

DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM

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CO-FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

DANCING THROUGH BARRIERS®

A NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION INITIATIVE USING THE
ARTS TO IGNITE THE MIND

DANCING THROUGH BARRIERS®

Based on the success of its original mission to provide Harlem youngsters with the opportunity to study and excel in neoclassical dance, Dance Theatre of Harlem (DTH) has developed a comprehensive educational and community outreach program entitled Dancing Through Barriers® (DTB®). Utilizing both teaching and performing artists as educators and role models, DTB brings a variety of activities to schools and community centers around New York City. These activities can be booked as a one time service, as a series, or as a residency over a specified period of time. Activities include but are not limited to video assemblies, lecture-demonstrations, performances, movement classes, workshops, and short or long-term residencies. Programs are developed in collaboration with school staff and administrators and are presented in alignment with the NYC Department of Education's Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts/Dance Pre-K-12. DTB has conducted successful residencies not only in New York City, but also in Detroit, Baltimore, Miami, and Washington DC, where we have partnered with the Kennedy Center in offering a long-term pre-professional residency for the past 15 years.

Lecture Demonstration

50 Min.

An informal presentation on the art and science of classical dancing, the DTB lecture-demonstration, performed right in your school auditorium or gym, is a fun and accessible introduction to ballet. Dance comes alive as the artists of the Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble explore various elements of classical dancing such as jumping, turning, partnering, lifting, and dancing on the tips of their toes (en pointe). Specific exercises and the reasons for their use are demonstrated and explained. In an audience participation segment, similarities between contemporary social dance and theatrical dance are discovered. The lecture-demonstration culminates with performance excerpts from an eclectic repertoire, showing how all of the elements that have been discussed come together to create the magic of dance. Each performance is geared specifically towards the particular age group present.

Video Assembly

50 Min.

A combination of live action and videotaped performance footage, this assembly features a moderator and two dancers. It provides an insider's view of DTH; its origins, the career path of dancers in the ensemble, a dancer's daily schedule, and the organization's mission. A discussion of ballet history, terminology and a demonstration of technique are accompanied with videotaped performance segments. Each assembly concludes with a question and answer session. All ages. 30-200 participants.

Class Discussion

50 Min.

DTB[®] Ensemble and staff members lead a class-room discussion about the history and creation of Dance Theatre of Harlem, the triumphs and challenges the organization has experienced and the role that DTH plays in today's cultural scene. Discussion is accompanied by video footage of DTH performances. Particularly appropriate for social studies classes in grades K-12. The DTH experience is made relevant for participating students.

Master Class 50 Min.

Master classes are conducted for students with previous training in dance and may vary in level from beginning to advanced. These classes may be held in conjunction with a Lecture Demonstration or Video Assembly, or offered as a separate activity. The master class, taught by a DTH teaching artist, emphasizes focus, discipline, and classical technique as practiced at DTH. Ages 8-adult. Maximum of 25 participants.

Movement Class 50 Min.

This class is designed primarily for students who have little or no previous training in dance. The exercises in this activity focus on coordination, agility, memory, counting, and musicality. Students are led through a series of stretching and strengthening exercises. Individual creativity is fostered, yet the students are also encouraged to be supportive of one another and to work as a team. Throughout the class, listening and comprehension skills are stressed. A series of movement classes may culminate with a student work to be performed in an assembly. Maximum of 30 participants.

Movement Workshop for the Family 50 Min.

This class is designed primarily for students and their parent/guardian who have little or no previous exposure to dance. Participants are led through a fun series of stretching and strengthening exercises; utilizing simplified technique of ballet, modern, jazz and African dance. This workshop is an opportunity for parent/guardian and child to share a learning experience and work together. Maximum of 30 participants.

Athletic Workshop 50 Min.

This workshop demonstrates the correlation between strength/coordination training for dancers and for athletes. Participants are led through a warm-up, using ballet-based exercises and stretching. Combinations of movement across the floor are introduced. Emphasis is on developing the flexibility, strength, and agility that enhance one's performance in sports such as football, basketball, or rock climbing. All ages. Maximum of 30 participants.

Workshop for Dance Teachers 2 Hrs.

Workshops for classroom teachers are led by a DTH Master Teacher. Instruction is given in theory and technique as practiced at the Dance Theatre of Harlem School. DTB[®] Ensemble will also be present to demonstrate. Maximum of 30 participants.

Dance Theatre of Harlem Performances

Students and parents are encouraged to see live performances. Informal performances are offered through the Dance Theatre of Harlem Open House Series, which usually fall on the second Sunday of each month, November thru May. These performances may include the DTB[®] Ensemble, DTHS students, and other invited artists.

Dance Theatre of Harlem Tour 1 Hrs.

Dance Theatre of Harlem offers a guided tour of the building that includes narration on history, how DTH operates not only as a professional dance company and school, but also as a business, a question and answer session, viewing a short video and opportunity to watch the DTH Ensemble in class or rehearsal. Maximum of 30 participants.

Professional Development Workshop 4 Hrs.

Led by a DTH Master Teacher, various arts-in-education/physical education concepts are explored in an interactive format. Specific emphasis is placed on integrating physical education, dance and related arts across the curriculum. Sample lesson plans are developed and shared. Maximum of 25 participants.

Additional Dancing Through Barriers® Activities (Lectures & Workshops)

Field trips to museums, performances, dance stores, and performing arts libraries

Creative writing and movement science

Physical and movement science

Poetry and movement science

Social studies and movement science

Mathematics and movement science

Videography

Nutrition

Basic Anatomy/Physiology

Physical Therapy/Injury Prevention

Allied Arts: music, drama, set design

Stagecraft, production, lighting design

Dancing Through Barriers® Residencies

Dancing Through Barriers® residencies can be designed with any combination of the described activities and may run the course of a few weeks or the entire school year. The following are examples of a 15-week residency and a 30-week residency.

15-Week Residency

1 Professional Development Workshop for Teachers

1 Video Assembly

30 Movement Classes (2 classes/day X 1 day/week X 15 weeks)

Accompanist

1 Culminating Lecture Demonstration (w/DTB® Ensemble)

30-Week Residency

1 Professional Development Workshop for Teachers

1 Video Assembly

60 Movement Classes (2 classes/day X 1 day/week X 30 weeks)

Accompanist

1 Culminating Lecture Demonstration (w/DTB® Ensemble)

These are suggested residencies, and may be altered to fit your schedule and budget.

Movement classes may also involve:

Viewing videos of DTH Company Repertoire

Making interdisciplinary connections between dance and creative writing (language arts), and using movement to demonstrate fractions, spatial elements, telling time, and other age appropriate concepts.

Preparation of students to perform at an assembly

History of Dance & DTH

Other residency activity options:

Field trips to the DTH Everett Center for the Performing Arts (Groups of 30 or less)

The Dancing Through Barriers® staff is flexible and responsive to the needs of each school and site. DTB residencies are designed in partnership with district and school personnel.

Dance Theatre of Harlem is contracted by the New York City Department of Education.

Arts Education Services (Professional Development, Direct Student Services & Parental Involvement Activities), Contract # 9501215

For more information on booking

Dancing Through Barriers® activities for your school or organization, call

Tasha Antulov, DTB® Program Coordinator

(212) 690-2800 Ext. 426