A NEW HOME FOR DANCE AT CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY
A NEW HOME FOR DANCE AT CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

THIS STUNNING FACILITY COULD NEVER HAVE BEEN BUILT WITHOUT THE VISIONARY SUPPORT AND LEADERSHIP OF MARYBELLE AND PAUL MUSCO.

Musco Center was an extraordinary gift to the entire Orange County community. With a schedule filled with renowned artists and dazzling performances, the community embraced Musco Center from its spectacular opening week of events and it continues to do so to the present day.

Paul and Marybelle’s gift was most important to the exceptional students in the University’s College of Performing Arts and the Hall-Musco Conservatory of Music because it provided them with a world-class environment in which to master their performing abilities.

With the Musco’s help, Musco Center stands as a testament to Chapman University’s uncompromising standards, relentless pursuit of excellence and passionate commitment to attracting world-class talent to our campus and our community.

WHEN THE MAGNIFICENT MUSCO CENTER FOR THE ARTS OPENED ON MARCH 19, 2016, IT USHERED IN A NEW ERA FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS AT CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY.

Grand Opening of the Marybelle and Sebastian P. Musco Center for the Arts on Saturday, March 19, 2016.
It is time to turn our attention to building a new, urgently needed home for Chapman University’s highly regarded Department of Dance — one of the top dance programs in the United States and one of the Chapman’s great success stories.

Our new dance center will be further proof of Chapman’s commitment to provide our students with the finest facilities in which to hone the skills and talents they will need to be immediately productive in their chosen careers.

The new state-of-the-art dance facility will include classrooms, rehearsal studios, a performance studio, faculty offices, a health clinic and all the other facilities a top dance program needs and deserves.

To touch, to move, to inspire. This is the true gift of dance.

AUBREY LYNCH
MUSCO CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Musco Center for the Arts was conceived with one driving purpose: empowering Chapman University students and faculty to reach the highest levels of achievement in fine arts education, production and performance.

NEW CENTER FOR DANCE

The goal for our new center for dance will be equally ambitious: to ensure that our students have the facilities they need to hone the skills and talents to ensure they are immediately productive in their careers after graduation.
The dance department’s exceptional success and growth over the last several years means that it has outgrown its current facilities. Those facilities, which were designed for 50 dance majors in 2002, now strain to accommodate 135 dance majors, 50 dance minors and about 140 general education students who take the Dance in World Cultures class every semester.

**Every experience in dance at Chapman will take place in a superior environment.**

**Upper Level**
A large section of the new dance center’s upper floor will house five dance studios with all the relevant technology and architectural details, including sprung floors, Apple TVs, mirrors, state-of-the-art AV equipment and performance lighting.

Each of the studios will be larger than the minimum NASD requirement of 2,400 square feet. The largest studio can easily be converted to a performance venue for small concerts and master classes.

The high ceilings and natural light that comes through the skylights will contribute to the functionality of the space and serve as an inspiration to the dancers who train there.

There will also be abundant room for students to stretch, hang out and prepare for class.

**Lower Level**
The lower floor of the building will include two classrooms, a faculty dance studio and a smaller studio for one-on-one or small group instruction, as well as a conference room, six faculty offices, an office for the chair of dance and a reception area.

In addition, there will be a health clinic, a dedicated place where dancers who get injured can be evaluated and treated appropriately. While a health clinic is another NASD requirement, it is the first time that Chapman dance students have had a dedicated space.

The dance center will be located in the historic Villa Park Orchards packing house, near the corner of Palm and Cypress. Its proximity to The K, Chapman’s new state-of-the-art residence hall, Dodge College facilities and the Lastinger Tennis Complex, means that the entire area will be visually imposing, eminently practical and a new campus hub of creative activity.
Chapman Dance Provides Rigorous Conservatory-Level Training in a Personalized Liberal Arts Environment

The Department of Dance, which offers a B.A and a B.F.A. in dance, as well as a dance minor, has expanded to include six full-time faculty, all of whom are top artists, educators and authors in the field.

Chapman Dance has been named “best college dance program” of 2019-2020 by danceus.org.

Dance Department Highlights

Innovative and nationally accredited curriculum

Chapman has one of the few dance departments in the nation that offers equal training within core genres of ballet, modern and jazz, as well as in tap, ballroom, hip-hop, Pilates and yoga. The department received accreditation from the prestigious National Association of Schools of Dance in 2010.

Highly selective

- For the fall 2019, the department received almost 300 applicants for 35 openings and 53% of admitted students enrolled — a rate much higher than for the University as a whole.
- This is an increase from 48% in 2018, showing a continued growth from 2016 when 43% of admitted students enrolled.
- Furthermore, almost 75 percent of the department’s first-year students in the fall 2018 came not just from California and the West Coast, but from all regions of the United States.

Alumni have danced with:
- Cirque du Soleil
- Diavolo
- Cher’s World Tour
- Shen Wei Dance
- Hubbard Street II
- Entity Dance Company
- Chicago Dance Works
- Backhaus Dance
- Wicked National Tour
- So You Think You Can Dance

Our alumni are:
- Employed by top talent agencies
- Production managers for Pilobolus and Artistic Directors of LA Contemporary Dance Company and Backhaus Dance
- Authors published in the Journal of Dance Education
- Directors at Segerstrom Center for the Arts and the Wooden Floor
- Professors at many colleges and universities across the country.
CHAPMAN DANCE DEPARTMENT RESIDENCIES AND MASTER CLASSES

In addition to Chapman’s renowned dance department faculty, dance students have the opportunity to learn from some of the most high-profile leaders in the dance world, through master classes, as well as multiday residencies.

MASTER CLASSES*

Matthew Rushing, Rehearsal Director, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
Mickey Rooney
Tyce Diorio, So You Think You Can Dance choreographer
Will Thomas, dancer with Rihanna, Taylor Swift and Ariana Grande
Chloe Arnold, Emmy-nominated tapper
Jim Keith, owner of Movement Talent Agency/MTA
Go 2 Talent Agency
Jerome Alexander, Chapman alumni, dancer with Kanye West, Lady Gaga, and Jennifer Lopez
Channing Cook Holmes, tap dancer for the Gregory Hines show and Bojangles
Kobi Rozenfeld, choreographer for Macy Gray, Beyonce and Brittany Spears

RESIDENCIES*

Cirque du Soleil
Complexions Contemporary Ballet
Cunningham Dance Company
Diavolo/Architecture in Motion
Nederlands Dance Theater
Zawirowania Dance Theatre of Poland
Peridance Contemporary Dance Company
Pilobolus
Hubbard Street Dance Company

*Partial list

“Chapman dance students have consistently proven to be open, generous, extremely talented and most of all committed to be their best. The Chapman dance department is doing a superb job at creating dance artists!”

MATTHEW RUSHING
Rehearsal Director, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
FULL-TIME DANCE FACULTY

Julianne O’Brien, Professor, Chair, Department of Dance
Professor O’Brien has a background as a performer, choreographer, academic leader and dance educator. She holds a BA from Connecticut College and an MFA from the Ohio State University.
Prior to joining Chapman, she was dean of the School of Dance at Dean College in Massachusetts and program director and professor at Eastern Michigan University.
She teaches modern techniques, pedagogy, dance history, yoga, Bartenieff Fundamentals, Laban movement analysis, improvisation and choreography.
Julianne performed as a founding member and soloist with the Peter Sparling Dance Company, where she trained in foundational modern techniques. She also performed with Bill Evans, and in repertory by Isadora Duncan set by Lori Bellilove. She has choreographed more than 50 works that have been seen in venues across the United States and in El Salvador.
She regularly presents her choreography and pedagogy research at conferences such as National Dance Education Organization, Dance and the Child International, Congress on Research in Dance and Arts School Network.

Ido Tadmor, Presidential Fellow in Dance
Ido Tadmor is an internationally acclaimed dancer-choreographer who has performed with legendary companies Bat Dor, Bat Sheva, Lar Luvitch and Complexions. Ido is the 2011 winner of the highly respected Landau Prize in Israel for life achievement, and has represented the state of Israel around the world as the country’s “Ambassador of Dance” for more than three decades, touring globally.
He has been named one of the top ten dancers in modern dance by the Vienna Committee and has worked with the National State Ballet of Turkey, the Bolshoi, the Israeli Ballet, the Polish National Ballet, The Dance Academy in Rome, and Artemis in Amsterdam, among many others.

Jennifer Backhaus, Assistant Professor
Jennifer Backhaus is the founder and artistic director of Backhausdance, Orange County’s award-winning contemporary dance company. Jennifer was included in OC Metro’s 40 Under 40 in 2009 and was recently honored by Chapman University as Alumni of the Year for her success with Backhausdance.
Her works have been commissioned and produced by the Los Angeles Ballet, Orange County Regional Ballet, McCallum Theatre, Orange County Performing Arts Center, Utah Regional Ballet, Mount San Antonio College, Impact Dance Theater and TDC of the Bay Area.
Jennifer’s works have been honored by Regional Dance America, and her piece Disintegration was selected for performances with the American College Dance Festival at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.

Alicia Guy, Professor
After beginning her training in classical ballet in Southern California, Alicia received a full scholarship to the National Ballet of Canada. She has worked as a professional dancer and choreographer. Prior to Chapman, Alicia was the head of dance at the University of Missouri-St. Louis where she created a new dance department from the ground up.
Her recent work includes: Masters of Illusion Live at Bally’s Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, NV; YAGP Gala of the Stars at Lincoln Center in New York, NY; the opera Die Fledermaus in Rome, Italy; and Entertainment Tonight in Prague, Czech Republic.
With associate professor of entertainment technology, Don Guy, she has developed a one-of-a-kind educational partnership with Cirque du Soleil that includes dance and technology.

Robin Kish, Associate Professor
A former modern dancer, Robin is passionate about dancer wellness and safe teaching practices. Incorporating the work of Joseph Pilates, she blends dance and science to create educational programs that support safe, effective dance programs. She has lectured and presented research at the Performing Arts Medicine Association and the International Association of Dance Medicine and Science.
In 2018, she received the Dawson Award along with Jennie Morton for contributions to the field of performing arts medicine.

Liz Maxwell, Associate Professor
Liz specializes in teaching somatic disciplines, modern dance techniques, dance history and choreography. She has worked with such figures as Hanya Holm, Paul Taylor, Daniel Lewis, Alfredo Corvino, Anna Sokolow and Martha Hill. Liz toured in the companies of Laura Dean, Lucinda Childs, Donald Byrd, Ton Simons and Kenneth Rinker, traveling throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and Japan. She has performed at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, The New York State Theatre, The Kennedy Center, The Joyce Theatre, Dance Theatre Workshop, American Dance Festival and Aaron Davis Hall. She has served as a reconstructor of Laura Dean’s work and in researching trends in dance pedagogy as it relates to the preservation and relevance of dance repertory in the university setting.

Wilson Mendieta, Assistant Professor
Prior to earning his MFA, Wilson lived in the New York City area where he worked as a performer for television, radio spots, commercials, concert dance companies and Off-Broadway and Broadway musicals. His choreography has been seen throughout the United States, including at The Kennedy Center in D.C.
He has been invited to festivals in Venezuela and Australia and has also taught a number of prestigious universities.
His research on how to better equip performing arts students to have sustained careers in their fields has been presented at the International Conference on Visual and Performing Arts and the Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities.
He also has served as a panelist for several arts funding organizations including The National Endowment for the Arts.
A NEW HOME FOR DANCE AT CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

- NEW DANCE CENTER
- KECK CENTER
- MUSCO CENTER FOR THE ARTS
- BECKMAN HALL
- THE K RESIDENCE HALL
- MARION KNOTT STUDIOS
- MEMORY HALL
- WALTMAR THEATRE

[Map of Chapman University campus with labeled buildings and streets]