

Dance Under The Stars Choreography Festival

History

The festival, founded by choreographer Shea New, now in its thirteenth 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"

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 Kabaniaev
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