

Friis, John

From: Lauren E. MacAllister [macallistel1@mail.montclair.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2009 9:17 AM
To: Friis, John
Subject: HB6666, Section 5

To Whom it May Concern,

I have recently been informed that ACES Educational Center for the Arts is in danger of closing. I am writing because I strongly disagree with the tentative decision. I have been personally touched by what the school has done for me and my future. In addition, I have witnessed the school put my fellow peers on some of the most phenomenal tracks in becoming professional dancers. With Section 5 of House Bill HB6666 these professionals will continue to inspire students like myself, and give their amazing opportunities and advice to future students. The talent I have watched come out of this building is too high of a caliber for words. This is owed all to the professionals who are coming in and preparing while currently excelling in the field which many of the students dream to one day enter.

My name is Lauren MacAllister and I am currently a B.F.A dance major at Montclair State University. I can say with confidence that if it weren't for my training in dance at ECA I would not be fulfilling all of my dreams. I came into high school as someone who danced for recreation, I left ECA as someone who was committed to making dance the career for the rest of my life. Head chair of the department Susan Matheke became my inspiration, and because of her I have a track of where I want to end up, which is to one day have her position at ECA. The faculty at ECA goes above and beyond, they truly believe in each and every student and that is evident because of the relationships that are made. In the dance department we were so blessed to have professionals come in from the city, for example, Earl Mosely and Freddie Moore. If you take the time to research these two men you will see what a huge deal it is to be working with them. The year after I graduated Mr. Freddie Moore offered two spots in his company to two graduating seniors. This is remarkable to see that ECA gives a chance for dancers to excel in the harsh world of dance. I hold my experience at ECA very close to my heart. Although I am two years graduated I still go back during all of my breaks to take class and still talk to all my teachers on a month basis. I could not have imagined my life without attending ECA. With ECA the state can continue to help the many artists reach their dreams and do what they were meant to do in a place that gives all the right resources.

Lauren MacAllister
Department of Dance, 2007
Montclair State Univeristy, B.F.A Dance, B.A Dance Education '12