



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***DANCE ACADEMY MOTIVATES STUDENTS
WITH A TASTE OF A PROFESSIONAL
PERFORMING EXPERIENCE***

Hatfield, Pennsylvania – Retired professional ballet dancer keeps students motivated by giving them performance opportunities that rival that of professional dance companies.

Lisa Wasserman, Artistic Director of Delaware Valley Dance Academy, had what many would consider a dream career. After apprenticing with New Jersey Ballet Company and the Pittsburgh Ballet Company, Ms. Wasserman performed throughout the country with such companies as Omaha Ballet and Ballet Arizona before retiring from the stage.

Delaware Valley Dance Academy, Ms. Wasserman's ballet studio, now provides a professional performing experience for non-professional dancers. Ms. Wasserman draws on her performing background, and the performing background of her instructors, to help make her students' dance experience as realistic as possible. "It's professional in the sense that the dancers are being demanded of, and that they're rising to the occasion," Wasserman says, "as opposed to just doing a two-minute dance in two lines and then exiting the stage." For example, when DVDA performed the beloved full-length classic ballet, Coppelia, in June, nearly all of the school's 225 ballet dancers took part. "It's very different from a recital. The students get the experience of being part of something much greater or bigger."

DVDA's spring concert also features a mixed bill of Jazz, Hip Hop, Tap and Irish Step Dance. DVDA's instructors have the collective professional experience of having performed in such notable company's as the Pennsylvania Ballet Company, Rennie Harris Puremovent, and Winged Woman Dance Company. Even DVDA's Irish Step Dance instructor has performed in Ireland to rank twelfth in the world. The spring concert emphasizes the high standards of production and organization brought by the DVDA staff, which Wasserman considers essential to the professionalism of the experience. "The artistic Directors I worked with throughout my performing career taught me that it's all in the details," Wasserman says. "The first impression is a lasting impression."

What the students learn onstage also shows up in the classroom. "They're becoming confident, says Wasserman," and they're getting excited." They approach their classroom work with a lot more discipline. "When we are at DVDA rehearsals, we treat it like a professional experience. We have high expectations, and the students are very receptive." When they get back to the classroom, they approach their work with that same discipline and enthusiasm."

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If there is one difference between a professional company and Delaware Valley Dance Academy, it is that DVDA takes a more pragmatic approach to the fact that student performers have a varying ability levels. “I believe everyone has something to bring to dance, whether it is impeccable technique or heart and soul,” say Wasserman. “My goal is to always make the dancers feel comfortable and competent onstage, and that they come away from their performing experience with a huge sense of accomplishment.”

Due to expansion of the class schedule, DVDA will be accepting new registrations now and throughout early fall. For more information contact the school at 215-822-4640 or visit them at www.delawarevalleydance.com.

About Delaware Valley Dance Academy

Delaware Valley Dance Academy offers the finest dance training in an encouraging and professional atmosphere. Our classes are designed to take students from their first introduction to dance to a full and varied course of dance training. An emphasis is placed on proper body placement and line. We stress the importance of musicality and the joy of artistic expression. The school has an enthusiastic staff of professionally experienced teachers supplemented by visiting guest teachers. A close working partnership between student and teacher is an important aspect of our program. Whether in pursuit of a professional dance career or simply to derive the joys and physical benefits of dance class, our students will enjoy the highest quality classes in a warm and nurturing environment.

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