

# Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers

Newsletter  
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™/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.

## "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**



Sung-Yun Park  
from Los(t) Angeles  
photo by  
Paul Antico

Right & Below:  
Dancers from Identity  
photos by  
Paul Antico



### 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](http://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.

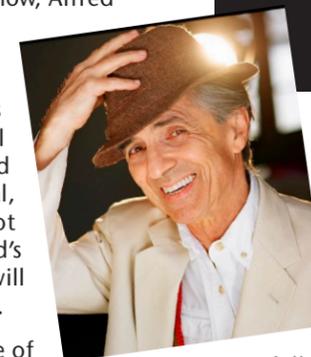
## TRIBUTE TO ALFRED DESIO

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.



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

As 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.



## Desio's Memory Continues

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,

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](mailto:louisehr@LACHoreographersAndDancers.org)) or call to request – 213-385-1171.

## 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](http://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. ■

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". ■