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<http://www.batesdancefestival.org>

**Bates Dance Festival announces the Youth Arts Program, an arts camp for kids**

LEWISTON, Maine -- The Bates Dance Festival offers its three-week Youth Arts Program (YAP) from July 19 through Aug. 7 at the Benjamin Mays Center on the campus of Bates College.

Now in its 17th year, YAP has changed the lives of many youth, enhancing their self-confidence and opening up new avenues of expression. Offering local youth opportunities to experience music, dance, storytelling and visual arts classes, the program aims to enrich children's lives through learning and access to the arts. YAP provides high-quality arts experiences by bringing kids together with master artists in residence at the Bates Dance Festival.

Current research shows that training in the arts improves academic learning and test scores, increases self-discipline and promotes understanding of diverse cultures. And on top of all that, it's fun! The only requirement for admission is an enthusiasm for the arts and a willingness to try new things. Students at all levels of experience are invited to participate and develop new skills.

YAP takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and will enroll 70 students aged 6 to 17. Students are placed into three age groups: years 6-9, 10-12 and 13-17. Each group takes daily classes in dance, music, visual arts and storytelling. A healthy lunch and snacks are provided. The program costs \$600. A limited number of scholarships are available for qualifying students.

YAP students are also eligible for TOPS support and are encouraged to apply. For more information, call the Bates Dance Festival office at 207-786-6381 or visit the Web site:

<http://www.batesdancefestival.org/youthprogram>

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During the three-week program, participants learn a dynamic range of modern, ballet, hip-hop and social dance styles. They experience musical genres from around the world. And they experiment with writing poetry and with visual art techniques. Students develop basic skills to enhance self-confidence and self-expression, and gain an understanding of the performing and visual arts.

Program highlights include special master classes taught by internationally renowned artists in residence at the Bates Dance Festival. In addition, all students receive complimentary tickets to select festival performances including the Monica Bill Barnes Company, July 10; Doug Varone and Dancers, July 15; COCo Dance Theatre, July 23; and Axis Dance Company, July 31.

Culminating the program, YAP students will create and stage a special piece to be performed Saturday, Aug. 7, in Alumni Gymnasium, Bates College, as part of the Festival Finale concert of the dance festival.

Returning as co-directors of the program are Dana Reed and Terrence Karn, who will teach classes along with Patrick Ferreri, Jillian Grunnah, Yvonne Hernandez and Priscilla Rivas. Reed resides in New Orleans, where she is developing a new arts program for youth. She also serves as artistic director of Alternative Collaborations Dance, a multimedia performance company. She earned her bachelor's in dance and education from the University of Southern Mississippi, and has been teaching dance for more than 10 years.

Karn is a musician and performer who draws on a wide range of cultural traditions and instruments in his dynamic career as a performer, teacher and accompanist. He has taught music and dance to students of all ages for more than 25 years in locations across the globe. Karn currently serves on the faculty at Denison University in Ohio.

Grunnah is a dance educator who received her master's in dance from Smith College. She lives in Boston, where she teaches drama and directs the dance program at the Noble and Greenough School. She also performs professionally with BoSoma Dance Company.

Ferreri received his bachelor's in dance from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. He lives and dances in New York City with David Dorfman Dance. He is on faculty at the Harkness Dance Center at the 92nd Street Y.

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Hernandez earned her bachelor's in dance in 2002 from Point Park University. She is the youth performing group director, resident choreographer, teacher and a company member with Eveoke Dance Theatre in San Diego. She has taught literacy through dance in after-school and in-school elementary programs and is certified as an inclusion aide, assisting students with disabilities to participate in dance.

Rivas is a dance and visual arts instructor. She grew up in Cali, Colombia, where she was inspired by the music and dance of her vibrant culture. She holds a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from the University of Houston and teaches second grade at J.J. Herrera Elementary in Houston. Three experienced college dance students serve as interns to the program.

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