



Dear SDL Students, Family & Friends:

We want to thank all of our SDL students for a wonderful summer! You truly made it a fantastic program and a great pleasure for all of us to spend time with you: working together, dancing together, and learning together. The relationship between student and teacher can be quite a special bond. And this summer, we all felt the rewards of that relationship. At SDL we provide you with faculty who are talented and deeply knowledgeable, and a housing staff who are supportive and caring. Because of this and your disciplined work and openness to trying new things, this summer was a blast! Of course that only means that there is more work to be done. Now you will have to take all that new-found knowledge, the tumult of new experiences, and the strength from the bonding that occurred over the summer, and the rewards of all that internal processing and make it create your day, inform you're every working moment.

You can do it! We know you can.

SDL is deeply grateful for all the 2014 photographs provided by Steve Lenz. We thank this very talented artist for his generosity! You can see all of Steve's photos at: stevelenzphotography.com



"I felt proud to show off what SDL had made me." SDL Alum, Erin Kalb



An injury that I sustained could have been a lot worse, but my experiences of two summers at SDL gave me both the strive and strength to recover from my injury completely. I became a whole new dancer from my time at SDL. I went from meek and weak to passionate and strong. It pushed me to further my dedication to dance, beyond just taking class. I became interested in the anatomy side, exercise physiology, and business of dance. I am now taking a sports medicine course at my high school and plan to pursue both that field and dance in college. When I returned from SDL, I felt proud to show off what SDL had made me. To this day, I am still reminded of the corrections and knowledge I attained during my time in class. I wouldn't be the person or the dancer that I am today if it weren't for the two summers I studied with Summer Dance Lab. I cannot thank you all enough for what you have given me and what it means to me. Today, I am back to dancing fully and am taking more classes than ever before. We have just begun rehearsals for the Nutcracker, in which I earned the role of lead Arabian princess, despite wearing a brace in auditions. I missed going to SDL last year, but I am content in knowing that my time spent there will benefit me for the rest of my life.



Photo: Rachel Glenn

Erin Kalb, Alum



Photo: Matt Banderas

Mary Lottridge, Modern Class

Currently I am dancing in Alaska Dance Theatre's pre-professional company and am in the Nutcracker as a flower. This year the Eugene Ballet Company will come up so I am a flower for their Nutcracker. This past summer I went to the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA) summer dance intensive. I was in the top of three levels there, it was a good experience.

I always liked the electives that you could sign up for at SDL. At UNCSA they didn't have those, they had "teacher talks", where each teacher talked about their career paths, but I really liked the electives that you provided. I also liked the mandatory Saturday morning class I had optional Saturday class this summer. Though, I never got into the apprentice program at SDL, I liked that as well. I think it gave really good opportunities to the dancers that got in. Lastly, I really enjoyed all the classes SDL provided. I didn't just get ballet class, I got modern, jazz, and musical theater and the teachers were phenomenal in their fields, which was fantastic.

My fondest memories of SDL have to be the classes and the teachers. I loved your modern class, I still remember part of your warm up. I will never forget the time you asked our D level class how we did in school and everyone said they got like 4.0's or 3.5's and you were amazed and told us that you were going to make us fail because we needed to learn that we couldn't do everything right (maybe not in those words but it was something along those lines). I remember having my first power barre with Miss Martin at SDL and my first partnering class (pas de deux). SDL has definitely helped to shape me into the dancer I am today. I loved SDL and will always remember it fondly.

Thank you for having a great program!

Mary Lottridge



Photo: Matt Banderas

SDL Dancers, Ian Aegerter, Kaitlin Banda, Caleb Leitch, Sydney Howell, Jesse Griffin, Franceca Critelli

I'm currently a dance major at the University of Washington. Starting my sophomore year this Wednesday and couldn't be happier here. I'm an officer in the dance student association here, and have performed in the MFA concert and will be in the upcoming Faculty dance concert also. I have a position next summer as the Chamber Dance Company director's assistant. CDC is the company that the dance graduate students are in. This past summer I was a counselor at Interlochen Arts Camp where I worked for 7 weeks and danced in the faculty dance concert. My time at SDL really helped open my eyes to modern dance. I was never exposed much before my first summer in Walla Walla, and since then, my career has been much more modern focused. Looking back on my two summers, I really appreciated every experience that we were offered. The faculty were so incredible and I grew so much as a dancer and as a person. When I came back to my home studio, my teachers could see a huge difference. After I graduate, I'm planning on pursuing a performing career in modern dance, and then returning to get my masters in dance to go on to teach.

Dominique See, Alum



Dancers letting loose in an American theater class!

Photo: Matt Banderas



Photo: Greg Lehman

I wanted to tell you how much you two, and all the teachers at SDL have made an impact on my life, both in dance and outside. Before spending my summers in Walla Walla, I had never imagined dancing beyond high school, and now I know that I could never live without it. Nearly every day I think of something, that somebody from SDL told me, either in class or after in the dorms. Whether it is remembering to protect Cheddar the mouse, add sparkle to all my modern jumps, or getting a compliment on my fashionably tie-dyed shirt, I literally cannot spend a day without thinking of all the people I have met during my time in Walla Walla. So, I just wanted to let you know how much I have been impacted by my four years spent at SDL, and that I truly will never forget all that I have learned with you.

Madeline White, Alum



Photo: Rachel Glenn

I thought the process of the apprenticeship piece was creatively done. KT and Yayoi had us come up with our own ideas and movements, and then they changed them to flow more smoothly together. It was difficult at times when we couldn't see the final picture that they saw, but we tried our best to put the words and actions together. I, personally, had never tried anything like this before so it was interesting to see how it all played out and how it fit together. The amount of practices and time that we put into the dance and the apprenticeship itself was well worth the reward of getting to dance on stage.



Evyn Bartlett, SDL Apprentice Student 2014

SUMMER DANCE LAB

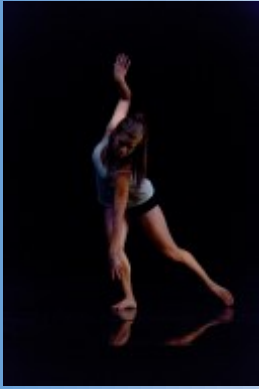


The apprentice program was the experience of a lifetime. Getting a taste of working with professional choreographers and dancers really opened my eyes to how certain aspects of the dance world are. Being choreographed on was an incredible honor, but what I loved the most was that KT and Yayoi included us in the process of creating the piece. I know not all companies give you that kind of freedom, but it was incredible to experience the collaboration and sense of camaraderie it gave. It did surprise me how much cleaning could be done just through communicating with the other apprentices-

I had always figured that every second would be spent under a scrutinizing eye, but there were so many different parts of our piece that needed attention that a lot of rehearsal time was left to you to firm up details with each other. Being an apprentice was a huge responsibility because so much of how the piece turned out was up to us-communicating so the minor details were there, remembering the choreography and the corrections you were given, giving each run-through the same energy as though you were performing each time. I think the apprenticeship was really beneficial also to all of our artistic sides. We had a lot of freedom and artistic license, so I definitely feel like I learned more about dance as an art form rather than dance as not having meaning. It was interesting to hear everyone's interpretation of the piece and see how you can get so many different messages out of one singular idea. I just feel really lucky to have gotten the opportunity to work with so many of the talented people I met at SDL and with KT and Yayoi, who are geniuses.



Gabby Connors, SDL Apprentice Student 2014



I have had the privilege of working as an apprentice for KT and Yayoi for two summers now. It has been an incredible experience both times. The two women really treat all the apprentices like professionals. When I am in rehearsal, I am expected to not only be a dancer, but also a choreographer.

In the end, the piece tends to feel more like a work of art than simply just a dance. Both years I have been so proud to be able to perform alongside the other apprentices, who feel like they have become a part of my family. We all worked extremely hard, and it truly paid off when we performed in the beautiful Cordiner hall in front of the audience of the Walla Walla Dance Festival.

Being in the apprenticeship gave me a small taste of what being a professional dancer can be like, and now I'm hooked. Working with fellow apprentices, as well as so many amazing professionals has helped me to know that I am meant to be a dancer. I cannot express how grateful I am for this opportunity.

Miranda Lyman, SDL Apprentice Student 2013, 2014



My experience with the Summer Dance Lab apprentice program taught me many things. I learned skills that I expected to, like improving my dancing and how to choreograph, but it also showed me how to be part of a company of dancers verses a student in a class. I felt more was expected of me; independent thinking to work out problems on my own, and being part of the process of creating an original piece. It gave me a glimpse of what life would be like in a professional company, and I loved it.

Henry Winslow: SDL Apprentice Student 2014



SUMMER DANCE LAB AUDITION TOUR 2015

Seattle, WA

- January 25th, Spectrum Dance Theater
Info: Shirley@spectrumdance.org

Silverdale, WA

- January 24th, Irene's School of Dance
Info: msirene75@hotmail.com

Portland, OR

- January 18th, Classical Ballet Academy, Info: tbd

Eugene OR

- January 17th, Oregon Ballet Academy, Info: Office 541.338.7800

Anchorage, AK

- January 10, Alaska Dance Theatre, Info: esandre@alaskadancetheater.org

Walla Walla, WA

- February 6th, Dance Studio Whitman College
Info: sdl@whitman.edu

Prosser, WA

- February 7th, Prosser School of Dance
Info: Nicole_psb@yahoo.com

Yakima, WA

- February 7th, Melody Lane Academy, Info:

LOCATIONS WITH DATES TBD:

Info: sdl@whitman.edu

Warrenton, OR Maddox Dance Studio

Spokane, WA

Boise, ID Eagle Performing Arts Center

