

NHDI Family Meeting

About the Program

- **Theme- *From Sea to Shining Sea*** There are many wonderful things that make us all truly diverse, unique, one-of-a-kind individuals. This year NHDI will celebrate those attributes and focus on the collective power we hold when we unify. What unites us and is common among us all? The answer; a desire to belong, to be part of something important and of course, the arts! Music and dance and story have a unique way of acknowledging our differences, but connecting us together in a unison breath. Our show will tell a story about two very different children, an entire country away from one another and how they become united in thought and purpose through dance.
- NHDI's year-long program brings weekly in-school dance instruction to approximately 300 children from 12 schools in the Monadnock region. Dancers train in weekly, hour-long classes during the school day, under the direction of professionally trained NHDI teachers with piano accompanists.
- The culmination of the year-long program is Memorial Day weekend. Dancers from all participating schools come together for a series of 2 performances at Keene State College's Redfern Arts Center. Children perform with a live orchestra and singers hand selected by Peter Mansfield. These are exceptionally talented, professional musicians from the Boston and NYC areas. Peter Mansfield is affiliated with Boston Pops, and any of the musicians in the NHDI orchestra are selected from Boston Pops. Peter is a composer and director for numerous other projects.

Parent's Web Page at NHDI.org

- Email is the primary form of interaction with NHDI. If you do not have an email please make an arrangement with your coordinator to keep informed.
- NHDI has created a page on their web site (www.nhdi.org/nhdi-family-information) exclusively for families of dancers in the Year-Long Program. It contains some information and resources they might need to help guide their dancers through this year's program.

Registration

- **Year Long Program Dancer Fee** - \$220 per dancer. Program includes approximately 30 dance classes, event T-shirt, costume pieces (jeans, belts, or undergarments not included) and performances at the Redfern Theater. Occasional small extra pieces may be requested of dancers. Fundraising through the annual raffle is available to help offset the dancer fee.
- **Link to registration can be found at <https://www.nhdi.org/year-long-program>** . You can pay with credit card, debit card or you can get a check to your coordinator. There are 3 types of payment plans. You can pay the \$220 in full or you can do a 3 or 4 month payment plan. If you choose a payment plan there will be a \$50 deposit at the time of registration. The payments will be on the 20th of the month starting in December. The deadline for registration is Tuesday, Oct. 31.
- **Financial Assistance** – Applications for financial assistance are available at www.nhdi.org also due Oct. 31. There is a button on the Year-long Program Page on the NHDI website. The registration must be completed before submitting a financial assistance application. Applications received after the deadline risk missing out on the limited assistance that is available. The \$50 deposit is still required for families seeking financial assistance. Families receiving financial aid are encouraged to participate in the fundraising.

Fundraising

The fundraiser is provided to help families offset the cost of their dancers' program fee. We will sell raffle tickets from November 15th-December 15th. Raffle tickets will be \$5 each. Any money you raise will go to directly offset your dancers fee. Raffle prizes will be pulled every day in January. If you raise enough to cover the entire fee the Registration fee and the December payment will be refunded to you.

Commitment

- NHDJ is part of your school's curriculum, and attendance is expected at all weekly classes unless a dancer is absent from school.
- Attendance is mandatory for all dancers at rehearsals the week before show weekend and 2 performances. Please inform coaches, music lesson instructors and any other people who expect your child's attendance that NHDJ is a previous commitment.
- Rehearsal and Performance dates: Rehearsals at KSC take place every day of the week prior to Memorial Day followed by 2 performances Memorial Day Weekend.
- Volunteer to help. Create costumes, chaperone, usher, sell items in the lobby, and/or provide first aid expertise. The program's success depends on the help of volunteers.
- Coordinators will need help making the costumes. Please consider assisting them with costumes for your school. Very minimal, if any, sewing is required!!!
- As chaperone you get to experience the first hand excitement of the dancers as they prepare and perform. You will stay with dancers in the room they are assigned. You may be asked to accompany them to and from the stage entrance. Brush up on your braiding! Girls will need hair braided and although it is best if they come to rehearsals and shows already braided there will be some who will need braiding. If you don't know how to braid there is still plenty for you to do as a chaperone. For safety reasons only coordinators and chaperones will be allowed to stay in rooms with children.
- Lobby Sale volunteers will sell t-shirts, flowers, and etc. before and after the show and during intermission. Volunteers should be able to count and make change and stand for at least 30 minutes at a time (volunteers in wheelchairs are welcome). Sales people must be at least 15 years old. Lobby sales person will be able to watch the show free of charge except for finale pieces when they will need to report back to the lobby. Sales positions will be discussed and assigned upon arrival in the lobby, so please be prompt.
- Ushers take tickets, hand out programs, and help people to their seats in the theater. Ushers must be 15 and older. Ushers are supervised by the Keene State College Theater Manager and need to arrive promptly at the assigned time in the lobby for directions and orientation. Please do not be late! ***Ushers are given house seats in the theater to watch the show.***
- The first aid provider needs to be certified to provide first aid. This person will be able to watch rehearsals Monday – Wednesday in the theater, but will be positioned in a location backstage Thursday -Sunday. They will mainly treat minor health issues and injuries unless an emergency occurs. Basic medical supplies will be supplied. ***(We'll do our best here in the NHDJ office to solicit first aid providers, but if you know of anyone "outside" of the general NHDJ family who is qualified and might be interested, please send me their email address. This is, traditionally, a tough position to fill.***

Important Dates- Please mark these on your calendar now.

- **October 31st** - Registration and financial aid deadline
- **November 6th** - Raffle ticket sales begin
- **December 8th** - Raffle tickets and money due back to NHDI office
- **December 20th** - If you are on a payment plan the first payment is due
- **January 1st** - Raffle winners pulled daily during the month of January
- **February 10th** - Each year NHDI gives young artists the opportunity to help design the event T-shirt worn by dancers. Look for theme and entry details in upcoming emails. The winning design will be featured on T-shirts and program books. Many entries are featured throughout the program book as well. Details will be communicated via the web pages and email.
- **March 15th** - NHDI hosts an annual Prep Rally in the Keene State College Gymnasium. This year's Prep Rally is at 6:00PM . It's loud, crazy fun, and most importantly it gives dancers the chance to show off their moves and see what other schools are up to.
- **April 1st** - Quarter-page family ads will be offered for this year's Event of the Year program for \$35. Larger sizes will be billed at the standard corporate rate. Ad copy and payment can be submitted to nhdi@nhdi.org
- **April 1st** - Tickets go on sale at The Redfern Art Center. <https://keene.universitytickets.com/>
- **April 13th** - Muckthrough at Marlborough Elementary school 9-12. All students are welcome. Parents are welcome to drop off their students or can stay and watch.
- **May 20th-24th** - Rehearsal week at Redfern Arts Center
- **May 25th & 26th** - Show Days @ The Redfern Arts Center