

April 20, 2012



All That Jazz



It's time to jazz things up! This weekend, choreographers including Sue Samuels, Crystal Chapman and more will present works at the NY Jazz Choreography Project, a performance featuring emerging and established jazz choreographers. We caught up with Marian Hyun, the project's co-director, to learn more about the show and to get her take on the ever-changing

world of jazz dance.

Dance Spirit: What is your goal for the NY Jazz Choreography Project?

Marian Hyun: We want to give jazz choreographers the chance to work while exposing new and younger audiences to traditional jazz. The style needs an audience to thrive, so we're trying to get young people interested in performing and creating jazz.

DS: Who can participate in the project?

MH: We have an adjudication process where we review submissions. There are a lot of choreographers eager to show their work, so we like to get a mix of ages and experience levels. Most importantly, the choreography needs to be jazz.

DS: How do you define jazz?

MH: Personally, I feel that jazz movement is identified by a grounded feeling--the movement is into the floor and in pli . You'll also see a lot of isolations and syncopation. There's an innate rhythm and feeling to a jazz piece.

DS: How do you feel about jazz being melded together with contemporary and modern?

MH: Like anything, jazz is going to evolve--I just see it as progress. But, there's still a place for traditional jazz in the dance world today.

DS: Why is it important to take traditional jazz classes?

MH: It will help with other dance styles--especially contemporary. Jazz is all about mastering isolations and learning how to move different parts of your body at the same time.

Click [here](#) for more information about the NY Jazz Choreography Project and to purchase tickets to this weekend's show.

Dancers perform Rat Pack, choreographed by Sue Samuels, at the November 2010 NY Jazz Choreography Project. Photo by Jan La Salle.

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