

Jane Glaser

Dance Workshops

MEET THE ARTIST:

Jane Glaser is a seasoned professional and has dedicated her career to the instruction, preservation and performance of multicultural dance. Ms. Glaser brings a lifetime of dance experience to her classes. Her love of dance began at age 4 with ballet and she later pursued competitive figure skating with great success. Her “World Dance” education began at age 13. Over the years, she has had extensive training and performed with many dance companies such as: Zadruga Bulgarian Folk Ensemble, Otea Polynesian Folk Ensemble, Bel Air Liturgical Dancers and Viviane’s Egyptian Dance Theater, where she was also Assistant Director. For 15 years she toured locally and nationally with the AMAN International Folk Ensemble as a principal dancer and vocalist. She is currently performing with Karpatok, a Hungarian dance company, and Gulistan, a company which features dances from Central Asia.

Ms. Glaser has been teaching international dance in schools and in the community since 1995 and has served on the “Arts For All” committee for the Santa Monica Unified School District.



MUSIC·CENTER

ABOUT THE GROUP:

Aman International Folk Ensemble worked for over 30 years to bring performances and workshops of world dance and music to audiences all over the world. Following the closure of the company, five talented members of this internationally known group have created Aman Dance Educators, and are taking Aman’s mission to a new level. All seasoned professionals, the artists include Dawn Dyson, Kristen Smiarowski, Lynnanne Hanson-Miller, Rosina Didyk and Jane Glaser.



ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS:

Ms. Glaser's workshops focus on traditional (folk) dance and provide a window into cultures of various ethnic groups. Content is chosen to suit grade and class levels, curriculum needs, scheduling requirements and a school's specific interest. Utilizing dance and music from various regions of the world, workshops engage students in content through a myriad of choices. Topics can include cultural background and heritage, storytelling, folkcraft, improvisation and musical instruments. Any of these, as well as the dances, can be integrated into core curriculum areas such as Social Science, Math and Language Arts. Ms. Glaser's workshops guide students to become more aware of a culture and its various aspects (food, beliefs, language, dress, etc.), traditions, diversity of expression and cultural change. Throughout the sessions, she strives to support the students' learning process and development of self-esteem.

BEFORE THE WORKSHOP:

- Prior to the workshop, please make nametags with the student's first names in big, bold letters. Please have the students wear them to the workshop.
- Review the importance of listening and observing. Ask the students what it means to be a good listener. What does it mean to be a good observer? Why is it important in daily life? Why is it important when the artist is here?
- Please encourage the students to dress appropriately – in clothes and shoes that allow them to move comfortably.

AFTER THE WORKSHOP:

- Review the dances learned in the workshop. Discuss what the students remember about the specific culture in which the dance originated and ideas connected to the theme, steps or music. What parts of the workshop did the students like best? What did they learn about dance? What did they learn about the culture? What did they learn about the costumes or crafts? What did they learn about themselves?
- Review students' ideas about traditional (folk) dance, underscoring the idea that it is a universal social form of expression for many cultures of the world. Discuss the importance of dancing together with others. Where can they use this skill in their lives? (e.g. focus, working cooperatively with others, listening to directions, remembering sequences, etc.)
- Research traditional folk songs. Listen to the recordings, and then sing them as a class.