

North County Dance Arts, under the Direction of founders and producers **Louis and Tanya McKay** presented this year's Recital/Dance Concert "**The Journey**" July 29th, 2017, at the **Mandeville Center Auditorium**, on the Campus of **UCSD**.

A recital differs from a concert. The first purpose of a recital is to get every student on stage. This is important. Being in front of an audience isn't for everybody. You better find out early if seeking the limelight is your cup of tea. Yes, what we do in a recital should showcase all we have learned. This is important. The recital is mostly for the student's and their sponsors benefit. The concert is solely for the pleasure of the audience. It is proper to BOO a bad concert...there is no cause for voicing displeasure at a recital.

Hands down **North County Dance Arts** gives the best Recital we have ever seen. That they can compete with the world's best dance companies in the concert category boosts them into a very select position of theatre prominence indeed. The students get the best of both worlds...and so does the audience!

NCDA has been flourishing for close to four decades, giving invaluable life training and theatre experience to generations of San Diegans. Once again **NCDA** will be nominated for **Rob Appel's BRAVO SAN DIEGO AWARD** for this year's Best Dance Concert in the greater San Diego area. Last year's recital was voted by our readers and reviewers as one of the three finalists in this category. I repeat...This category includes National and World Touring Dance Companies!!!

This year there were two almost completely different performances given on the same day (only three numbers were the same in both shows). Each presentation featured around forty selections varying perfectly in length to showcase, but not overtax, the varying levels of talent. That is eighty separate dance, and now singing routines (This could be **NCDA's** official entrance into the Musical category of the **Bravo Awards**), each with its' own style of music, costumes, sets, lights and choreography.

The Tap numbers, a noted super strength for **NCDA**, were exceptional in their variations both in groups and solos. We could hear their tappings clearly enough to enjoy the quality of their training and 'staying in unison' skills.

Every style of dance is utilized...every type of body embraced...every age included. Every graduating senior from this program, for the last five years at least, has been accepted into a major university.

The stagecraft tonight was impeccable. All the theatre disciplines were woven expertly into the fabric of this show. This is an entire army of different folks, with years of training still in progress, coming together to do the impossible...while singing, dancing and playing (seriously) around.

Watching one or both of these recital presentations shows us in one setting, the beginning, middle and continuing life enhancing possibilities of theatrical training when it is done properly.

To single out all those special moments this concert presented would take too long. The list of names that deserve to be mentioned exceeds the ink levels in my new pen. If you had any part in this show's presentation we salute you now. On your resume saying that you participated at **NCDA** is enough to get you that second consideration in at least a dozen categories.

We certainly enjoyed the exuberance of the senior **McKay's** "B" Boy dancing action. I think in that moment, if the audience was invited on stage to join in, there would have been none of us left out in the audience. **Louis**, if he could sing (I don't know that he can't), would be an older brother to **Bruno Mars**. In another A+ style of dance, his lyrical tapping rhythms augment his technical skills in this demanding sport.

Every performance begins with a short prayer. I don't mind. I usually don't pay attention to any prayers that are not my own. My prayer is that **North County Dance Arts** joins its' ready for prime time students of now with the incredible talents of the teaching staff and students of the past, and goes for the knock out Dance Concert that would have them touring the World!

If you are thinking of finding for yourself, a child or a friend, a place to train and explore any of the blessings that come along with studying theatre arts, **NCDA** is a must to add to your shopping list of possibilities... If you want to sit in the stands year after year as we age gracefully and watch all this come together in a way that will bring you applauding to your feet with an entire audience ---come join us at next year's **North County Dance Arts** Recital/Dance Concert around July of 2018.

Check out www.NorthCountyDanceArts.com or call 1-858-792-9303 for upcoming performances, competitions, classes and volunteer opportunities.