

Vox Dance Theatre Company History

Vox Dance Theatre is a non-incorporated entity formed by Sarah Swenson in September of 2004 to present her own choreography and the works of others in the modern and post-modern traditions. A neo-modernist, Swenson's work is a fusion of the classical modern techniques, theatre, and improvisation. She is committed to the values of historical modern dance while using them in new ways, and seeks to engage the audience in thought as well as feeling. In addition to directing the company, Swenson remains an independent dancer/choreographer and works with post-modern mavericks Simone Forti and Rudy Perez in Los Angeles (see biography).

The all-woman company roster currently includes Sarah Swenson, Chitoh Ematarom, Moira Fogarty, Molly Headley, Allison King, Elizabeth Kotoff, Del Leon and Kathleen White. A company of individuals, the gifts of each dancer are recognized and used in the development of new work. The creative atmosphere is one of discipline and support, encouraging growth and developing artistry in its members. Vox Dance Theatre is continually engaged in the creation and presentation of unique works of dance and dance theatre to the greater Los Angeles community, and to national and international audiences. The company rehearses year-round and has given several performances of note in the year and half since its inception.

On November 6, 2004, Vox Dance Theatre gave its inaugural performance as finalists at the *Seventh Annual Festival Under the Stars* competition in Palm Desert, performing Swenson's *Ancestors*, an homage to the early moderns. One week later, *Ancestors* was presented during the *Fourth Annual Southern California Contemporary Dance Festival (SOLA)*, at the James Armstrong Theater in Torrance, and received critical praise from the Los Angeles Times.

Highlights of 2005 included an invitation to the *15th Annual Fringe Festival of Independent Artists* (www.fFIDA.org) in August, where Swenson's *Fimmine* received its world premiere on the outdoor Open Stage in downtown Toronto. Shortly after, in September, on their one-year anniversary, the company shared a full concert with John Pennington and Pennington Dance Group in the Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater in Long Beach. *Crossing*, a solo created for Swenson by Jeff Slayton, formerly of the Merce Cunningham and Viola Farber Dance Companies, received its world premiere at this event. And post-modern pioneer Simone Forti graced the company's first annual fundraiser in early April, where the company gave *Fimmine* its first preview performance.

2006 events for the company include the *2nd Annual Spring Fundraiser* on April 1st in Santa Monica, where Swenson's newest work, *Hombres*, will be shown in progress; the *7th Annual Los Angeles Dance Invitational* on June 3rd, at the El Portal Theatre in North Hollywood; and in mid-June, another shared concert with John Pennington and the Pennington Dance Group at the CSULA State Playhouse.
