

Summer dance: Festivals and workshops offer a mix of classes and performances

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Photo by Mark Leffingwell

Melissa Bailey practices a move at last year's Aerial Dance Festival. This year's festival runs Aug. 3-16 at the Dairy Center.

Summer is the time to move in and around Boulder. Several dance companies have concluded their annual seasons, but rather than hibernate for the hot months, they plan some of their most interesting works and workshops.

Local aerial artists Frequent Flyers will host the 10th annual **Aerial Dance Festival** Aug. 3-16 at the Dairy Center for the Arts. The two-week intensive includes classes and workshops for all levels of aerial dancers. Performances by guest artists and trainees alike are on tap during the festival as well. Call 303-245-8272 or visit www.frequentflyers.org for information.

On the Hill, the **Boulder Jazz Dance Workshop** turns 30 this summer. The festival is part dance camp, part festival, part performance extravaganza. This year's workshop runs July 19-Aug. 2 on the University of Colorado campus, and is geared for dancers age 16 through adult who want to immerse themselves in jazz, hip-hop, funk and modern dance styles.

A student and faculty performance by the Boulder Jazz Dance Workshop is scheduled for Aug. 1 in the Charlotte Irey Studio Theatre on campus. For more information on the workshop, call 303-449-0399 or visit www.boulderjazzdanceworkshop.com.

Robert Sher and **Lemon Sponge Cake Contemporary Ballet** debut their latest work of cutting-edge ballet this summer at Chautauqua Auditorium. "A Strange Land" is scheduled for Aug. 16. Call 303-441-3408 or visit www.lemonspongecake.com for more information.

The **Boulder International Fringe Festival** has developed into a dynamic showcase for dance enthusiasts. From the experimental to the traditional, BIFF will host more than a dozen dance troupes during its 12-day festival, Aug. 14-25 in Boulder.

Among the dancers scheduled to perform during BIFF are Zany Angels Dance Theatre Company, from Florence Mass.; Dixie Fun Dance Theatre and Nicoll + Oreck Dance Theater, from New York City; Samantha Giron Dance Project, from Los Angeles; and Duke Dance Collective, from Albuquerque, N.M.

Local troupes on tap at BIFF include HAAN Dances, the Schiff Dance Collective and Sol Vida Dance Theatre. Call BIFF at 720-563-9950 or visit www.boulderfringe.com for more information.

Earlier in the summer, the Dairy Center for the Arts will host a handful of dance concerts. Austrian Josef Bayer wrote the ballet "Im Puppenladen" in 1888 about a shop full of dolls that come to life after the closed sign hangs in the window each night. The **Classical Ballet Company** presents the ballet June 1.

On June 7, **The Schiff Dance Collective Training Company** presents the work "Love ... Hope ... Be," which uses movement as an exploration of coming of age.

The **Little Fish Movement Arts** company takes audiences on a journey through the elements of water, earth, air and fire, combining aerial fabric and a smorgasbord of dance traditions in "IllumeNia II," June 20-22 at The Dairy.

For more information on dance at the Dairy Center this summer, call 303-444-7328 or visit www.thedairy.org.

Hip-hop enthusiasts can break it down with **Streetside Studios**, Boulder's hip-hop dance training center, during the company's Street Fest, June 9-14. The weeklong training and performing intensive will feature guest artists Christa Lewis, JD McElroy, Mariel Martin and Tyler Simpson. Call 303-449-6789 or visit www.streetsidedance.com for more information.

Boulder Ballet's popular Sunday In The Park series will bow at three outdoor venues in June. The family friendly repertoire concert features a range of pieces from the company's season and new works in traditional and contemporary styles. The June 15 show takes place at the Broomfield Amphitheater. On June 22, the performance takes place at the Bandshell in Boulder's Central Park; it moves east on June 29 to General's Park in Aurora. Call 303-444-0028 or visit www.boulderballet.org for more information.

Local dance maven **Nancy Cranbourne** teaches a jazz dance workshop June 16-28 at Core Movement Studio in Boulder. Class members present a public showing of their work June 28 at Core Movement. Call 303-443-7400 or visit www.nancycranbourne.com for more information.

In Denver, the big dance gathering promises to be during the **National Performing Arts Convention**, which takes place June 10-14 at the Colorado Convention Center. DanceUSA, the

national service organization for professional dance, headlines the dance portion of the convention. Six dance showcases -- some of which will include performances by Boulder companies Lemon Sponge Cake Contemporary Ballet and 3rd Law Dance/Theater -- are open to the public and will take place just prior to, and during the convention at various venues in Denver. For more information about the convention, including performances, visit www.nationalperformingartsconvention.org.

For details on these and other events, see the Summer Guide on pages 19-26 or visit www.dailycamera.com.