

DIABOLO

Dance Workshops

MEET THE ARTIST:

Diavolo is a modern dance company founded in 1992 in Los Angeles by Artistic Director *Jacques Heim*. Diavolo's mission statement is to "redefine dance through dynamic movement, enlightening communities through trust, teamwork, and individual expression."

Company members are dancers, gymnasts, actors, and always teammates, who, under the guidance of Mr. Heim, collaboratively create performances on large, outrageous and surrealistic sets. These sets form an intrinsic part of each piece of work. They provide the backdrop for dramatic movement – leaping, flying, falling – that creates metaphors for the challenge of relationships, the absurdities of life and the struggle to maintain our humanity in an increasingly technological world.

The company currently has over a dozen works in repertoire, ranging from 10 to 75 minutes in length. The company tours approximately 8 to 10 months a year with a combination of evening performances and residency activities to communities and schools all over the country. Diavolo attracted the critics' attention from the very beginning with Los Angeles Times dance critic Lewis Segal writing of Mr. Heim "... establishes him as a creative force in the community, someone with both a compelling vision and the ability to inspire others to uncompromising performances." Over the years, the company has been nominated for or won many prestigious Lester Horton awards in Los Angeles and has been acknowledged internationally as well. In 1997, Mr. Heim was recognized by the Los Angeles Times as one of the "36 Faces to Watch".



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ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS:

In Diavolo's dynamic dance workshops, students learn the principles of trust and teamwork, as well as individual expression. Students participate in a range of spirited exercises to reinforce these concepts. Students also explore different varieties of modern dance, and what makes Diavolo Dance different from typical modern dance.

Using techniques learned in the exercises, small groups of students create a short dances with a beginning, middle and end. This ties into the theme of the choreography: "Journeys". The heart of the "Journey" exploration are the principles of trust, teamwork and individual expression. After completing the workshop series, students will be able to identify basic elements and skills of dance and will have experienced a powerful method of choreography.



BEFORE THE WORKSHOP:

- Please have the students wear nametags for the workshop. It saves time if they are made beforehand!
- Review the importance of listening and observing. Ask the students what it means to be a good listener. What does it mean to be a good observer? Why is it important in daily life? Why is it important when the artist is here?
- Review students' knowledge and ideas about dance, underscoring the idea that it is both personal and universal. Discuss that everyone's ideas will be both different and related. Discuss the importance of being able to express oneself through dance and to enjoy a wide variety of styles.

AFTER THE WORKSHOP:

- Review the major points presented in the workshops. What were the most important ideas? What parts of the workshop did the students like best? What did they learn? What did they learn about themselves?
- Practice the activities and skills they learned with the artist so students can attain more ability and enjoyment from dance.
- Review dances they learned and practice them often.
- Go to the Diavolo Web Site – www.diavolo.org – to find out more about the company. See if you can find pictures representing trust, teamwork, and individual expression. Follow up on Creation: Every dance company has a repertoire – or a list or supply of works that a company is prepared to perform. Diavolo has over 12 works in repertoire. See if you can find some of them on the Diavolo Website gallery/ repertoire. What are their names? Anything else about them?