



## Education & Outreach

North Carolina Dance Theatre's Education and Outreach Program serves more than 50,000 students annually and is recognized as one of the leading programs in the United States. Extensive curriculum-based education programs and special performances for schools supplement residencies, workshops and other outreach programs. The program supports classroom teachers by developing curriculum resources, educator guides, and by offering professional support. The program collaborates with UNC Charlotte, the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS), and other non-profit arts organizations and community organizations.

North Carolina Dance Theatre comes to schools or public venues with 60-minute **lecture-demonstration performance** programs. Dance Theatre performs excerpts from classical and contemporary works illuminated through narrated description. Dance Theatre's education program also provides opportunities for school-aged children to attend an Educational Theatre Performance by NC Dance Theatre in the North Carolina Blumenthal Performing Arts Center. **Master classes** offer Intermediate to Advanced level dance students the opportunity to study with Dance Theatre's professional artistic staff or guest dance artists during a 90-minute master class. Each year, Dance Theatre also provides various dance workshops and special performances through various outreach programs to the Charlotte community.

Dance Theatre brings teaching artists, dancers and choreographers into classrooms for **residency programs** ranging from one day to several months, providing creative movement and dance instruction for students of all ages and abilities. Dance Theatre's work in the schools includes instruction that complements curriculum goals for each grade level. Lessons focus on each school's needs through collaboration with the school's administration, classroom teachers and Dance Theatre's education director. These residencies are funded by grants from ArtsTeach and the North Carolina Arts Council. In an effort to serve younger children, Dance Theatre offers **Dance-A-Story** programs for pre-k children and also partners with the PLCMC to offer these educational dance programs to libraries for pre-K children and parents. Dance Theatre's narrative ballets, based on children's literature and folktales, such as Peter and the Wolf, Nutcracker and Snow White, form the basis for these dance programs.

Dance Theatre's **Dance Educator Enrichment Program** (DEEP), an innovative professional development program, offers training to public school educators, artists, and professional dancers. During these workshops, teachers and artists participate in a variety of dance classes taught by master teachers and are introduced to sample lessons from Dance Theatre's selected *Capturing Creativity* curriculum units. Classroom management, assessment, and lesson development also are considered. Peer circles are formed to provide further support for CMS educators. This is a model program, since rarely does a community have three levels of dance expertise – the professional dance company, a university program, and public school dance educators – each working together to provide the highest level of dance experiences.

**Capturing Creativity** is a ground-breaking project, the result of a partnership between North Carolina Dance Theatre, CMS, and the Dance and Theatre Department of UNC Charlotte. The goal of the project is to explore the choreographic process by interviewing and documenting the choreographic work of Dance Theatre's resident and guest choreographers. *Capturing Creativity* units include lesson plans, videotapes, music CDs, and CD/ROMs.