

Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers

NEWSLETTER 2012/2013

Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers' mission is to create high-quality, innovative concert work for Los Angeles artists, communicate to a diverse audience by using LA cultural influences, and to enlarge an educated dance audience in populations typically underexposed to the arts, especially youth. While involving audiences with participatory activities we explore humanistic themes. In this way, **LA C&D** is committed to using dance as a unifying force that crosses cultural, generational, language and socio-economic lines. Founded in 1979, **LA C&D**, a non-profit organization, has presented

multiple educational programs and created many new works. Two professional companies, **Louise Reichlin & Dancers** (modern) and **Zapped Taps™ / Alfred Desio** (electronic and acoustic tap) made up **LA C&D** until Desio's death in 2007. The mission for each of our dancers echoes that of our company: to focus but remain adaptable, to have persistence, to present inspiration, excellence and quality coupled with dependability and consistency, examining and deepening the connection with each other and our world.

2012- in Review & Still Moving

By Louise Reichlin, Director

It is October as I write this, and we definitely are still moving as one of our biggest events of the year, the official premier of **Tap Dance Widows Club** is coming up November 16-18 and we are currently active in three schools in which we move every second! We began January 2012 with our first performance in New York of the **The Patchwork Girl of Oz** at the Long Island Children's Museum. The theatre is a jewel box and charming for the dance/multimedia project that we revived for current touring. Last performed in its entirety in 2005, we put it together with performances here in LA at the Frida Kahlo Theater last December, and we were able to add new media by Audri Phillips with the help of an ARC grant through the Center For Cultural Innovation. We also performed excerpts at the Alvin Ailey Citygroup Theater in APAP showcases produced by Jodi Kaplan/ Booking Dance. We will be showcasing in New York again this January and Booking Dance has been representing us at the booking conferences this season. Check our website for NY Showcase information or if you are reading this in January, call my cell at 213-458-3066.

2012 included **multiple school partnerships** with every possible age, both during curriculum time (partnerships with Frederick Douglass Academy HS through ICEF school district, currently in partnership with LA County Arts For All), with Nelson, Rancho, and Aeolian El Schools (all 6th grades) and the Los Nietos School District through both the LA County Arts For All program and Don Knabe Partnership, Jordan HS (students



Official Premier of Tap Dance Widows Club on Nov 16-18, 2012

By Louise Reichlin, Director

I was inspired to create **The Baggage Project** after my husband and partner of 39 years Alfred Desio passed away five years ago. Even though Alfred is no longer physically here, I believe his support and nurturing spirit still remain with me. While no two people grieve identically, one commonality of grief is this lingering "baggage" (in a positive way) carried after losing a loved one.

In **Tap Dance Widows Club** the work brings together multiple dance forms in a unique multimedia piece using the power of Dance and is an inside story from 30's Hollywood to now. Alfred Desio's widow Louise Reichlin

(me), Jon Zerby's widow Loretta), and Fayard Nicholas' widow Katherine Hopkins met to share memories, photos, and videos of our well-known husbands. Our conversations about moving forward without our husbands' physical presence were both hilarious and moving; this became the audio for the transformative work. It has turned out to be a 50' video/film and live media work that besides amazing clips of our husbands' early years, includes visual art by Audri Phillips, and live dance from our dancers, both modern, and also tap with M'ssada Nia who recreated Desio's opening number from **Caution, Men At Work: TAP** when we began forming the work two years ago. Another live section **Brandenburg** draws on styles from the film clips used. **Remembrance** is an older work with new visual digital art by Phillips, some of which uses images of those who have passed on that some of you have contributed, also



Photo credits:

- Screen shot of the 3 Tap Dance Widows
- Tap legends Fayard & Harold Nicholas in a clip.
- Alfred Desio (inventor of Tap-Tronics(tm) and his widow Louise Reichlin in Celtic Suite.
- Lower photo by Paul Antico. It is of Louise Reichlin's newest piece. Pictured are Steven Nielsen, Angela Todaro, Elizabeth Ann Poinsette, and Jenni Kiilholma.