



**DANCERS  
COURAGEOUS**

*Dancers Courageous is committed to providing compelling programs to courageous and energetic souls drawn to dance. Our mission is bringing history to life through*



*the performing arts. By using the inspirational qualities of dance, music and theatre, we seek to develop a greater appreciation for the past and present cultures of the North Shore.*

# OUR MISSION

## Greetings

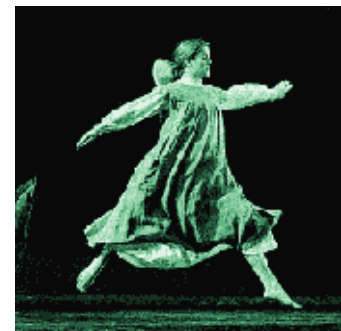
You are invited to join the magic of *Dancers Courageous*. There is a place for you among us, whether as a student/teacher, performer/observer, or contributor/volunteer. Since 1997, we have inspired thousands of people with dance drama and this year we continue with more programming than ever. Our classes, theatre, programs, and productions are designed to include and appeal to people of all ages. As you read through this brochure, picture yourself as a member of the *Dancers Courageous* community. Come and be inspired by dance!

*Carl Thomsen*



## Introduction

Dancers Courageous evolved from the life's work and passions of Carl Thomsen. Arriving here from New York City in 1992, Carl had the idea that one could experience Gloucester's rich and colorful history through the arts. This gave rise to the non-profit organization Dancers Courageous. We offer a dance studio, company, and theatre; original productions; the unique Legends School Program; and a corollary teacher training program.



## School Program

The Legends School Program is a series of yearly in-school arts residencies that teach the unique history of each host town. We integrate local and national history with dance, music, visual arts, and creative writing. By using the arts as teaching tools, we enable children to develop a higher level of thinking and problem solving skills. On field trips, the children are also brought into the community to learn their cultural heritage first hand. This enhances their sense of belonging to the community by establishing a direct connection between the community, its history, and the child's own creativity. We currently conduct residencies in



## Dance Studio

The Dancers Courageous Studio is located at 2 Main Street in Gloucester. A full array of classes from Modern & Ballet to Hip Hop & Break-dancing is offered year round by professional and dedicated teachers. Children and adults attend classes that inspire the mind, body, and spirit.



Gloucester, Rockport, Manchester, Essex, Beverly, Lynn, and Wakefield, Massachusetts.

A teacher training program is available to teachers who wish to learn the techniques used in the Legends School Program.



## Dance Company & Theater

Under the artistic direction of Carl Thomsen, Legends Dance Company and Gloucester Legends Theatre is comprised of local professional, aspiring, and post-professional dancers, musicians, actors, and singers housed in an intimate studio theater. Together we have formed a strong spiritual bond and sense of artistic community.

Legends Dance Company produces dance dramas depicting themes of universal human meaning. Based on local history and culture, these themes

reveal themselves through movement, drama, and music. The result is a uniquely told story that touches the viewer.

## Original Productions

In 1997, Legends Dance Company created a dance drama called *Clear Away*, the story of a fisherman lost at sea. Directed and choreographed by Carl Thomsen and composed by Jeffrey H. Steele, *Clear Away* received standing ovations from over two thousand audience members in 1998 and then again in October of 1999. It has become a Gloucester classic.



In 1999, the company created *Dear Tom*, a collaboration with the Gloucester Lyceum and Nan Webber of Theater in the Pines. *Dear Tom* is an interweaving of dance, music, and dramatic reading of the poetry of T.S. Elliot.

The most ambitious endeavor came in 2000, with *Gift of Vision: the Life and Times of Fitz Hugh Lane*. This multi-media production projected images of Lane's paintings, transforming them into living scenes of dance and music.

A new show called *Flesh and Stone* is currently in development. It is based on the quarrying industry on Cape Ann and looks deeply at the immigrant



cultures that came from around the world to harvest granite from the earth. The premier of *Flesh and Stone* is planned for the Fall of 2003.

Thank you for your interest in Dancers Courageous. We look forward to hearing what part you would like to play in our community. Please contact us at 978-283-2525 or by e-mail at [info@dancerscourageous.org](mailto:info@dancerscourageous.org).



DANCE ~ INSPIRATION ~ COURAGE ~ THEATER ~ LEARNING ~ ENERGY ~ CULTURE ~ EXPRESSION ~ NOURISHMENT ~ PARTICIPATION ~ COMMITMENT ~ POSSIBILITIES ~ COMMUNITY



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