

Alexandra D'Elia

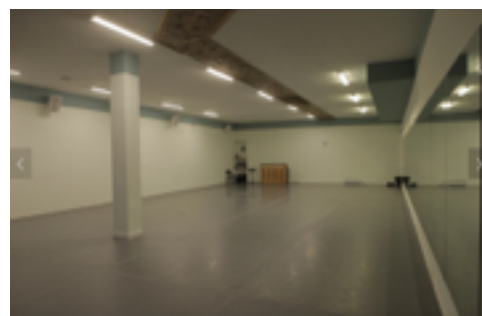
Company E Summer Dance Intensive Outcome Report

The two week summer dance intensive with *Company E* in Washington, D.C. was an incredible and eye opening experience. Each day was packed with intense technique and repertoire classes, conditioning, and guest lectures. Classes were taught by members of the company, as they were on their short offseason between tours in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. Technique classes were taught in the mornings and consisted of modern, ballet, partnering and movement fundamentals. Afternoons consisted of learning company repertoire (choreography by company members as well as resident choreographers from foreign countries), conditioning, yoga, lectures, and field trips.

Key personnel who served as instructors during the two week intensive:

Intensive Director and Co-Artistic Director Kathryn Pilkington, Co-Artistic Director and Executive Director Paul Emerson, Managing Director Tara Compton, and company members Robert Priore, Gavin Stewart, Vanessa Owen, Kyoko Ruch, Abby Leithart, and Alicia Canterna.

The intensive took place at the Dance Loft on 14th St, NW Washington, D.C.
Images of the studio space:



Company E's Executive and Co-Artistic Director Paul Gordon Emerson is one of the world's leading dance photographers. As a part of the *Company E* Summer Dance Intensive he did a free photography session for every student taking part in the program.

Raw image from my photoshoot with Paul Emerson:



Final products from my photoshoot with Paul Emerson:



One of my photos was also published on the company's Facebook page:



During the two week intensive, guest speakers came to the Dance Loft to speak with us and we also traveled to the Kennedy Center. Representatives from Washington Performing Arts came to speak with us, including CEO Jenny Bilfield. A goal of this lecture, as well as a goal of the entire

intensive, was to demonstrate to us that there are many different ways to build a career in the arts. Karl Rogers also came to the Dance Loft to speak with us. He is a Foreign Service Officer with the Foreign Service Institution (U.S. Department of State), Former dancer with David Doorman and DanceMotion USA participant. It was interesting to hear him talk about the State Department's actions towards culture exchange through the arts, specifically dance. We also traveled to the Kennedy Center to meet with Meg Booth who is the Director of Dance Programming at the Kennedy Center. It was interesting to hear her talk about her experience working as the General Manager of Twyla Tharp Dance and the Company Manager of White Oak Dance Project under the direction of Mikhail Baryshnikov. Sitting in a backstage room of the Eisenhower Theater, we all went around the room and shared with Meg who we are and what our career 'dreams' are. Along with my goals in dance, I mentioned my interest and aspirations in journalism. After expressing these interests, *Company E* Executive and Co-Artistic Director approached me, interested in having me work for the company as a videographer for the remainder of my summer in the country. This was a refreshing and exciting reminder that these programs and experiences are how connections are made and jobs are created, especially in this industry.

It was a great experience dancing with fellow dance scholars and company members of *Company E* these past two weeks. It was an enriching experience to learn the repertoire that they perform internationally, from Jerusalem to Cuba, choreographed by artists from around the world. This intensive was also physically demanding and technically challenging, which was an excellent and much-needed experience for me. And receiving a summer job out of this program was a huge plus.

I thank the Miller Arts Scholars, donors, and the Colbert family for making this experience possible and allowing me to further my education in dance, media and foreign affairs.