

Performing Artist Award : Gina B. Darlington
Websites: www.canyonmovementcompany.org
www.canyondance.org

I think Gina B. Darlington should receive the Performing Artist Viola Award. She has lived and worked in Arizona for 20 years, teaching thousands of children and adults dance and creative movement. She was an Artist in Residence for the Arizona Commission on the Arts where she conducted residencies at nearly all the schools in Flagstaff. She is the executive director of Canyon Movement Company and Canyon Dance Academy. Gina has traveled to Ireland, Italy, and the Southwest where she and the company performed for and taught hundreds of people. She has performed in dance companies in Utah, Missouri, Nebraska, and Arizona. Gina is on faculty at Coconino Community College and has been a guest teacher at the American College Dance Festival. She recently choreographed for NAU Theater. She attended the University of Utah and BYU and received her dance degree from BYU.

Gina served on the Arizona Department of Education (DOE) Committee to re-write the Arts Standards in 2005-06, and the Arizona DOE National Content Review Committee for Arts Assessments in 2008-2010. She was nominated for the 2005 Athena Award in Flagstaff. In 2009, Gina received an Honored Alum award from Brigham Young University for her outstanding contributions to her community. She has been selected to present papers and/or choreography at the American College Dance Festival 2001-03, and Dance and the Child International Conferences in 2006 (The Hague Netherlands) and 2009. (Jamaica). She presented a paper at the "Embodied Believing: Faith in Motion" conference at Brigham Young University in July 2009.

Gina founded and established Canyon Movement Company in April of 1993. Under her direction, CMC has produced and performed in numerous venues in the past 18 years. Their project, "The Quiltings", a dance interpreting women and quilts of the pioneer migrations" (2000) has been toured throughout the region. CMC completed a residency in Wexford, Ireland in October 1996. The company conducted lecture/demonstrations, performances, and community classes during a 16 day tour. They concluded with a fringe event performance at the Wexford Festival Opera. CMC worked again in Wexford Ireland in 2006. Myriad Dance of Ireland were guests at DanCelebration in June 2005, and June 2006, and CMC traveled to perform again in Ireland in April 2006 to conclude their trans-national project with Myriad Dance. CMC traveled to Cesena, Italy to perform in a festival in June 2004.

From canyonmovementcompany.org:

"Gina B. Darlington is the executive director of Canyon Movement Company and Canyon Dance Academy. Gina has traveled to Ireland, Italy, and the Southwest where she and the company performed for and taught hundreds of people. She has performed in dance companies in Utah, Missouri, Nebraska, and Arizona.

She has been an Artist-in Residence for Arizona where she conducted numerous residencies. Gina is on faculty at Coconino Community College and has been a guest teacher at the American College Dance Festival. She recently choreographed for NAU Theater including "Rivals" and "The Grapes of Wrath." She received her dance degree from BYU. Gina served on the Arizona Department of Education (DOE) Committee to re-write the Arts Standards in 2005-06, and the Arizona DOE National Content Review Committee for Arts Assessments."

The company has performed in numerous venues including Wheeler Park in Flagstaff, NAU, outdoors at Lowell Observatory, Scottsdale Center for the Arts, Coconino Center for the Arts, Las Vegas, MAD BAD festival in the Bay area, the Kerr Center at ASU in Scottsdale, The Herberger Theater in Phoenix, The Tempe Performing Arts Center, Pima Community College in Tucson, Dance in the Desert Festival in Las Vegas, NV, and Tuacahn Center for the Arts in St. George, Utah. The company has performed with Arizona Contemporary Dance Festival since 1996. Gina traveled with the company to Aspen, Colorado to participate in a residency and performance. They have also performed for residencies and lecture demonstrations in Flagstaff Unified Public Schools, charter schools, Tuba City schools, and Grand Canyon Schools. The company was commissioned by international conductor Maestro Irwin Hoffman to perform with the Flagstaff Festival of the Arts Orchestra in 1994, and was asked back in 1995 and 1996. Under Gina's leadership and guidance, the company and dancers within the company frequently collaborate with other artists including choreographers, musicians, sculptors, visual artists and writers/poets.

As a working professional artist and teacher, Gina is active with the National Dance Education Organization, Dance and the Child International organization, the American College Dance Festival, and Cross-Cultural Dance Resources. She has also organized multiple festivals, performances, and events in the Flagstaff community. She donates her time to various other organizations including her church.

Recent events she has produced and performed with include:

Flagstaff Performance Arts Festival – May 2011

Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra – July 2011

Flagstaff Performance Arts Festival – May 2010

Boulder Fringe Festival – August 2010

Halloween show – October 2010, 2011

Dance in the Desert Festival, Las Vegas, NV August 2008, 2011

"Dances about the Quilts of Gee's Bend, an American Masterpiece Project" May and July 2008

Guest Artist with the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra July 3, 2007

Dance Celebration Summer Dance Festival, 1999 -07 Flagstaff, AZ

The Nutcracker Suite in Modern Bare Feet, December 2004 - 11, NAU

Performances in Italy of Portraits de Femme, June 2004

DanCelebration Summer Dance Festival, with Nina Watt 1998-2005 Flagstaff, AZ

Other links: http://azdailysun.com/news/local/article_5a6a21ce-bb47-53a8-b8d2-3c1e74e84a5b.html

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1lbfqYqZql>,

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMzWfoZXU-I>