

SCVTHS

DANCE
DEPARTMENT
NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022

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*"The truest
expression
of a people is in its dances
and its music.
Bodies never lie."
~ Agnes De Mille*

Somerset County Vo-Tech Schools
Gifted & Talented Honors Dance Program
presents

Dancing to the Classics

April 1&2
7:30 pm

Featuring Works by Student Choreographers
Athena Bernaz ~ Mia Cirafesi ~ Caitlin Eswein
Lily Levine ~ Jillian Shaughnessy
Colin Sheeley ~ Rebecca Wolin

Tickets \$15.00 general public \$8.00 for students with student ID
SCVTHS Auditorium 14 Vogt Drive, Bridgewater, NJ

janet cantore watson 2021

WELCOME!

Hello Parents, Students, Staff, Faculty and the SCVTHS Community,

We wanted to keep you up to date with all that we have been up to, so far this year! We are currently in rehearsals for our formal concert, featuring works by student choreographers and faculty.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our formal dance concert, *Dancing to the Classics!* Come on out and celebrate dance with us!



Tap Company Artistic Director, Mary Lynne McAnally

This year the guest artist was Liz Carroll, a SCVTHS dance alumni, who is a working tap dance artist living in New York. This year we had two company managers, Olivia Mattiola (junior), and Rebecca Wolin (senior). Together they choreographed a trio for the company. They also help manage the company sending out notifications to the dancers about rehearsals and performances.

Tap Co. performs throughout Somerset and Hunterdon counties at pre-schools and senior centers. This year we got back to live performances after having to pause them last year due to Covid. We had a very eclectic performance schedule; we Zoomed with the Somerset County Senior Wellness Center, performed in the Kangaroo Kids parking lot (that is the outside picture), and performed live for the Bridgewater Seniors at their Christmas party (indoor picture in the dresses). Tap Co. also performed at the Informal dance performance in the dance department in November of 2021.

In addition to performing, the students learn what it would be like to have your own small company. The students are responsible for setting up the portable tap floor that we travel with. The company has between 5 and 7 performances a year, all in the fall and early winter. The company's repertory was based on the holidays, spotlighting Christmas, Hanukkah and winter themes.



Repertory Company Artistic Director, Maureen Glennon Clayton

SCVTHS Dance alumni, Phoebe Ballard, was the guest choreographer for the Rep Company this year. She set a new work on the students in four rehearsals in January. Her piece, *Be Home*, was performed by the students at the Level 1 Informal and received beautiful feedback at the NJ High School Dance Festival, held at Union City High School in March. The Rep Company will also be performing the piece at Teen Arts to be held at Raritan Valley Community College this May.

FEEDBACK FROM THE ADJUDICATORS AT THE NJ HIGHS SCHOOL DANCE FESTIVAL

“Great use of space”

“Clear starts and stops with musicality”

“Different vibe”

“Super great job xoxo”



Alumni Highlight Liz Carroll ~ Class of 2015

Liz Carroll is a Brooklyn-based tap dancer. She began her exploration with Ms. Deborah Mitchell at fifteen, when she began working and traveling as a member of NJTAP's pre-professional youth ensemble. She continued her studying as an ensemble member and dance captain of Ms. Mitchell's professional company, with which she's performed at the Duke on 42nd St, the Princeton Symphony Orchestra, Rutgers University, Ocean County College, and SOPAC, among other prestigious venues. Other company works include Emmy-Nominated Chloe Arnold's *Apartment 33*, Maurice Chestnut's *Dance Therapy*, Max Pollak's *Rumba Tap*, Lisa La Touche, and Lola Sanchez's *The Dolo Project*. Liz will appear tap dancing in Apple's *Spirited*, a new holiday film directed by Sean Anders and starring Ryan Reynolds, Will Ferrell, and Octavia Spencer (premiering at the end of 2022.)

Driven by her love for tap dance and its history, Liz teaches and choreographs at various studios, intensives, and festivals across the United States and internationally. As an Artist in Residence at the American Tap Dance Foundation and one of the hand-selected *Mare Nostrum Emerging Choreographers in 2021*, Liz can often be found with tap shoes in hand, jamming, performing, and creating.

Liz has had the pleasure to train with some of tap dance's masters, including Deborah Mitchell, Dormeshia, Michelle Dorrance, Karen Callaway Williams, Derick Grant, Kyle Wilder, Anthony Morigerato, and more. She is an alumni of SCVTHS's Gifted and Talented Dance Program, and a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Pace University, with a BA in English Language and Literature.