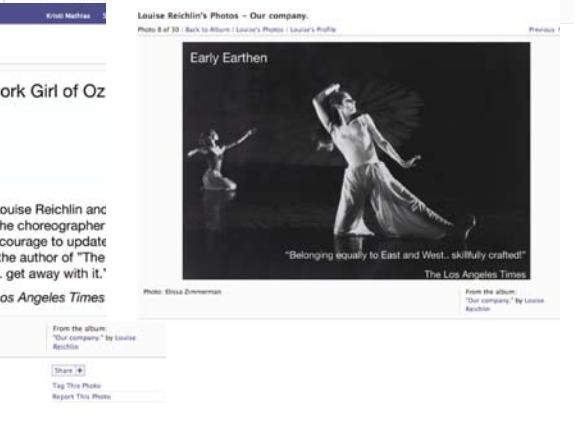
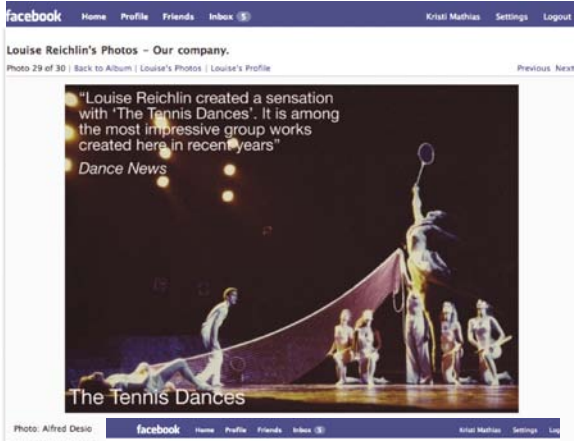
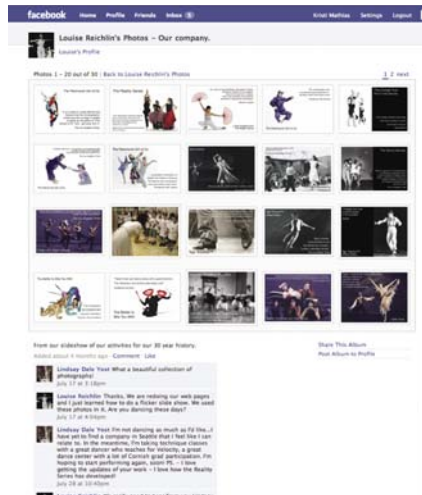


time, Graham, Limon, and Cunningham and performing in some of their works. Besides performances in concert modern dance companies, there was a sojourn in Guatemala where I assisted the founder/director of *Ballet Folklorico De Guatemala y Grupo de Danza Moderna* that was part of the country's national company in their first season, and touring, finally arriving in Los Angeles in the early 70's. A show with Katherine Hepburn called "Coco" we were touring with after performing it on Broadway finished its run in LA at the Chandler Pavilion.

**Cut to 1979** – I had started teaching at the American School of Dance for Eugene Loring, at USC for theatre and music departments creating movement classes for actors and later for musicians to understand how their musical instrument sounds were a direct reflection of their physical balance and flow, and teaching at UC Irvine where I later received an MFA. At USC I choreographed numerous musicals and operas, and a work called *The Tennis Dances*. Invited to do excerpts at the first Dance Kaleidoscope at the Ford, I guess the rest for me is history –

the LA Area Dance Alliance founded by Betty Empey was in full swing, and there was a positive feeling for dance. The dance I had choreographed morphed into the non-profit company *Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers*, with *Louise Reichlin & Special Dancers* (we took out the 'special' fairly soon) and *Alfred Desio/Solo Tap Dancer* (that was before his *Patanaxy Tap* and finally *Zapped Taps™*) under its auspices. Although I taught at USC until 2003, I put together programs for K-12 in schools the very first year of the company, now in its 30th year. K-12 had been a time when I had needed the arts most. Even as a kid who was given much of that by my parents, there was still huge isolation, no working Internet for the masses, and certainly no Facebook. In the mid 90's, USC was pushing the Internet, and with an early email and web site I read how this new technology should allow people with the same interests to find each other. Fourteen years later Facebook and YouTube, etc. are succeeding in connecting people and isolation is not so much an issue. Most young people are always connected via their cell phone and computers, and engagement with each other an everyday force. But it does not take the place of experience with real people. And the need for the arts to be an integral part of every young person's life that live artists bring has never been stronger - supplying a motivation for learning, living, and thinking outside the box to become a creative individual.



**"K-12 had been a time when I had needed the arts most. Even as a kid who was given much of that by my parents, there was still huge isolation, no working Internet for the masses, and certainly no Facebook."**

*Photos Above: Facebook Screen Shots  
The Patchwork Girl of Oz by Sallie DeEtte Mackie;  
The Tennis Dances by Alfred Desio  
Louise Reichlin in Early Earthen by Elissa Zimmerman*

**Cut to 2009** – and huge Cuts (yes, capitol C) to the economy including arts. I have now come out of the shock I was in last year as 165 of our activities had to be cut with the freeze on our LAUSD contracts, and working hard to find new partnerships to both educate and entertain with our recent work *The Better To Bite You With*. We are looking for medical or dental partnerships where we can provide an educational component, and also seeking corporations interested in starting health/balance programs for their employees using the type of mind body work that I used successfully at USC for so many years. I have a life-long commitment to my art, and to hiring professional dance artists to work with us, and if you have not seen or donated to us recently – and of course especially if you have – please continue or begin to support the work. It helps us define our humanity and ourselves. ■

**LA C&D E-NEWSLETTERS**

It will be 2 years in February that we began sending monthly e-newsletters and the response has been great. We notate the LA C&D news, including work with schools, where to see us perform, updates to our website, links and more! During the school arts crises we also had links to petitions and to mandates from the government. Many of you have been "clicking through" to our videos, educational resources and presenter/funding information. You can also see our past e-newsletters archived on our website **"www. LAChoreographersAndDancers.org/enews.html"**. If you haven't been receiving e-newsletters, you can sign up on our home page. There may not be another paper newsletter until next fall, so get us your e-mail to join our list. You can do that on our homepage: **www. LAChoreographersAndDancers.org**. Click in the lower left column.