

Dance Under The Stars Choreography Festival

History

The festival, founded by choreographer Shea New, now in its fifteenth year, has grown tremendously in size, respect and support, in part due to the stellar talent that it has attracted. It began as a joint effort between the College of the Desert and the City of Palm Desert with the McCallum Theatre Institute, the educational division of the McCallum Theatre of the Performing Arts, lending its support in the second year. The idea of the festival grew out of the need to provide emerging choreographers with support and opportunities to showcase their art. In 2002, the Festival was fully incorporated as a McCallum Theatre Institute Program.

Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients

- 1998 Marc Breaux, award winning dancer, director and choreographer
- 1999 Grover Dale, Tony Award winning director, and founder of Answers4Dancers.com
- 2000 Lula Washington, choreographer and dance educator
- 2001 Joe Tremaine, dance educator and choreographer
- 2002 George Chakiris, Golden Globe & Academy Award winning dancer and actor
- 2003 Dee Dee Wood, Emmy Award winning choreographer, director and dancer
- 2004 Carmen de Lavallade, dancer, actress and choreographer
- 2005 Donald McKayle, choreographer, dancer and dance educator
- 2006 Rudy Perez, choreographer and dance educator
- 2007 Glen Tetley, choreographer (dedication)
- 2008 Alan Johnson, choreographer, dancer and director
- 2009 Nigel Lythgoe, choreographer, dancer and Executive Producer of "So You Think You Can Dance"
- 2010 Eugene Loring, choreographer and dancer (dedication)
- 2011 Julie McDonald, dancer and Founder of MSA Agency

Grand Prize Winners

- 1998 "Mambo Mania" – Javier Velasco/San Diego Ballet
- 1998 "Samel Loves Lilith" – Brian Fretté/Hit & Run Productions
- 1999 "Bulb" – Bubba Carr/Subliminal Movements
- 2000 "Common Ground" – Carley Conder/Scottsdale CC
- 2001 "Subway" – Frit and Frat Fuller/Kin Dance
- 2002 "Le Coeur Illumine'" – Marie de la Palme
- 2003 "Sliding Down" – Garrett Ammon/Ballet Memphis
- 2004 "Flicker and Shift" – Laura Gorenstein Miller/Helios Dance Theater
- 2005 "Duet" – Viktor Kabanjaev
- 2006 "Their Song" – Greg Sample/CDA Las Vegas
- 2007 "Falling Petals" – Ting-Ting Chang/ Dream Dance Contemporary Arts
- 2008 "A Ritual Dynamic" – Jon Lehrer/LehrerDance
- 2009 "Forces" – Jamel Gaines/Creative Outlet Dance Theatre of Brooklyn
- 2010 "Fragments" – Olivier Wevers/Whim W'Him
- 2011 "Monster" – Olivier Wevers/Whim W'Him