

January 18, 2018

CCD partners with world renowned choreographer to create Compass Coaching Project for both pre-professional and professional dancers.

Denver/Broomfield – June 4-16, 2018 – Colorado Conservatory of Dance will partner with internationally renowned choreographer Dominic Walsh to create a new program, called Compass Coaching Project, for both pre-professionals and working professionals.

For many aspiring professional dancers, the transition from student to professional can be a long, somewhat scary experience. Dominic Walsh says, “In today’s model of a dancer’s profession, there is sometimes a long transition between student and professional. I believe this is a crucial time for mentorship.” CompassCoaching Project is specifically designed to give young professional dancers the opportunity to fully understand their most compelling attributes, those that will lead to a successful professional career, and gain résumé power by performing works by an internationally acclaimed choreographer.

For a limited number of available positions nationwide, young dancers do months of research, prepare photos and videos to send to companies, and spend thousands of dollars traveling to auditions. Often dancers must attend a summer program in order to be considered by a company. Then, if they are offered a position at all, they may be offered an unpaid position as a trainee. Oftentimes, however, they are asked to join a high-level position in the company’s school – one in which they pay tuition. Many young dancers will face this scenario three, sometimes five, times before landing a paid position with a company. Meanwhile, they may not be performing work that can help them grow as an artist. “I see a need to provide a unique kind of coaching platform where the dancer receives one on one attention, while exploring and investigating the craft as an adult, versus a student – re-entering the field as an adult.”

Many professional dancers who are paid to work their “dream job” with a company struggle with another fear. They have committed themselves to working with a particular company, but their body may be on a limited schedule. Are they reaching their artistic potential? Are they experiencing everything they are meant to experience? Perhaps they are good enough to be in the company, but they are not always used for the roles they feel would be most fulfilling. “In the intimate setting of Compass Coaching Project, an artist may, for example, develop more confidence in contemporary work or grow a deeper understanding for the areas of their technique that feel less natural. They may explore new approaches to their work, and overall one will get a broader view of what possibilities could be a fit for one’s attributes,” says Walsh.

Dominic Walsh, former Principal Dancer with Houston Ballet and founder and former Artistic Director of Dominic Walsh Dance Theater, has been a guest faculty member with Colorado Conservatory of Dance for five years. “In the five years I have spent as a visiting instructor/choreographer at CCD, I’m continually impressed with the values of the organization. Emphasis is placed on the overall art form and the wellness of the artist. The dancers are educated about anatomy, physical therapy and nutrition. I’ve also been impressed by the joy in the atmosphere, which seems like a by-product of the respect exercised for the art, the instructors, the peers and the self. Dancers uphold international etiquette and are prepared to work with nearly anyone in any style with their wonderful concentration and ‘try anything’ attitude. Julia Manley has created something very special and very needed in today’s dance world. I’m honored to work with her in developing this coaching project.”

During the Compass Coaching Project, dancers will spend 12 days over two weeks honing both their classical ballet technique and investigating new ways of moving. Each participant will have one-on-one goal assessment meetings with the directors, in addition to private rehearsal coaching sessions. The program will culminate with a performance including both classical ballet repertoire and new works by Mr. Walsh.

In order to assure the private attention required to make this program valuable, space is limited to only 20 participants. To learn more, visit ccdance.org/compass.

Find out more by emailing or calling Rachel Long, CCD Communication Coordinator at rlong@ccdance.org or [303-466-5685](tel:303-466-5685).

WHO: Colorado Conservatory of Dance & Dominic Walsh

WHAT: Compass Coaching Project

WHEN: June 4–16, 2018

WHERE: 3001 Industrial Ln. #12, Broomfield, CO

WEBSITE: ccdance.org/compass

TELEPHONE: [303.466.5685](tel:303.466.5685)

WHO WE ARE:

ABOUT CCD:

Inside the doors of this longstanding, flagship cultural organization is a deeply caring and nurturing community of exceptional and knowledgeable dance teachers, learned body scientists and therapists, and a diverse collection of students – all committed to a process of learning and teaching ballet that is healthy for both the body and the mind.

Our faculty is comprised of dance experts who have extensive professional experience and/or advanced degrees in dance performance and pedagogy. For a full list of our current faculty and guest teachers, visit our website: ccdance.org.

Mission:

We believe in a better life through dance.

The Colorado Conservatory of Dance provides the highest quality dance education in both classical and contemporary styles. Colorado Conservatory of Dance uses dance to foster community, create positive influence and inspire the individual.

Vision:

The Colorado Conservatory of Dance will be a responsible and stable national model of excellence in dance education, health & wellness, and non-profit management.

Values:

With direction, purpose, and intent, the Colorado Conservatory of Dance creates a healthy and generous environment where students, parents and community members are nurtured and encouraged to develop their most creative and fulfilled selves. We responsibly pursue our mission with high standards and high expectations. We value mentorship and partnership, and we believe that dance should be available and accessible to all.

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