The Kennedy Center

THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Press Release

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The Kennedy Center
Welcomes 24 Young Ballet Students to Participate in the 24th Annual Exclusive Training Program *EXPLORING BALLET WITH SUZANNE FARRELL*

Participants Include Dancers from California, Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, South Carolina, Virginia, Washington

(WASHINGTON)—This summer the Kennedy Center welcomes 24 students from 12 states to participate in the 24th annual *Exploring Ballet with Suzanne Farrell*, the Kennedy Center's exclusive three-week ballet training program under the tutelage of the legendary ballerina. The dancers, ages 14-18, were selected from auditions last winter and will participate in the program July 25 through August 13, 2016.

As part of the program, students take two daily ballet classes with Ms. Farrell, six days a week, at the Kennedy Center. They also participate in a number of cultural activities to enrich their experience in the nation's capital including visits to museums, historical landmarks, and other special events. A student demonstration for parents and invited guests will take place at the end of the program.

In 1993 and 1994, the Kennedy Center offered two series of ballet master classes with Ms. Farrell. This series provided intermediate-to-advanced level ballet students in the D.C. area with the unique opportunity to study with one of the greatest ballerinas of the 20th century. In response to the program's success, the Kennedy Center expanded *Exploring Ballet with Suzanne Farrell* to a national program in 1995 as part of the Center's mission to enhance the arts education of America's young people. Auditions are held around the country annually for the program.

Ms. Farrell, one of Balanchine's most celebrated muses, danced with the New York City Ballet from 1961-1969 and 1975-1989. Over the years, she originated 23 roles in Balanchine ballets and her repertory eventually reached some 110 ballets, a third of which were created especially for her. She has received numerous awards, including the 1976 *Dance Magazine* award, a 1985 Emmy for her performance in *Eight by Adler*, the 1988 New York State Governor's Arts

Award, the 2003 National Medal of the Arts and a 2005 Kennedy Center Honors. The documentary, *Suzanne Farrell: Elusive Muse*, received an Academy Award® nomination for Best Documentary and was aired on PBS. Her company, The Suzanne Farrell Ballet, is based at the Kennedy Center, and has toured both nationally and internationally. In the 2016-2017 season, the company will include eight EBSF alumni. Since the fall of 2000, Ms. Farrell has been a tenured professor of dance at Florida State University. She has also set Balanchine works around the world for the George Balanchine Trust.

A list of the participants may be found below:

***Exploring Ballet with Suzanne Farrell* Participants 2016**

Name	Age	Hometown
Nicole Banks	16	Stuart, FL
Isadora Bless	15	Richmond, VA
Odessa Bless	15	Richmond, VA
Lily Campbell	17	Bethesda, MD
Nathan Compiano	16	New York, NY
Lauren Fichten	18	Atlantic Highlands, NJ
Savannah George	17	Gloucester, VA
Madeline Gradle	18	Falls Church, VA
Ashley Griffin	18	Florence, SC
Chloe Heaton	15	Fort Wayne, IN
Audrey Jones	16	Oakland, CA
Eva Kahn	16	New York, NY
Reagan Kilpatrick	16	Newbury Park, CA
Alyssa Lavroff	17	Bridgewater, NJ
Sophia Massie	18	Irvington, NY
Victoria Mathias	18	Colbert, WA
Katherine Pawlowski	15	Rockville, MD
Camille Reaux	17	Youngsville, LA
Natalie Reyes	15	Salem, OR
Grace Rookstool	15	Langley,WA
Grace Rosenheim	16	Portland, OR
Kristi Sturgill	16	Vienna, VA
Isabelle Tudor	16	Wanamingo, MN
Isabel Wu	17	Hopewell Junction, NY

Education at the Kennedy Center

The Kennedy Center retains its commitment as the nation's cultural center to educating and enlightening children and adults in Washington and around the country. The Center's national education programs include: Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child, which works with 20 municipalities and their school districts around the country to develop a long-range strategic plan for arts education; ARTSEDGE, a website that offers standards-based materials for use in and

out of the classroom; Partners in Education, which forges relationships between an arts organization and its neighboring school systems to build effective arts education programs for teachers and teaching artists; Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network, works with 30 state organizations on arts education policy issues; Explore the Arts, which provide insight into the cultural and historical context of the works presented on stage and sparks dialogue between audiences and the artists who have created the performances through participatory workshops, demonstrations, panels, master classes, and open rehearsals; and the Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards, which acknowledge teachers of grades K-12 whose efforts have made a significant impact on their students; and Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences on Tour, which brings original Kennedy Center productions for students and families into communities and performing arts centers around the country.

In and around D.C., the Kennedy Center's programs include Changing Education Through the Arts, a program that works with seven schools in the area to affect long-term change in school culture through professional learning in arts integration; Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers, which trains Washington-area educators to teach the arts or other subject areas through the arts; and Washington, D.C. Partnership Schools, where the Center provides resources and teaching artist residencies to 22 elementary, junior, and senior high schools in Washington, D.C. The Center also mounts more than 100 events and performances of theater, music, dance, and opera throughout the season for more than 100,000 local school-aged children.

In addition, the Center offers multiple skill development programs for young artists and professionals both locally and nationally, including the National Symphony Orchestra's Youth Fellowship Program, Summer Music Institute, and High School Competition; Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, Opera Institute, and Kids Create Opera Partnership; the biennial New Visions/New Voices forum for development of new plays for young people; Exploring Ballet with Suzanne Farrell; Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead; VSA's Playwright Discovery Program, Young Soloists, and Visual Arts Programs; arts administration internships; and the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival which impacts hundreds of thousands of college-aged theater students across the country and marks its 48th anniversary in 2016.

Funding Credits

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The content of this program may have been developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education but does not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education. You should not assume endorsement by the federal government.

For more information, please visit The Suzanne Farrell Ballet website.
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#farrellballet

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