REPERTORY DANCE THEATRE

OUR MISSION

Repertory Dance Theatre is dedicated to the creation, performance, perpetuation, and appreciation of modern dance.

THE BEGINNINGS

Utah's Repertory Dance Theatre was founded in 1966 as a fully-professional modern dance company through a cooperative effort involving the Salt Lake City community, the University of Utah and a major grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. This partnership was created to establish a company which would keep alive that unique, artistic achievement which is American Modern Dance.

Noted educator and Children's Dance Theatre director Virginia Tanner's dream of establishing a professional company of dancers dedicated to the performance, creation and preservation of modern dance led to the development of RDT. As a professional group of artists in residence at a university, RDT began as a bold attempt at artistic democracy which gradually evolved as the company selected artistic leadership within its own ranks. A founding member, Linda C. Smith has guided the artistic mission since 1983 and kept the thread of continuity and the "dream" of Virginia Tanner alive.

SINCE 1966

RDT is the oldest and most successful company of its kind, a living museum representing one hundred years of dance history, preserving the largest and most significant collection of American dance in the world. RDT acquires classic works by significant twentieth century choreographers and also commissions new works for its prestigious repertory. From the legendary Isadora Duncan and Doris Humphrey to the revolutionary Merce Cunningham and Michio Ito, RDT is both a museum and a contemporary gallery representing the scope and diversity of modern dance past and present.

RDT’s mission, to aid in the decentralization of the arts and to reach audiences outside the metropolitan centers, resulted in the creation of a versatile and flexible national touring company which has been seen in more than 300 cities throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. RDT has performed for diverse audiences from Bicknell, Utah to Vienna, Austria, in school rooms and opera houses, from gymnasiums to the Kennedy Center. As ambassadors for Utah, RDT proudly represents its community and its art form throughout the world.

The company has a long standing commitment to arts-in-education. In the early 1970's RDT was selected by the National Endowment for the Arts to develop multi-faceted arts residency programs for public schools. RDT has created activities which educate audience of all ages through classes, workshops, lectures and performances which reach over 30,000 school students each year in Utah alone. Projects have focused on ecology, literature, history
and cultural diversity which give students and teachers tools to increase communication and develop self esteem as they increase their understanding and appreciation of world culture.

RDT strives to broaden the public's understanding of the art of modern dance through a variety of community based programs and acts as a resource center and laboratory for dancers, choreographers, visual artists, writers and composers. The company offers annual summer workshops and year-round classes to train aspiring professionals as well as inspire the creative potential in people of all ages.

TODAY

In the early 1990's, RDT played a pivotal role in helping to revitalize downtown by embarking on a project to build a new performing arts center in the heart of Salt Lake City. The Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center, RDT's home, enables the company to expand its potential and better serve the community. RDT is committed to increasing the public's awareness and deepen their understanding of the arts through a variety of activities, free lectures, informal performances and open rehearsals bringing alive an area of cultural and social activity.

THE FUTURE

Repertory Dance Theatre's future, like its past, will be rich with community involvement and education as well as artistic growth, preservation and innovation. It is committed to developing activities and partnerships in order to serve audiences of all ages. It continues to build bridges of understanding as it attempts to demystify the art of dance, making it a meaningful and vital part of the culture of the great state of Utah.