerts, the last time being with the Pasadena Pops at Descanso Gardens in the summer of 2003.

Director of the concert is Louise Reichlin. Media collaborator is Carol Gehring. Featured dancers include Karla Hagen, Anaja Holloway, Tamara Kagel, Sung-Yun Park, Stephanie Simpson, Salinee Vanichanan, Teya Wolvington, and Alexandria Yalj. Guest Flamenco artist is Batista Gremaud.

The Madrid Theatre is a facility of the City of Los Angeles operated by the Department of Cultural Affairs. Purchase tickets on line: www.culturela.org/madridtheatre/tickets.html or call Box Office at **818-347-9938**.

Funded in part by the California Arts Council, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Also the City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. The production is also made possible in part by a grant from Friends of the Madrid.



Above: Dancers from "Identity" photo: Dustin Pearlman Below: Alfred Desio photo: Russell Baer

**A**s many of you know, Alfred

Desio passed away on February 14, 2007. As both his wife and creative partner, this has been an unusual time – I almost used the word transitional, but that would not be accurate as Alfred's presence and work will always be part of mine.

Since his death, some of Alfred's tributes include the Lester Horton special award for Excellence in Teaching in May, as well as in August "The Kennedy Advocate of the Art of Tap Dance Award" at the 5th Annual 2007 Los Angeles Tap Festival for his contribution of Teaching, Performing, and Innovations in Technology.

Very special thanks to those of you who wrote and campaigned to The Colburn School, where Alfred taught for 30 years,

#### Desio's Memory Continues

to name the tap studio after him. At this date I have no information on any progress in that area – the people I have spoken with have not received any answers to their emails and letters and I have not received any returns on

my follow-up calls. More than 60 of you sent me copies of your letter that, in a way, has helped keep his work alive. Christine Kim composed the original letter – Ruth Cook Price helped with making letter copies –Ana Ley and her daughter Karolyna helped me stuff envelopes to get the word out. If you would like a copy of the letter/petition, please email me (louisehr@LAChoreographersAndDancers.org) or call to request – 213-385-1171.

For the clarification of those who have inquired, his (and LA C&D's and the Colburn School's) award winning group Colburn Kids Tap/L.A. was dropped by the school while he was ill - the staff, all being rather new, didn't understand the structure of the invitational honors group. Two teachers closely associated with Desio, Myshell Curry and Hiroshi Hamanishi, currently continue to incorporate his techniques into their classes at the school. Denise Scheerer, a musically sensitive tap teacher who was there while Alfred was, also brings her own style to the strong tap department. I understand they will be hanging a plaque in Alfred's honor after the tap recital this year.

There is interest in the development of Alfred's Tap-Tronics™, and after the upcoming premiere, Tap-Tronics will be the next project to tackle. Please contact us if you have a background in electronics, music, or this area or if you are a tap dancer with fabulous "time". ■

LA C&D Newsletter Spring 2008 Page 2

### **EDUCATION NOTES**



We had such a warm reception to our "Education Notes" last season that we decided to feature our work in education again this year. Included in our Notes are the performance "Dance At the Stone House", our work with Los Angeles Unified School District including - Packages for the Arts Community Partnership Network and for Professional Development, and Continuing Education

in the form of a Preview & Conversation with the Audience of "The Reality Series".

Education is one of those words with wide definitions that usually include "the imparting and acquiring of knowledge through teaching and learning, especially at a school or similar institution" and sometimes "an informative experience." It is in the arts, however, that a very special education happens, whether at age 5 or 15 or 55, education does its work through multiple parts of our beings and not just our brains. It has to

do with "culture." For our programming in schools, we meet studentneeds providing standards-based educational programs taught by dancers who are both trained educators and working professional artists, and by providing an arts experience that is engaging and inspiring. We understand that the arts offer students an anchor for personal

expression, a source of motivation, and a model to deal with life. We meet students'

needs with multicultural and multi-disciplinary workshops and assemblies that create a forum for students to develop creative ideas on how to approach work and solve problems in all subject areas. Our basic **Professional Training Development** workshops can empower

teachers to feel confident in handling dance and movement. On a much broader level, we try to enlarge the context of each person's immediate world, both "real" and from the imagination, through our concert pieces. This is our goal with "The Reality Series" which is written about under **Continuing Education** with the premiere on May 10, 2008. In this Education section, we will focus on some of the work we do with the students during their curriculum time. Dance At the Stone House, a new site-specific educational program will also be featured. We will conclude with a few "evaluation" comments from teachers who attended our programs this year.

Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers is a 2007-2008 member of the Los Angeles Unified School District's Arts Community Partnership **Network (ACPN).** This designation through the Arts Education Branch of LAUSD affirms that LA C&D is a "qualified" provider who meets the criteria of the master services agreement. We have 10 vetted programs on LA County's www.LAArtsEd.org and we are a member of the touring roster for the Children's Creative Project in Santa Barbara.

Schools where we have worked and that we are currently working with since our newsletter last spring include:

Ascot Ave., Bridge St., Buchanan, Bushnell Way, Chase, Century Park,

Denker, Euclid Ave., Florence Ave., King Ir. ES, Loma Vista, Manchester, Micheltorina, Millikan MS, Ritter, 66th St., 68th St., Van Nuys, Vine, and W. Hollywood Elementary Schools. Their photos are featured here.







## Theeles Choreographers & Dancers

#### **Dance At the Stone House**

This season we developed a new site-specific work at the Sun Valley Youth Arts Center called Dance At the Stone House. Although all our programs are interactive, we had never done a work like this where 60 students would be both audience and dancers in a piece just 45 minutes long. Preplanning was crucial. Louise Reichlin began with trips to the site where she took many photos of the 83 year old building and of the children's art works within those grounds. She made many diagrams depicting where peo-

ple would sit (both an indoors and a lawn

audience), and how they would be divided into 10 groups of six students each (a necessity for historical buildings- max of 6 to a room). During the event we worked with the students in those groups to develop their parts and tour the facility. Audience members were both inside and outside on the lawn watching. The plan also included the process of the students learning about the architecture, touring the facility, and learning movement that showed how to construct a dance and how it would have felt to build that house. Some groups

also created their own moves based on the art that other children made there such as the animals scuptures and "Day of the Dead" musicians painting. The dance was then spaced with the dancers and finally perfored to music.

The photos were taken by Jesus "Chuy c/s" Rangel, the Art Center Director, Steve Fobalvarro, visual arts teacher, and Reichlin. This dance event was the

first of "The Reality Series". Dancers included Karla

Hagen, Anaja Holloway, C. Ivy Withers, Rocio Ponce, and Salinee Vanichanan.. Sixty students fourth to sixth grade, from Ritter ES and from Millikan PA Magnet, attended each performance. The students in their evaluations of the event all wrote about the uniqueness of the experience and that they had learned things about architecture and building and dance forms they

had never thought about much before. Descriptions from the attendee/participants were "so fun, cool, happy, exciting, tremendous, great dancers, perfect, I like it because we put the dance together!" You can view a two minute slide show

LouiseReichlin>.



We will be partnering with the Youth Arts Center again next

year for additional projects as well as offering this event again next fall on November 13, 2008 as part of our continuing grant

from the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of LA. Please

contact us to participate and for additional to be announced

dates - 213-385-1171.



Louise Reichlin & Jesus "Chuy c/s" Rangel and scenes from "Dance At the Stone House".]

#### **Professional Development for Teachers**

Our interactive training sessions for teachers offer substantial practical techniques in developing creative intelligence within their students including physical dance study, cultural, aesthetic, and historic appreciation, and subsequent integration into the rest of the curriculum using a model that depends on participatory education. The topics range from "Creating a Dance" with practical examples to others that are more concerned with the integration of dance into other curriculum areas. "Creating a Dance" allows teachers to put together a full dance in that same session. They incorporate techniques on how to use the elements of dance space, time, and energy, within their own dance phrases. Other often requested PD sessions are "Weaving Dance Into the Curriculum", "Dance and Open Court", and "Using Specific Cultural Dances." Some of their evaluation comments tell the story:

"What a great introduction to the elements of dance!"

"The workshop was great in providing a quick way to engage students and integrate dance into other subject areas."

"Informative"

"Fun learning! Awesome facilitators/ artists- Thank you."

"Interactive and beneficial in strengthening our learning community."

(from Loma Vista ES)

"Good- tied to the standards. Fun - could be used to diversify lessons."

"Engaging & informative."

"Great"

"Enjoyed the way a personal and educational connection was made!"

(from Ritter ES)

"Wonderful & uplifting!" "Useful & motivational."

"The PD handout...really useful. It reminds us of things we already know & couldapply or put to use.

"Very fun & educational."

"Engaging, motivational."

"It was insightful and a fun way to teach math and biology to students."

"I feel more confident about applying movement with my students."

(from Florence ES)

"The PD handout was concise and to the point"

"Helpful."

"Enjoyable & interesting."

"Engaging & insightful."

"This workshop brought back my HS years when I took dance, which made that time joyful. Very much liked and enjoyed."

"Wonderful!"

Louise Reichlin & Christian Moppett.

"Loved it! It was fun and engaging."

"Excellent!"

(from Micheltorena ES)

Students from Bushnell Way, Buchanan, and Manchester **Elementary Schools** perform on stage with our dancers in "The Tennis Dances".









"Performing dance for Los Angeles schools with Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers has been my most rewarding and exhilarating experience to date. I love knowing that I

> am inspiring children to delve into the arts. When the students perform with us, there is never a dull moment. That element alone, keeps every performance fresh and exciting for the entire company."

(Karla Hagan, dancer with LA C&D, is a native of Chicago, IL where she discovered her passion for dance. In December 2006, she graduated with her BA in Dance from Western Michigan. See her





#### **Continuing Education**

Our new "The Reality Series" is being developed as an interactive dance/multimedia work based on parts of our lives that we often don't pay too much attention to. Developing both the work and an audience that is engaged in the process of creating a work like this falls under continuing education. It has been aided by a "Creating Public Value" grant from the CA Arts Council, the LA County Arts Commission, and the

Department of Cultural Affairs, City of LA. The site-specific "Stone House" work was also part of "The Reality Series" but targeted to youth. Several weeks ago at Alva's Performance Gallery in San Pedro members of the preview audience not only volunteered to participate in the interactive work "The Reality Series", but they also put together clues that shaped the actual dance - in real time. They also participated in discussions

after the performances about how it felt to go on stage to participate ("intimidating at first, and then I loved it!). In "The Shampoo" an audience member has a simulated hair wash while the dancers explore the feelings and emotions a simple shampoo evokes. In "Los(t) Angeles" the entire audience rises to learn Korean classical arm movements with our dancer Sung-Yun. Others volunteer to learn a simple hip-hop combination with Anaja. In "Ide ntity" audience members see copies

Narrator and Director Louise Reichlin in "Identity". enthusiasm.



of real emails Reichlin has received, see the dancers in shadow silhouettes and then all in full lights doing everyone's characteristic movements, and finally making choices on their identities. See more about this piece, which is both "continuing education" and great entertainment on **www.LA-ChoreographersAndDancers.org** (click on Current News & Performances -The Reality Series)". We also have info on our

Performing "Los(t) Angeles":

Salinee Vanichanan, Sung-Yun Park,

Anaja Holloway, and Batista Gre-

low priced group sales there. The premiere happens on May 10, 2008 at the Madrid. We hope you can join us there or at Dance at the Stone House November 2008. We would also love to work with those of you at schools in May or June this year, or in the coming year.

"The Reality Series" photos by Paul Antico.

#### School Residencies Include Assemblies and Teaching Workshops for Students

A teacher wrote:

"A kindergarten student said 'Even the sun came out to see the performance!' Thank you."

(After an outside performance at Bridge St. ES)

"It was super great. Thanks for the interaction and performance."

"One of the best we've had."

"I loved it! Great!"

"The kids really enjoyed the program. You had their total attention."

(from Ritter ES)

"It was great to expose the students to different types of dance forms."

"It was entertaining and helpful incorporating it (dance) into the classroom."

"Great- lots of language development."

"Students were engaged and receptive more than the usual."

(from Florence Ave. ES)

O you dream of performing on stage with a Performing "The Shampoo": dance company? Come to a performance of Louise Sung-Yun Park Reichlin & Dancers and you might get your chance. Anaja Holloway The highlight (of a recent preview in San Pedro) was Salinee Vanichanan. Los(t) Angeles, whose twists and turns, its mixing of styles tastefully arranged to display the ethnic diversity of Los Angeles, allowed the dancers to display their many strengths and audience members to display their (Lynn Warech,

(Lynn Warech, Dance Reviewer, Random Lengths)

See more about "The Reality Series" and links to videos at <www.LAChoreographer-sAndDancers.org>. Also info on low priced group sales. Contact the Madrid Theatre for individual tickets <www.culturela.org/madridtheatre/tickets.html >. If you would like to be on our email list please email request to <louisehr@LAChoreographersAnd-Dancers.org>







Above: The Tennis Dances. Photo by Paul Antico





#### PLEASE BECOME PART OF OUR SUPPORT GROUP

We already have one grant for next season from the Department of Cultural Affairs - and of course it is a MATCHING grant. In addition we have two more matching grants pending for both the County and State and we're very hopeful about both. No matter what the outcome, our projects include the continuing development of our new work "The Reality Series"; our daily travels to underserved schools in every area of the city and county, expanding our national presence level with "The Patchwork Girl of Oz", and the continuation of Desio's Tap-Tronics™

We have some premiums as incentives for your contribution. Those who donate \$100 or more can request the Desio Memorial DVD, which includes the photo slide show and videos shown at his 'Celebration' at Zipper Hall last March: the video presentation Reichlin made for the

#### **FUNDING FOR NEXT SEASON** IS NOT IN YET BUT WE KNOW WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Horton Awards, plus additional materials. There are more than 100 photos of Alfred Desio, including many with students and with his electronics. Some of these performance and personal photos have never been published previously. If you have already donated this amount to the Alfred Desio Memorial Fund, please contact us for the DVD. You may also add to a recent contribution to receive this gift.

Those who donate \$50 or more can request a CD-ROM (for Mac or PC computers) of Louise Reichlin's family programming that includes 35 minutes of video plus photos and press materials.

Although our t-shirt supply was fairly depleted, we just found a carton of Zapped Taps t-shirts! So those who give at least \$25 can request Zapped Taps t-shirts OR our remaining Colburn Kids Tap/L.A. t-shirts with \$3 each for mailing/handling.

Please make checks out to Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers and mail to: 351 S. Virgil Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90020. All donations are tax deductible and our 501C3 number is 95-3509028.

We now have e-newsletters featuring instant access to all the latest LA C&D news and brilliant color photos. To subscribe contact us at louisehr@ LAChoreographersAndDancers.org with your preferred email address. Also, our phone number is 213-385-1171. We would love to hear from you!







#### THANKS TO OUR LA C&D SUPPORTERS







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

Our activities are funded in part by the California Arts Council, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. The events of this season are supported, in part, by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and are also made possible in part by a grant from the City of Los Angeles, Department

#### MAIOR CONTRIBUTORS

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- · National Endowment for the Arts
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- · Colburn School of **Performing Arts** ·GAM
- · "Chuy c/s" Rangel, **Sun Valley**
- · Youth Arts Center
- · Hilary Thomas, Brand Library & Art Ctr.
- · ALVAS, Matt Lincir, Sheava Rahimi

- · Madrid Theatre
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#### SOUTHERN CA DANCE DIRECTORY

The web has expanded greatly since Louise Reichlin began the Dance Directory in 1995! At that point very few of the companies had email or web sites. Well, you know the story — and we would love your help in updating the Directory, which continues to be a free service. Please check your company's entry, and let us know if it needs updating. If you are a professional dance company or organization based in Southern CA, and are not yet part of our listing, please email us the details and we will add you to our website. To get there, go to http://www.lachoreographersanddancers.org/ socaldancedirectory.html and click on Southern CA Dance Directory. There are currently 490 entries included.