

Creative Zones: Ballet in the Caribbean Context

REPORT



TITLE: Creative Zones: Ballet in the Caribbean Context with Nancy Herrera

DATE: Monday 19th August 2019

TIME: 5-7pm

LOCATION: APA Dance Studio, UTT, NAPA, Keate Street Port of Spain

PARTNERS: CARIFESTA & Artist Registry of Trinidad and Tobago (ARTT)

SYNOPSIS:

The Mentoring by the Masters Programme of the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Arts hosted a two (2) month workshop on ballet. The aforementioned Ballet workshop was hosted by the renowned Nancy Herrera and entitled The Art and Practice of Caribbean Classical Ballet. The sessions covered the traditional classical ballet, ballet vocabulary and introduction to partnering. Emphasis was placed on barre work which was a staple at every session. Consequently, the choreography developed in the sessions were utilised to embody all the works of the class. This choreography was then presented in the open house for the Creative Zones of Carifesta.

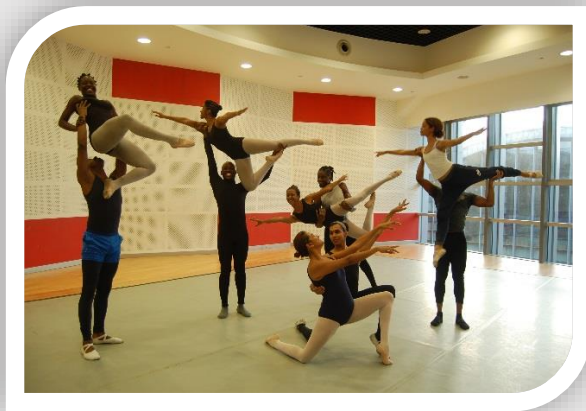


Figure One: Mentees preparing the dance for the Carifesta Creative zones Open House

PRESENTATION AT OPEN HOUSE



Figure two: Mrs Nancy Herrera welcoming the guest at the Open House

On Monday 19th August 2019 at APA Dance Studio, UTT, NAPA, Keate Street Port of Spain between 5 – 7pm, the Open House Ballet in the Caribbean Context with Nancy Herrera was conducted. Approximately, twenty-five persons were in attendance. Specially invited guests included Mr. Terry Springer of Corearte Dance Company, Venezuela and Mrs Joanne Decle who was the Past Principle of the Caribbean School of Dancing. The Open House was structured as follows:

- a) *Welcoming and briefing:* Mrs Nancy Herrera started the open house by welcoming everyone in attendance. Mrs Herrera explained to the guest in attendance the Mentoring by the Master Programme and the work that was covered by the Mentees in the past two (2) months. Similarly, the concept of Ballet in the Caribbean Context was explored in the briefing session.
- b) *Video Presentation:* The video presentation showcased the exploration of ballet vocabulary in the sessions and video clips of the
- c) *Performance of the choreography:* The Mentees in trios and duos performed a piece entitled “Carry me” choreography by Mrs Herrera to composer Alexander Tcherepnin Bagatelles opus 5 No 1, 5 and 6. Mrs Herrera noted that piece was a work in progress, however it was well received by those in attendance.

Note well: the above structure was conducted twice to accommodate the guest who came after 6pm to the Open House.



Figure three: Mrs Nancy Herrera briefing the guest



Figure four: Mrs Nancy Herrera introducing the mentees

FINDINGS:

- i. *Commitment/ Conflicting Schedules:* The Mentees were involved in the opening and closing ceremonies of Carifesta 2019. This resulted in conflicting schedules which resulted in difficulties in getting time to practice for the Open House.
- ii. *Limited time:* Due to the abovementioned commitments of the Mentees, very little time was devoted to perfecting the choreography for the Open House. Thus, the mentees focused on the rehearsals for the opening and closing ceremony because they were being paid for the dancing.
- iii. *Attendance:* The attendance to the Open House may have been better if the flyer were disseminated earlier to the public.
- iv. *Opportunity:* Mentees expressed that they were extremely grateful to be a part of this dance programme and this was evident in the excellent quality of performance showed by the dancers.

RECCOMENDATIONS:

- I. Opportunities to perform is valuable to the development of the dancers. Thus, further opportunities should be explored to ensure the further development of the dancers.
- II. Professional skills development should be offered as an additional workshop to assist in the development of time management, personal brand development and how to maximize on networking opportunities.
- III. The advertisement of the open house should be done earlier as to attract a greater turn out of people.

CONCULSION:

The Open House concept has great potential as it enables the mentees to showcase the work completed with the audience of specially invited guest in the field of dance, friends, family and members of the public.