

ALCHEMY DANCE COMPANY

Alchemy Dance Company was formed in January of 2007 and is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.

The mission of Alchemy Dance Company is to present dance to new and existing audiences in ways that increase knowledge, enrich the spirit, engage the mind and stimulate the senses. The company holds performances, workshops, and outreach classes with the goal of creating experiences that transform people's lives by broadening their perspectives, attitudes, and knowledge of themselves and the wider world.

Alchemy Dance Company hosts performances featuring contemporary movement choreographed by Artistic Director Amy Harding in collaboration with the Alchemy Dancers. We are committed to producing quality dance performance that reflects and informs our own community. We focus on collaborations with Composers, Costume Designers, and Lighting Designers to bring a cohesive vision to the stage. The company's contemporary movement style blends ballet, jazz, modern, hip-hop, and b-boy styles to provide audiences with a mixture of movement to which they can relate.

Alchemy holds outreach classes, workshops, professional classes, and master classes to further enrich our community. We train novices to professionals and work to bring dance to people of all ages, sizes, ethnicities, and socio-economic backgrounds. We have also opened our stage to the community having members of the public perform with us.

Our goal is to create experiences. We want to get people thinking, talking, feeling, and moving.



Artistic Director

Amy Harding started her training near her hometown of Bloomsburg, PA where she was a part of numerous musical theater productions as dancer, dance captain, and choreographer. In Philadelphia, Amy had the pleasure of working with choreographers such as: Wayne St. David, Beth Hirschhaut-Iguchi, and Ronen Koresh. After graduating with honors from The University of the Arts with a BFA in

Jazz Dance Performance, Amy moved to Los Angeles, CA where she performed with the Carol Solomon Dance Company. Amy has taught tap, jazz, ballet, and hip-hop to all ages and levels from coast to coast. In 2003, Amy decided to return to the east coast to continue teaching, choreographing, and learning. In 2007, she created Alchemy Dance Company from a desire to share, inspire, and entertain. Her contemporary movement style is continually evolving as is her dance company. Amy's choreography has been featured in the Philly Fringe Festival, Philly Dance Fest, Garden State Dance Festival, Project Dance Festival, Annual Jam for Jess Shows, Koresh Artist Showcases, Mountain Dance Festival, Philly Dance Collective, Inhale Performance Series, ETC Performance Series, Outlet Dance Project, PIFA Festival, Norristown Dance Fest, and other local and regional performances.

Technical Director

Jonathan Bowles is a Philadelphia native and graduate of The University of the Arts with a BA in Film/Animation. Largely self-taught in areas of music composition and costume design, Jon's creativity knows no bounds. During his time as a student, he created music for multiple Uarts student films and animated features. Jon later moved to Los Angeles, CA where he was commissioned to compose music for videos

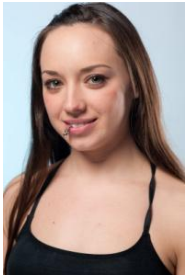


by Bina Productions and Dragonfly Productions. He also continued work as a sound designer/technician for Dinamation Studios and many local arts organizations. Current commissions for sound design/music composition include Alchemy Dance Company, The Paula Kearney Dance Studio, and private clients. In addition to music composition and sound design, Jon has a variety of experience as a costume/garment designer. He has been commissioned to produce anything from Alien costumes to wedding dresses and is known for creating period pieces and sci fi style clothing. Jon currently produces costumes for Alchemy Dance Company and private clients.

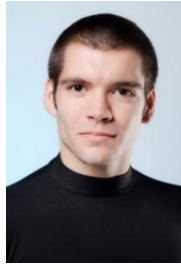
COMPANY MEMBERS



Kaitlyn Clark, a native of Philadelphia, started dancing at the age of five. After studying at numerous establishments including Metropolitan Ballet Academy in Jenkintown, Pa, she continued her training at the High School for the Creative and Performing Arts in Philadelphia. Kaitlyn graduated from Temple University with a BFA in dance, where she had the privilege of studying with Dr. Kariamu Welsh, Philip Grosser, Kun-Yang Lin, Merian Soto, Lisa Kraus, Eva Gholson, and guest artist Chris Elam. Kaitlyn has had the privilege of performing in the 2009 Philadelphia Fringe Festival, as well as for fellow dancers in Temple University's dance department throughout her four years there.



Leslie Ann Pike started her dance training at age 2. In 2005 she graduated with a B.A. in Dance from DeSales University in Allentown, P.A. While at DeSales she studied under Trinnette Singleton, Vincent Brousseau, Lynne Mariani and many others. She was a member of the DeSales University Touring Company for 2 years, and performed in various dance concerts and musical theatre productions while studying at DeSales University. Before graduating she joined BosmaDance of Washington, DC. Leslie Ann performs with several dance companies and dance artists in the local Philadelphia area.



Kevan Sullivan grew up in Milford, Ct and studied at the Lee Lund Studio of Dance for 15 years. He is on a full scholarship at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and is currently pursuing a BFA in Dance. In 2010, Kevan was a student at the contemporary program at Jacob's Pillow. He studied under Milton Meyers, Ami Shulman, Didy Veldman, Ronald K. Brown, Carla Maxwell, Hofesh Shechter, Pedro Ruiz Jr., and Igal Perry. In Philadelphia, Kevan has had the opportunity to perform dance works by Curt Haworth and Christine Cox.



Rachael Dorr began her dance training at age 5 at Kay's Act II Dance Studio in Trevoze PA. She is currently on scholarship, pursuing a BFA in Dance at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia where she has had the opportunity to study under teachers like Michael Sheridan, Suzanne Slenn, Donald T. Lunsford, and Brian Sanders. In her short time in Philadelphia she has had the opportunity to perform works choreographed by Karen Furhman, Robert Burden, Ryan Stauffer and Tyger B. She also currently teaches in the surrounding Philadelphia area.



Madeleine Fulton, a native of Denver, Colorado, started dancing at age 12 at Belliston Academy of Ballet and Cleo Parker Robinson Dance. She is currently on scholarship, pursuing a BFA in Dance at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. There she has had the opportunity to study under Kim Bears-Bailey, Zane Booker, Michael Sheridan and Molly Misgalla, among others. In Philadelphia, she performed in a work choreographed by Karen Furhman for PIFA, and is excited this year to perform choreography by Wayne St. David.

ALCHEMY DANCE COMPANY

Repertory

Frolic (2012)

Music: Devotchka

Splendor Solis (2012)

Music: Yoko Kanno

Rite of Passage (2011)

Music: Jonathan Bowles

Jupiter's Lament (2010)

Music: Max Richter

Derailed (2010)

Music: Elton John

Sideshow Noir (2009)

Music: Combichrist, Amon Tobin, Imogen Heap, Fatboy Slim, Jonathan Bowles

Lost and Found (2008)

Music: Eric Serra, Imogen Heap, Yoko Kanno, BT, Shiroh Sagisu, Govinda, Jonathan Bowles

Mad World (2007)

Music: Elmo Hope Trio, Gary Jules, Jonathan Bowles, Philip Glass

Empathogenic (2007)

Music: Anubtec

A Blessing and a Curse (2007)

Music: Nine Inch Nails

Peek-A-Boo (2007)

Music: Siouxsie and the Banshees

Residency Activities

Master Classes / Workshops

Master classes by Alchemy Dance Company are designed to introduce participants to the unique contemporary style of choreographer Amy Harding and the techniques on which it is based. Specific content is determined based on the age and ability of the participants. Generally, a master class is 1 and ½ hours in duration. Workshops are generally a series of master classes or a single elongated master class that includes learning company repertory works. A workshop series of one week or longer may be geared toward setting company choreography on students for performance in either the company's show or their own.

An Alchemy Master Class is offered in two formats. Format 1 includes an extended warmup (50 minutes), a choreographic combination (30 minutes), small group performances of the combination (10 minutes). Format 2 includes a shorter warmup (40 minutes), across the floor exercises (15 minutes), and a choreographic combination with small group performance time (35 minutes).

Lecture Demonstrations

The Lecture Demonstration by Alchemy Dance Company is intended to introduce audiences to Harding's unique contemporary style and the techniques on which it is based. This is accomplished through a combination of speaking to the audience and presenting excerpts of Alchemy's repertory. Specific content is selected according to the age and the past experience of the audience. Generally, a lecture demonstration is 45 minutes to 1 hour in duration.

Post Performance Q&A

Post Performance Question and Answer sessions are designed to expose audiences to Alchemy's unique movement style and philosophy while providing an opportunity for participants to talk directly with the artistic director and company members. In these sessions, the company begins by discussing the work presented and asking questions of the audience actively engaging them and setting a format for healthy communication prior to switching roles.

Open Rehearsals

During public rehearsals, Alchemy talks openly about choreographic methods and the learning process as it relates to dance. By attending rehearsal of pieces from the repertoire or new works in progress, audiences will get to experience the process of creating a dance on many different levels with access to both the dancer and choreographer perspective. Open rehearsals typically include a question and answer session following the rehearsal to help audiences relate to what they are seeing.

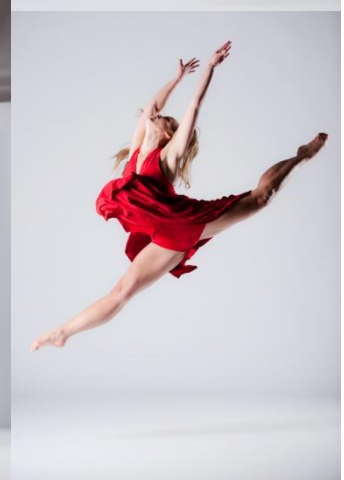
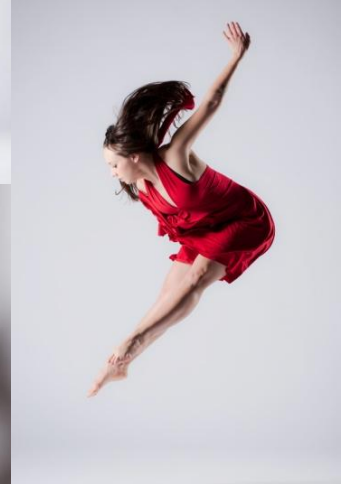
Photos

All photos by Gabriel Bienczycki are available electronically in high resolution.



Photos

All photos by Matthew Wright are available electronically in high resolution.





The Garden State Dance Festival


To whom it may concern:

It is with great pleasure that the Garden State Dance Festival writes this letter of recommendation for the Alchemy Dance Company. They were guest performing artists for our '08 and '09 seasons and received much acclaim from our very diverse audiences and critics. We eagerly brought them back a second year because we found them to be completely professional in our dealings of all artistic and business related matters. They were consistently prompt for tech rehearsals, extremely personable to the other cast members, and came in with a clear vision for our lighting and sound technicians. All of the dancers in the company were very well-trained and rehearsed, knowing their blocking, staging and choreography. Also to their credit, they were even able to adjust at a minute's notice and change the piece they were going to perform to better suit our program.

Amy Harding, the Artistic Director has a clear vision of what she expects from her company, and the style of choreography she is setting on them. It is jazzy, clean and yet simplistic enough to be understood and well-received by any audience. I think the company has a strong future ahead in that they are willing and able to do whatever work that it will entail. The dancers have a great respect for Amy and their work ethic reflects this. Amy has been very on point with all communications and direction with regards to our festival and I would recommend her for any future presenters she may be looking into.

The advisory board of the Garden State Dance Festival wholeheartedly wishes Alchemy all future success. It has been our pleasure! If you have any further questions please feel free to contact us at any time.

Best,



Suzy Zucker

Artistic Director

Vicki Stein
Chief Financial Officer



May 5, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

I am the Founder/Director of PA Dance Network, a dance education-based studio in East Stroudsburg, PA; as well as, the Founder/CEO of a 501(c)3 non-profit dance organization, PA Dance Vision. One of the many events we produce is the annual Mountain Dance Concert. It is a regional dance concert where choreographers come to share their works, gain performance experience and connect with other talented dancers. Mountain Dance has been in existence for thirteen years and is housed at The Sherman Theater in Stroudsburg, PA.

This year we had privilege of working with Amy Harding and Alchemy Dance Company. I found them through a Philadelphia-based web portal and then saw their work on youtube. I knew they were the type of company to fit in with our concert vibe and would be a great addition.

Amy was just the type of Director I like to work with (and the type of I look for)...organized, timely, professional and committed. It was very simply arranged that she would bring her work and dancers to our concert. She followed the outline I set forth for turning in materials, tech scheduling and then performance at the concert. Amy understands the process and honors it.

Alchemy Dance Company performed *Without Emotions*. It seemed to me to be a Modern Ballet of sorts with a Jazz undercurrent. The dancers were technical and fully engaged in the choreographic intent and purpose. Our audience thoroughly enjoyed their presence.

I recommend Amy Harding and Alchemy Dance Company for grant work and other types of performance opportunities. If you would like further input from me regarding the choreography or the technical proficiency of the dancers, I am happy to give feedback. Email me at padance@noln.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maria Triano".

Maria Triano, Founder/Director

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PhiladelphiaDANCE.org

March 25, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves as a recommendation for Alchemy Dance Company under the directorship of Amy Harding. I am writing this letter in the capacity of producer for Philly Dance Fest in which Alchemy Dance participated as well as a founder of PhiladelphiaDANCE.org, an umbrella organization for dance in the greater Philadelphia region.

Alchemy Dance brings with it a unique movement style of contemporary jazz that is not seen in other professional companies. This unique style keeps evolving as does the company in its ability to reach a wide and diverse audience. Alchemy's programs are compelling, dynamic and interactive. The choreography presented by this group is thought provoking, but yet at a level that can be enjoyed by even those new to contemporary dance.

The company is very accessible to audiences and always ready to discuss their work, making for a greater connection between the audience and the performing arts. From a production stand point, I would also add that the group is extremely professional in how they present themselves both on and off stage.

Alchemy has also been involved in offering outreach programs in the community, taking creative movement and dance education to areas and schools lacking arts programs in Philadelphia and its suburbs. They have even offered an Alchemy Out-of-Bounds program, that brings free performances to those who cannot venture out to theatrical venues. This educational and community component has been a core of the company, that is reflected in their work.

Alchemy by its very name is about transformation. This group would be a great addition to any performing arts roster or program, and has the power to transform the audiences and organizations that they serve. If any additional information is required, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Steven Weisz

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Review of Alchemy Dance Company

Alchemy Dance Company's "Rite of Passage"

by Robert L Robinson Jr on Sunday, April 17, 2011 at 10:46am

Published via Facebook

Last night at the Painted Bride, I saw the most amazing show, "The Rite of Passage." It was my first time seeing the Alchemy Dance Company and until two weeks ago, I had never heard of them. But my friend FM Yates, who is on their board, recommended Jonathon Bowles as a composer on a transmedia project I am working on, so I was curious and anxious to reconnect with him.

Amy Harding's choreography and Jon Bowles music were complementarily daring and exciting to each other, a wondrous harmony of sight and sound. Neither was afraid to take any chances and provided a show that was stimulating on many levels. The dancers all accepted the challenge and really pushed themselves, giving the audience an experience where the visuals and the audio danced in perfect harmony with each other, one's ying to the other's yang so to speak.

The first act was the story of the first performance of Stravinsky's masterpiece "The Rites of Spring." We began in a theater with the patrons watching the performance when all bedlam breaks loose. Then a sole custodian cleans up the stage, removing the chairs where we find ourselves in a dark room. A single light appears and a beautiful dancer lies upon the ground.

And from that point forward, the magic happens. Dance that was reminiscent of Fosse in its ambition and execution, music that keep my head dancing in union with the performers, and dancers who's every step was more graceful and skillful than the one that preceded it. A magical delight from a hidden treasure of a dance company, that deserves all to discover it, that touched confidently upon my imagination with each leap, turn and note.

The second act was called Sideshow. It was the story of a megalomaniac travelling carnival ring master and his dolls (the ladies of the dance company). The dancer was a B-Boy who could hip hop with the best of them, and the dancers, as I know now, being that they were Alchemy dancers, were superb! First in their doll costumes (which made me think a bit of Neil Gaiman, don't ask why, as I don't know) then in their angelic attire, they strutted and pirouetted across the stark stage with grace and flight normally reserved for the ballet.

Another marvel from last night were the costumes also designed by young Mr. Bowles. They sparkled when they had to, created fear when they needed to, and titillated most other times. The team of Amy and Jon are just hitting the ground and I for one think that they are on the right track. I plan to attend any performances that the Alchemy Dance Company puts on and encourages all my friends to do so also.

And if you are at the Painted Bride, when you walk out, turn right and stop in the first restaurant you find. The sign will read "Konak Restaurant & Bar." Stop in and be prepared for a feast. The first thing that greets you is the friendliness of the staff. Then the music; Live Turkish music played to perfection by two gentlemen that sounded like a full band. I half expected Robert Plant to come out and belt out Kashmir (I know it isn't Turkish, but the melodies they were playing were transporting me to magical lands). It was my first experience with Turkish food, and my first time with anything Turkish since my college days and that involved a pin and a match and a glass, but that is another story not to be retold, lol. Not knowing what to order, I did what I have made a habit of doing. I ask the wait staff to select my meal for me, something that best represents the restaurant and the nation. In the last three years of doing so, I have never had a bad meal, and last night was no exception. They treated me with a ground lamb dish (I hope Mary is not still looking for that little lamb, as he was delicious!) and a wine to go with it called Angora. Both were a marvelous compliment to the sights and sounds of the Alchemy Dance Company and the perfect dessert to a perfect night of the arts. But because they wanted to so impress us, they made a special dessert that while I have no idea what it was, I do know that it was like flakes of a cloud from Heaven on a plate that melted in my mouth.

Do yourselves a favor. Get on the mailing list for Alchemy Dance Company and dine at Konak. And tell them both, I sent you. You won't be disappointed! I promise.

<http://www.alchemydance.org/>

<http://www.konakturkishcuisine.com/>