



March 9, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

The Mahoosuc Arts Council's presentations of the Fusionworks Dance Company in January 2010 are being considered by most in this Western Maine community as the finest set of performances in the 24 year history of the Council. The Fusionworks presentations are also being hailed as among the "most outstanding and memorable" performances in the history of the Gould Academy by Headmaster Daniel Kunkle, numerous deans and many staff members including Mathematics Department Chairman John Wight who commented that "It was the most exquisite performances in my 31 years at Gould!" Telstar Principal Dan Hart also stated that the presentation being "one of the best ever" in many years of Council programming.

The meaningful impact made by Artistic Deb Meunier and her troupe of deft and compelling dancers –sensitively painted with light – will resonate in this region for a very long time. The Council is a non-profit organization with a mission to advance the arts through education. Finding a group like the Fusionworks Dance Company is like hitting gold.

It would have been obvious to any observer that the audiences of middle and high school-aged students were enthralled and engaged; there was no fidgeting, cross talk or cell phone play, only eyes and ears riveted to the stage. This is the type of impact the we seek to achieve with every presentation, as arts educational opportunities provided by organizations like the Council have become a critical supplement, and in some cases replacement, to arts programs being eliminated by devastating budget cuts.

Meunier creatively built an engaging arts educational experience by presenting the work in an "unwrapped" format in which she guided the audience: giving information on choreography, musical composition, lighting design and costume design. This is an audience in a rural western Maine region. Many people have never had access to dance performances. Insight into the performances we present is necessary for the meaningful connection that leads to the long lasting impression. The extent to which the material resonated within the individual audience members was also clearly evidenced immediately following the performances during the Q&A sessions and by passing comments, and then for weeks after as people who had seen the show met around the community and shared personal impressions. As a close knit mountain community this type of experience resonates quickly throughout the community.

Fusionworks repertory spans the spectrum offering the viewer a broad experience where movement is explored from classical ballet through modern and beyond: Truly a fusion of skilled and sensitive dance, vibrant choreography, wonderful musical composition, beautiful costume design and expert lighting design.

Meunier and her talented dancers along with their top-notch lighting designer were an absolute pleasure with whom to work. Fusionworks Dance Company deserves generous funding and support for holding a critical place in the world which is fast letting go of essential arts appreciation.

Sincerely,

Aranka K. Matolcsy, Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aranka K. Matolcsy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

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