



## Bates Dance Festival

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**EDITORS:** Download images from the Bates Dance Festival's Youth Arts Program:

<http://www.bates.edu/news/files/2016/02/YAFinale4byArthurFink-HI.jpg>

[A scene from the Bates Dance Festival's 2015 Youth Arts Program. (PLEASE CREDIT: Arthur Fink)]

<http://www.bates.edu/news/files/2016/02/YAPFinale8byArthurFink-HI.jpg>

[Participants in the Bates Dance Festival's 2015 Youth Arts Program perform during the Festival Finale. (PLEASE CREDIT: Arthur Fink)]

### **Bates Dance Festival announces early-bird registration discount for 2017 Youth Arts Program, a summer arts camp for kids**

LEWISTON, Maine -- With an early-bird registration discount available through mid-April, the Bates Dance Festival offers its three-week Youth Arts Program from July 17 through Aug. 5 on the campus of Bates College.

YAP provides high-quality arts experiences by bringing kids together with master artists in residence at the Bates Dance Festival. Students at all levels of experience are invited to participate. The only prerequisites are enthusiasm for the arts and a willingness to try new things.

YAP takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and will enroll 60 students in grades 2-10. Students are divided into three age groups: grades 2-3, 4-6 and 7-10. Each group takes daily classes in dance, music, theater, visual arts and storytelling. A healthy lunch and snacks are provided.

The early-bird fee, available through April 12, is \$675. Thereafter, the program costs \$750. A limited number of scholarships are available for qualified low-income students on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, call the Bates Dance Festival at 207-786-6381 or visit the website:

[batesdancefestival.org/education/youth-arts-program/](http://batesdancefestival.org/education/youth-arts-program/).

Now in its 24th year, YAP has changed the lives of local young people, enhancing their self-confidence and opening new avenues of expression. Offering opportunities to experience music, dance, theater, storytelling and visual arts classes, the program enriches children's lives through learning and access to the arts.

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!

Participants learn a dynamic range of modern, ballet, hip hop and social dance styles. They experience musical genres from around the world. They learn theater games. And they experiment with writing poetry and with visual art techniques.

The program includes special master classes taught by internationally renowned artists in residence at the Bates Dance Festival. In addition, scholarship students receive complimentary tickets to selected festival performances.

Culminating the program, YAP students will create and stage a special production based on the theme of "Better Together" to be performed Saturday, Aug. 5, in Alumni Gymnasium, Bates College, as part of the BDF's Festival Finale concert.

Returning as co-directors of the program are Priscilla Rivas and Terrence Karn, who will teach classes along with Rob Flax, Patrick Ferreri, Annalyn Lehnig, Yvonne Hernandez and Dana Reed.

Rivas is a dance and visual arts instructor. She grew up in Cali, Colombia, where she was inspired by the music and dance of that vibrant culture. She holds a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from the University of Houston. She taught in the classroom for eight years and is now an assistant principal at an inner-city elementary school in Houston.

Karn is a musician, teacher and performer who draws on a wide range of cultural traditions and instruments. He has taught music and dance to students of all ages for more than 28 years in locations across the globe. This summer will be his 18th at the Bates Dance Festival. Currently he is the accompanist for the dance classes at Bates and Bowdoin colleges and is the co-director of Gypsy Dance Theatre.

Flax is a recent graduate of New England Conservatory, where he received a master's degree in contemporary improvisation. He is a multi-instrumentalist and educator based in Boston. Classically trained on violin since age 8, he first achieved national recognition in 2009 at the American String Teachers Association conference. Rob has performed internationally.

Ferreri holds a bachelor's degree in dance from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. A former dancer with David Dorfman Dance, he is currently performing in the joint Emursive and Punchdrunk Off-Broadway production of "Sleep No More." He joined the YAP faculty in 2008.

Yvonne Hernandez is a dance artist, IIN Health Coach, CPT, and has been a company member and rehearsal director with Jennifer Archibald's Arch Dance Company since 2010. Yvonne began her performing career in San Diego, CA. serving as Eveoke Dance Theatre's Concert Company dancer, choreographer, teacher, and youth performing group director. She is a graduate of the Conservatory of Performing Arts at Point Park University in Pittsburgh, PA. Since 2007 she has served on the faculty of the Youth Arts Program.

Lehnig received a bachelor's degree in theater from Cornish College. She lives in New Orleans where she is a theater artist and teacher working with at-risk youth. This will be her third summer with YAP.

**Dana Reed** has been involved with YAP since 2002 and took a couple summers off to start a family. Dana currently lives in New Orleans, LA where she is Executive Director of Upturn Arts; whose mission is to provide "Arts for All". The Youth Arts Program and community inspired Dana's career path and opened many doors of opportunity.

The Youth Arts Program is supported in part by the Lewiston-Auburn Children's Home, Center Street Dental, Leonard C. & Mildred F. Ferguson Foundation, Mechanics Savings Bank and the Sequoia Foundation.

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