Dorrance Dance
MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2017
11AM | Jackson Hall
Recommended for grades 3–12

About Dorrance Dance

Founded in 2011 by artistic director and 2015 MacArthur Fellow Michelle Dorrance, Dorrance Dance aims to honor tap dance’s unique history in a new context by upholding the traditional form while pushing its rhythmic, technical and conceptual boundaries. The company is passionately committed to expanding the audience of tap dance, America’s long-standing indigenous jazz vernacular. By incorporating other forms that have shaped the foundation of American culture —such as street, club and experimental dance—Dorrance Dance highlights the traditional elements of tap dance and its musical rhythms in a contemporary light.

Dorrance is a New York City-based tap dancer, performer, choreographer, teacher and director. In addition to being a MacArthur Fellow, she has also been named a 2016 United States Artists Fellow, 2014 Alpert Award winner, 2012 Princess Grace Award winner, 2012 Field Dance Fund recipient, and 2011 Bessie Award winner. As a soloist, recent highlights include collaborating with Bill Irwin, Kate Davis, Robbie Fairchild, Lil’ Buck and Melissa Toogood, under the direction of Damian Woetzel at Vail International Dance Festival and performing on CBS’s The Late Show with Stephen Colbert.

Dorrance embodies a true passion for teaching and strives to share this passion wherever she goes. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from NYU, played bass for Darwin Deez, teaches on faculty at Broadway Dance Center, is a Capezio Athlete and has been featured on the covers of Dance Magazine and Dance Teacher magazine. Dorrance wishes to credit the master hoofers whom she studied with in her youth for constant inspiration and influence.

Common Core

Common Core broadens the definition of a “text,” viewing performance as a form of text, so students are experiencing and interacting with a text when they attend a performance. Seeing live performance provides rich opportunities to write reflections, narratives, arguments etc.

3-12.RL.3; 3-12RL.6-7; 3-12.RI.3; 6-12.RH.4-5; 6-12.RL.7

Learn More:

Dorrance Dance Official website
Michelle Dorrance, 2015 MacArthur Fellow
Stephen Colbert Gets A Tap Dance Lesson
Think About It

Dear Students,

1. What sort of sounds did the dancers’ taps make?
2. Describe the dancers’ movements onstage. Were they dancing in unison or individually?
3. Was there a story being told? How did the dancers interact with each other?
4. What did you like best about the performance and why?

What is expected of student audiences at the matinee:

- To facilitate starting the performance on time, get a drink of water and use the restroom before entering the seating area
- Enter the auditorium quietly and take your seats immediately (note that all matinees have reserved seating)
- Show courtesy to the artist and other guests at all times
- Demonstrate appreciation for the artists’ work by applauding
- Refrain from making unnecessary noise or movements
- Please eat lunch before or after the performance. Food is not allowed in the theater
- Use information learned from the pre-matinee discussion to enhance the performance experience
- Please do not photograph or record the artists

What your students can expect of their experience at the Mondavi Center:

A theater is a charged space, full of energy and anticipation. When the house lights (the lights that illuminate the audience seating) go down, the excitement level goes up! Theaters are designed so that the voices of the singers and actors and the music of the musicians can be heard. But this also means that any sound in the audience: whispering, speaking and moving about, can be heard by other audience members and by the performers. Distractions like these disrupt everyone’s concentration and can spoil a performance.

The performers on stage show respect for their art form and for the audience by doing their very best work. By watching attentively the audience shows respect for the performers. Appreciation can be shown in many different ways, depending upon the art form and the culture(s) of the people in the audience. For instance, while the audience at a dance performance may sit quietly, other types of performances may invite audience participation.

Applause is the best way for audience members to share their enthusiasm and to show their appreciation for the performers. Applaud at the end of a performance! Sometimes the audience will clap during a performance, as after a featured solo. Audience members may feel like laughing if the action on stage is funny, crying if the action is sad, or sighing if something is seen or heard that is beautiful.

Mondavi Center Arts Education

Arts Education provides CueSheets for all performances in the Mondavi Center 2017–18 School Matinee Series. They are intended to help teachers prepare their students for the school matinee that they will attend at Mondavi Center, UC Davis.

Support provided by:

mondaviarts.org | 530.754.5431