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Proposal Title:

Building a Legacy: Documenting the Dance Education Narrative in Ontario

Description:

The Pulse Ontario Dance Conference in Ontario is transforming lives one Pulse conference at a time. The Conference is committed to giving all Ontario Students (novice or experienced) and educators an affordable opportunity and access to a province-wide conference, where they will participate, experience, and develop their literacy, understanding and appreciation of dance. Our goal is for students and teachers to learn side by side the value, scope and diversity of dance in Ontario. After witnessing the impact of our inaugural 2006 conference on students, teachers and artists alike, one thing became clear; we needed to find the means for 'documenting' this legacy that we were on the verge of building. In the following conference in 2008 we commissioned professional filmmakers to create a brief documentary capturing the narrative of how dance education was transforming and defining the lives of students. "Pulse has since created three short films that document the transformation that happens during the conference. These documentaries examine teachers' and students' journey such as: the challenges of taking physical and creative risks, discovering their identity in dance, diversity of the art form, and stretching their creative and movement capacities. For many students being asked to create their own authentic material was a novel and empowering experience that was transformational.