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MoCo Students Create Original Work in 'The Young Choreographers' Showcase'



(Keene, NH) – MoCo Arts' upper level dance students take on the role of both choreographer and dancer in a completely student designed production of *The Young Choreographers' Showcase* on Saturday, March 17 at 7:00pm for one performance only at the MoCo Arts Black Box Theatre.

The Young Choreographers Showcase is an inspiring event featuring original pieces choreographed **and** performed by MoCo Arts students. This experience allows upper level students the valuable opportunity to expand into creating choreography, teaching and collaborating with peers.

"Choreographing has been a challenging experience," says Maggie Cahoon, a student choreographer and performer in this year's show, and a senior at Keene High School. "I pick up choreography easily when I'm in class, but now I have new respect for all of my teachers who choreograph and teach all year long."

Cahoon is involved with multiple dances in this show. Maggie has choreographed her own tap piece that she is teaching to her peers, she's a dancer in a 2nd piece, and she's also teaching a group of students a piece choreographed by fellow student Georgie Bittenbender, a MoCo dancer who is participating in a Kroka Expedition this spring and is unable to teach her piece or attend the performance.

"It has been so fun working on Georgie's piece," says Cahoon. "Georgie was able to attend one rehearsal and show us the piece, she also left written notes and a video clip of her dancing it. It has been fun to honor her work and keep it true to her vision."

Past events have featured many disciplines of dance including ballet, tap, jazz, hip and modern dance. Students design all aspects of their performance including choreography, music, costuming and lighting with guidance from MoCo staff members making their vision become a reality.



Transforming Lives Through Movement and Creative Expression

“This process has been more fun than I expected,” says Cahoon. “I knew I wanted to choreograph after seeing this show in past years. I chose to do a tap piece because it is my favorite style of dance, but I also love hip hop so I tried to blend elements of hip hop into my piece.”

The MoCo Arts School of Dance offers a variety of classes for children grades 2nd through 12th, with many levels of each discipline available. Kids younger than 2nd grade are invited to join MoCo’s Creative Dance program, a fun introduction to different styles of dance. Dance classes focus on the technical development of each student, learning the fundamentals of each discipline. MoCo welcomes all students where they are in their movement and creative arts journey – beginners through advanced.

Tickets to *The Young Choreographers’ Showcase* are \$10/ General and are on sale now. To purchase tickets please visit the MoCo Arts Front Desk or call (603) 357-2100. For more information about *The Young Choreographers’ Showcase* visit www.moco.org.

MoCo Arts is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, multi-arts educational organization located in downtown Keene offering dance and theatre classes and multi-arts vacation and summer camps for children ages 18 months to 18+ years. As part of the educational process, MoCo Arts provides professional quality performance experience for students and family-friendly performances for audiences of all ages throughout the year. Funding for MoCo Arts is provided in part by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information please visit MoCo Arts, 76 Railroad Street, Keene, NH 03431 or www.moco.org

Photo caption: “Maggie Cahoon, Lily Bond, Kaitlyn Munroe, Maddie Tremblay, and Sarah Hansel rehearsing an original piece for ‘The Young Choreographers’ Showcase’.”

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