

Instructional Related Activities

Report Form

SPONSOR	DEPARTMENT
Heather Castillo	Performing Arts Dance
ACTIVITY TITLE	DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY
Dance and Music Under the Stars	May 11, 2012

(1) DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY;

This was a live performance event for the Dance Ensemble, University Orchestra, and other Performing Arts students and faculty. The event was attended by CSUCI students, faculty, surrounding community, and potential CSUCI students. It took place on the lawn between Malibu Hall and the Library as a site-specific evening of dance and music. The audience brought food for picnics and blankets as an informal viewing arrangement.

This event gave the students an opportunity to practice performance skills acquired throughout the semester. Faculty and student choreographed works were presented in a site-specific Hollywood Bowl style atmosphere. The emphasis of the performance was on the diversity of choreographic styles and cultures represented in the student population.

(2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S);

DANCE ENSEMBLE:A dance repertory and performance class with emphasis in developing skills

for *performing* ballet, modern, jazz, historic and/or other forms of theatrical dance.

University Orchestra: Rehearsal and *performance* of the masterworks of orchestral literature

from the Baroque through the Modern period.

The students of Dance Ensemble and University Orchestra gained valuable insight into the preparation as a performance artist and/or producer of a live concert.

The students in Dance Ensemble worked on collaborative choreographic techniques for group numbers. Dance composition was explored, discussed, edited, and presented at the concert. Without the opportunity of performance, a key learning component, the dancers experience would have been unfulfilled.

Performance quality was emphasized beyond the technical aspects of dance. As a concert and entertainment based temporal art form, dance exists in the moment it is performed. Examining how to best prepare for the brief moment the art work is presented on stage, only to be forever held in the audiences imagination, can only be fully realized with presentation in front of an audience. Considering there were over 350 people in attendance, I believe the event more than satisfied the performers educational needs.

The University Orchestra presented a series of jazz compositions by jazz composers Herbie Hancock, Duke Ellington, and more. They also performed in conjunction with the Dance Ensemble for a closing/collaborative number.

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(3) WHAT YOU LEARNED FROM THE PROCESS.

The learning curve when producing a performance for the first time is great. Creative redistribution of finances and the ability to borrow costumes allowed the production to come in close to budget.

I learned that organization is key! Even though the dancers and musicians prepped their performances for weeks the “magic” of the evening happened in one day. I had a tight deadline of when to start set up of the backdrops, lights, sound, rehearsal, and dinner break before the evening’s performance. As much as I planned, there are always unexpected challenges. Thanks to the efforts of OPC, Jon Brooks, and the students, everything came together on schedule and beautifully. Knowing there are certain elements to prepare for next year, such as how the backdrops are secured and electrical watts needed for the performance, will only enhance the efficiency of the production process.

From a financial perspective, I would ask for more funds for OPC and energy/generator costs. This ended up cutting into our costume budget. I was fortunate enough to be able to borrow costumes from companies I personally have worked for in the past, but you can’t always depend on those sources. The lighting came in over what I initially budgeted. It was worth it to allot the money to lighting as it was one of the more beautiful and effective aspects of the show. This too came out of the costume money. The backdrops came in under budget, which was essential to the entire budget coming close to cost. Advertising posters and social media were essential in getting the word out to the public. Advertising started two weeks prior to the event. Even though we had over 350 people attend, I would begin this process earlier, as many people said they already had plans. I would also increase the program printing budget. I printed 300 programs, expecting around 200-250 people. We ran out ten minutes before the concert began and the crowd grew significantly more. This is how I have arrived at our 350 attendee number, but I would not be surprised if it was higher.

Performing on the grass was difficult and minimized some of the dance vocabulary that could be performed. However, the outside/picnic aspect of the performance was one of the features the audience and performers enjoyed the most. For future events, I would like to add into the budget financing for a portable stage surface so the dancers can show maximum growth and accomplishment.

The event was beautiful and I was proud of the professionalism and talents of the student choreographers and performers. They set up the stage, rehearsed in the hot sun, performed, and took down the stage all in the same day. The collaboration and addition of the University Orchestra added to the diversity of the program. For future events, I am hoping to rename the performance *Arts under the Stars* and incorporate choir, theatre, and art as collaborative performers for a cumulative event for the Performing Art and Art programs that have far reaching potential in the CI and local communities.

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****Please attach assessment forms from students, list of attendees, peoplesoft program report**

E-mail to the Dean’s Office 30 days after activity