

CONTENTS

News MTL Incorporated

What's on in 2006? Singles
MOcean

Reviews MTL as easy as 123
Summer Dance Program

Get Involved

An extract from the Rules is included below, which outlines the purpose of the association, based on the MTL vision and mission:

The purpose of the association is to provide ongoing opportunities for people to dance in a challenging and stimulating capacity throughout their lives, to promote creativity, physical and mental health and well being.

This will be achieved by fulfilling the following objectives:

- i) To provide an environment which fosters continuity, motivation and improvement in dance practice and performance for adult dancers.
- ii) To enable adult dancers to maintain their level of fitness and flexibility.
- iii) To provide an outlet for creative expression.
- iv) To challenge stereotypes that dancing has an age barrier.
- v) To nurture and promote the maturity and artistry of experienced adult dancers.
- vi) To promote the positive influence of dance on health and well being.

V1 : #1 Contributors

Kirsten Alexander
Neil Alexander
Melissa Hill
Jo McDonald

Melissa Hill

Summer Dance Program

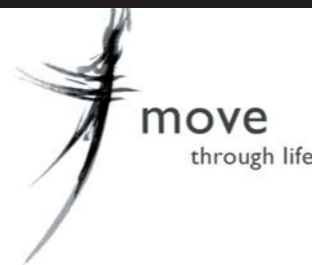
For 8 weeks over the summer, Move Through Life held several 90 minute dance workshops on Monday and Thursday evenings. If attendance numbers and comments on feedback forms are anything to go by, the inaugural Summer Dance Program was a hit. Workshops were aimed at intermediate to advanced dancers in various styles including ballet, jazz, contemporary and yoga. Each week a new choreographer taught their own work and pushed the dancers to their limits.

The dancers reported that the workshops were beneficial because they were able to get back into classes straight after the Christmas break and explore some new styles of teaching



and choreography. Classes were held while most dance schools are still on holidays, which meant new participants had a chance to find out about Move Through Life and as a result, a number of new members have joined.

Move Through Life is glad participants enjoyed the experience, and is planning to run a Summer Dance Program next summer. We thank Starlite Dance Academy for the use of their studio for this year's workshops. Feedback, comments and suggestions are more than welcome.



Kirsten Alexander

MTL inc.

Yes it has happened – MTL has taken the next step and become incorporated. We are now an incorporated not-for-profit organisation and as such, we can open a bank account, apply for funding grants, and apply to receive tax-deductible donations.

The MTL Committee held a weekend workshop to review the MTL vision and mission and to draft the Rules of Association required by the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs. This required a bit of soul searching about how we want to operate as an association and community of dancers, but thanks to a focused effort from all involved this was achieved, with a few laughs along the way; Nat revealed a heretofore hidden talent for poetical expression in prose, as well as dance!

Thanks to Mel for allowing us to take over her home for the day, and thanks to all the Committee (especially Leanne for her research of websites etc) for making the job of drafting the Rules pretty easy.

We are proud to report that our submission for incorporation and Rules of Association were accepted without amendment, so it was worth the effort. Within a week or so we had received our certificate of incorporation and can now be called MTL Inc!

Get Involved

You can get involved with MTL as a dancer, choreographer or supporter.

MTL is pleased to be able to offer three levels of membership – Dancer, Friend or Mailing List. Benefits for Dancer and Friend members include discounts on classes, tickets and merchandise, and access up-to-date information about MTL and the Adelaide dance scene in general. Dancer membership is \$25/annum, and Friends membership is \$10/annum. There is no cost to join the mailing list to make sure you don't miss out on info about upcoming opportunities.

If you are keen to support MTL, but don't think a membership is the right fit for you, stay tuned because MTL will soon be able to offer tax-deductible donations. Sponsorship packages will also be on offer shortly, offering a range of promotional and other benefits to the sponsors.

What's on in 2006

MTL is well into planning for two performance projects to begin in 2006 - Singles and MOcean.

Jo McDonald

Singles

With Singles, MTL will return to the format used so successfully for its debut in 2004 with eMerge – an amalgam of short dance pieces sprinkled with other artforms such as film and music. The choreographers involved in Singles have been invited to interpret the word “singles” in any way they see fit, whether it be a single dancer, a single piece of music... hey, even cheese slices could be a source of inspiration!

The point of difference with Singles will be the performance format. Rather than a formal, theatrical setting, Singles will be performed in a more intimate caberet style, with the audience seated at tables and able to enjoy the show accompanied by refreshments. The more intimate setting will limit audience numbers, so Singles will be presented over an extended season, with four evenings and a matinee, rather than the usual two performances for previous shows.

Registrations to participate as a dancer or choreographer in Singles closed on Friday 24 March. Choreography and rehearsals will commence in early April, and the performance season is scheduled for July.

MOcean

By far the most ambitious MTL performance project to date, MOcean will be a full length dance piece about the ocean and coast incorporating film and visual art. MOcean will be developed in collaboration with Coast Care to raise awareness about key coastal and marine issues and will be developed with the assistance of three professional artists. Creative development of MOcean will begin in October, with a work-in-progress showing scheduled during Coast Care week in December, and performances of the finished work in March 2007.

MOcean will feature the diversity characteristic of MTL performances, which is produced by a number of choreographers, each bringing their own interpretation of the theme and movement style to the blend.

Added to the mix of usual suspects will be guest choreographer Felecia Hick. Felecia's involvement will give participants the chance to work with a well respected South Australian independent dancer and choreographer. Felecia will facilitate workshops designed to introduce new approaches to dance creation and choreographic techniques. She will also be available as a choreographic mentor.

MTL has demonstrated a flair for incorporating photography and film into its repertoire. MOcean will take the incorporation of digital art one step further through the involvement of Jasmin McAllister from Moerea Productions as the creative director of film. Choreographers and dancers will be invited to participate directly in the film making process to experience the potential for their own creative development in digital artforms. It is hoped that the film score for MOcean will include underwater marine footage, which Coast Care have offered to source.

The final ingredient to MOcean will be a surf art exhibition, curated by Fleurieu visual artist and curator, Leah Grace. The exhibition will include work from local artists who are passionate about care and preservation of the coast and the creatures that live within those environments.

Grant applications have been submitted to Arts SA's Health Promotion Through The Arts and the City of Marion Community Grants which, combined with MTL's other fundraising efforts, will be needed to enable MTL to embark on this crucial developmental milestone.



Reviews

Neil Alexander

MTL as easy as 123

The Move Through Life Dance Company's second production, named 123, showed the company's continuing growth and diversification. Though only in its second year this production showed great maturity and variation for such a young company. The production consisted of four separate Acts working with the theme of solos, duos and trios.

The first Act, Transitions, told the story of a young immigrant leaving her homeland and family for a brighter opportunity in Australia. The story, created as solos, duos and trios, relied heavily on styles and feels from Greek dancing mixed with jazz. The opening scene was a farewell between the principal and her parents in Greece, which dealt with the emotions of her and her parents as she was leaving

home. The long ocean trip to Australia was represented by a lyrical duet during which she dreamt of finding love in Australia. Transition finished with a lively Rock'n'Roll style number showing her with friends at a party when she arrived in Australia.

In contrast the second Act, Mad World, was a distinctly modern and edgy number set to high energy dance music, in which the dancers executed dynamic moves at a frenetic pace. Again this performance worked with solos, duos and trios with a soundtrack of varied tempos to mirror the chaotic pace of contemporary life.

Colours of Heart Strings, the third Act was a fluid contemporary piece, with plenty of stunning floor work, movements and flowing lines. This number showed the delightful lines of the dancers as they flowed around one another. The final dance of this set

was a dynamic, vibrant trio filled with high energy lifts and jumps that clearly demonstrated the high skill level of the dancers. Colours also featured some thought provoking and innovative film components.

The final Act, Viper, had a completely different feel to it than the preceding performances. The piece used a whisky drinking, Argentinian narrator who sat to the side of the stage telling the story of the Viper within all of us - the voice that sits on your shoulder filling your ear with negative self talk. The performance told the story of two women competing in dance for the attention of the same male partner (Daniella). One woman was our heroine, the fragile and insecure Miguela, the other represented the Viper. Performed in an Argentine Tango style, the performance lent itself to a number of passionate duos and solos, and a trio that saw the women competing for dominance. The Argentinian narrator was used well with brief comments throughout the number, giving you reflection on the emotions that inspired the dancing.

In all, this second production for the Move Through Life Dance Company shows that the company is anything but one-dimensional. The use of different choreographers with very different and dynamic styles ensures that the company will continue to provide performances that will supply something to appeal to every dance lover.