

LYNNANNE HANSON-MILLER

Dance Workshops

MEET THE ARTIST:

For over two decades, **Lynnanne Hanson-Miller** has dedicated her career to the research, preservation and performance of multicultural dance and heritage. As a former member of the AMAN International Folk Ensemble, Ms. Miller toured locally and nationally as principal dancer, vocalist and choreographer. During her tenure with Aman, she conducted over 5,000 dance workshops for both children and adults throughout the United States, and assisted with the development of AMAN's nationally acclaimed education program.

Of particular interest to Ms. Miller is traditional American dance. Her expertise in this area developed from her travels to Great Britain where she did extensive field research into the origins of these dances. For over a decade, she has participated in events through organizations specializing in historical recreations such as the Lively Arts History Association, the San Diego Vintage Dancers and the Art Deco Society of Los Angeles. She takes class in vintage dance including dances of the nineteenth century, Ragtime and early Jazz eras, as well as Renaissance Court Dance. She also teaches community dance classes for young children in Pasadena. The last three years Ms. Miller has also attended various professional development seminars to stay informed as to the current educational trends involving the VAPA Standards as well as the state standards and their connections. She works closely with the Music Center to integrate their popular Artsource® Units into her lesson plans including Billy the Kid (Contemporary Ballet), African Roots in American Soil, Ballet Folklorico de Mexico, and It Was A Lover and His Lass (Italian Renaissance Music).

Ms. Miller served three years as Artistic Director for the Westchester Lariats, a youth dance ensemble for students ages 7 to 17. During this time she instructed classes in folk repertoire technique and staged choreographies of traditional International and Social Dance, which the group performed on tour and locally.



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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. Miller'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. Miller'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.