

THE PURE JOY MOVING COMPANY

WHAT IS IT?



WHY IS IT?

The Pure Joy Moving Company is a dance-study Workshop designed for the student who wishes to improve her/his dance technique and talents in order to achieve the overall goal of excellence in their skills.

The **PJMC** began in 1978 by **Joy MacKinnon** at **MacKinnon Dance Academy** when the school was located at Oxnard Shores. Hundreds of dancers have graduated from the **PJMC** and two Concert reunions have been performed with **PJMC** alumni.

A student must be *invited* to participate in this elite dance study group. All potential dancers are evaluated on a system referred to as the **FOUR A'S**.

Age: Generally between the ages of 14 and 16 for first year entrants. However, a student with outstanding potential may be invited as young as 13 years. A candidate for **PJMC** must be skilled in the disciplines required such as Ballet, Tap and Jazz dancing. Being 'of age' does not necessarily qualify a dancer for **PJMC**.

Ability: The dancer should exhibit a *potential* for elevation of the technical and performance areas of dance study. This *potential* is evaluated by **Joy MacKinnon** with discussion and input from other instructors at **MacKinnon's**.

Attendance: The dancer must have almost perfect attendance and does not miss class for homework- overload, or other proceedings that could be delayed in favor of attending *required* classes. If a student needs to be absent – he/she must call the studio to inform of this absence and why it is needed. The call must be made by the STUDENT and not by the PARENT. If a student cannot manage homework assignments AND participate in the Workshop – acceptance in the **PJMC** should be delayed until such time as the requirements can be met.

Attitude: Listed last, but significantly higher in importance, the **attitude** of a dancer during class is monitored closely by those instructors who have input into the qualifications of a student for **PJMC**. For example, a student who regularly talks during class, does not take instruction seriously, or is regularly late for class, or who exhibits an attitude of non-interest in or boredom with the classes is not assumed to be a candidate for **PJMC**.

The Pure Joy Moving Company has acquired a well-earned reputation for excellence throughout the years. Needless to say, we are proud of the dancers who have been part of this Workshop – and many have gone on to achieve superb things in their lives – often with dance as impetus; or by bringing the discipline of this w\Workshop to their college and/or career choices.

The Pure Joy Moving Company has performed in **China** during a (six-week cultural exchange); during their own Concerts; as guests in other dance performances; and as 'featured dancers' through our annual MacKinnon's dance presentations.

PJMC candidates are given a contract to sign for their apprenticeship training which is 90 days from the first rehearsal. The parents are also required to sign this contract. The agreement notes which classes are required for **PJMC** dancers and that the classes are carefully monitored by all instructors.

Once a member has been fully qualified – after the 90 day period – he/she becomes a bona-fide **PJMC** dancer. It is an honor to be invited into the Workshop and to strive for goals which may not be able to be fully reached during a regular dance session.

As owner/director of MacKinnon Dance Academy – I urge all students who truly love their dance classes to aspire to membership in the **PJMC**. The experience is both valuable and meaningful.

Lastly: the **PJMC** is *not* a social Club. It is an intense and often difficult Workshop with high demands placed upon the dancers, for example: **PJMC** meets regularly twice a week – on Thursdays and Saturday afternoons. Thursdays may go as late as 8:30 PM and Saturdays usually last until approximately 3:00 PM*. When a meeting is cancelled, or finishes early, the dancer can call for a ride home. We will stay at the studio until all dancers have been picked up.

I was alarmed to discover that many of our dancers did not even know that **PJMC** existed. I don't know how this happened, but I will take every occasion available to insure that **ALL** dancers at MacKinnon's **AND** their parents are aware of this outstanding advanced-learning opportunity for their dancers.

Joy MacKinnon/Owner/Director/MacKinnon Dance Academy

*Times are approximate and are subject to change.