

September 15, 2009  
For Immediate Release

What: Inspiration Dance Company Open House  
Where: Salem Family YMCA  
When: 6:30-8:30 pm on Tuesday, September 22

The Inspiration Dance Company (IDC) presents its annual Open House on Tuesday evening, September 22 from 6:30-8:30 PM. The Open House features a performance by the dancers of the professional dance touring company Rainbow Dance Theatre (five of them IDC faculty) as well as sample mini-dance classes in a wide variety of styles and open registration for the IDC Dance Program which begins on September 28. It is open to the general public, as are all IDC dance classes.

The evening will begin with a dynamic Hip Hop performance by the Rainbow Dance Theatre featuring five members of the IDC faculty. Following the performance and a welcome by IDC Director Valerie Bergman, attendees will participate in short dance sampler classes for all ages and levels of experience in Creative Dance, Ballet, Hip Hop, Break Dance, Jazz/Lyrical and Modern Dance. YMCA and IDC staff will be on hand to answer questions and register new students for the program.

The IDC welcomes back Director Valerie Bergman, who is also Artistic Director of the Monmouth-based touring company, Rainbow Dance Theatre. Throughout her dance career as a touring performing artist and choreographer, Bergman has worked as a dance educator as well, bringing the excitement of dance to students of all ages through her dynamic classes in Ballet, Modern Dance, Hip Hop, West African and Hawaiian Dance. She leads a top-notch professional faculty including five other professional members of the Rainbow Dance Theatre, and three professional dance educators.

### **Mission**

The Inspiration Dance Company at the Salem family YMCA is firmly committed to bringing the highest quality dance education to all children regardless of their ability, because we understand that arts education is essential to children's overall education, that arts education promotes self-esteem and positive social skills, and that arts education develops and encourages a child's creative thinking skills. Further, the IDC is committed to assisting families financially to meet their goal of providing quality arts education to their children by providing financial assistance to those with demonstrable need of assistance.

### **IDC Faculty and Staff**

#### ***Experienced, Professional Dancers***

The IDC faculty is comprised of some of the most highly trained dancers in the Salem area. Seven of our instructors are university graduates with degrees in Dance and the Arts. Two other instructors are finishing their Bachelor of Arts degrees this year at Western Oregon University. Five of our instructors are professional dancers with the touring company Rainbow Dance Theatre.

### ***Highly Trained Dance Educators***

In addition, all of the IDC faculty members are highly trained dance educators, with years of experience in the field of arts education. In addition to their university training, the IDC training system includes in-service training with the Director of Dance, mentoring of new faculty by experienced faculty, and off-site workshops and conferences for faculty members.

### ***Sharing a Passion for Dance***

The third key ingredient that each of our faculty brings to the IDC Dance Program is a love of dance and a passion for sharing this love of dance with students young and old. They bring to their dance classes a unique balance of discipline and creative fun, providing a safe and stimulating environment for individual and group learning.

### ***Meet the IDC 2009-10 Faculty***

Our faculty this year includes popular Hip Hop and Break Dance instructor *Carl Massey*; our own multi-talented dance tornado *Jessica Kirkland* (previously Jessica Sanford – she got married this summer to a great guy, Scott Kirkland) who will teach Hip Hop, Jazz/Lyrical, Creative Dance and Ballet; and returning Modern Dance instructor and talented choreographer *Jessica Evans*. Also returning this year to teach an expanded schedule in Creative Dance, Ballet and Jazz/Lyrical is IDC veteran instructor *Hanna Coreson*. These four amazing instructors will be joined by Western Oregon University (WOU) Dance and Musical Theater graduate *Andee Fischer* (Creative Dance and Ballet), Rainbow Dance Theatre principal dancers *Kailee McMurrin* (Ballet III/IV and Pointe) and *Sam Hobbs* (Adult Ballet/Jazz), and WOU senior dance major *Jessie Hargrove* (Hip Hop).

For details about the Open House and the IDC Dance Program, call the Salem Family YMCA at 503-581-9622, or the IDC Director Valerie Bergman at 503-399-2784. Or e-mail the IDC at [inspirationdanceco@yahoo.com](mailto:inspirationdanceco@yahoo.com)