Eastern-in-the-News

CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL' DELIGHT LANDES CENTER AUDIENCE IN MAY 2013

Moorefield – May 18, 2013 - Delighting a near-capacity crowd at the Landes Arts Center May 18, a troupe of 46 young dancers in five age groups from pre-K through young teens donned beautiful bright costumes and performed 16 challenging and charming routines. Titled "*Creatures Great and Small*", the presentation served as a final student recital for Eastern WV Community and Technical College's 2012-13 recreational dance program.

Meeting weekly from the fall through the spring as a joint venture of the Hardy County Wellness Center (HCWC), Eastern's community program offers recreational ballet, jazz, and creative movement in a social setting.

New classes for the 2013-14 term start in August, and class size is limited. To register your child, and for more information, call (304) 434-8000, ext. 253.

"*Creatures Great and Small*" delighted a near-capacity crowd at the Landes Arts Center May 18: Pre-kindergarten "Baby Dolls" from left:Front Row: Kate Combs, Melissa Olah, Reece Sites. Back Row: Annie Barr, Madalyn Ketterman, Caroline Auville, Addison Hunt. Photo by Mellissa Kay.

"We have now completed our third year with this program and the rewards are enormous," said program instructor, Missy Michael Shockey. "The first-year dancers catch on so quickly, and the more advanced groups are really beginning to develop confidence in their abilities."

"*Creatures Great and Small*" at the Landes Arts Center May 18: Kindergarten "Starlets", from left: Front Row: Maggie Olah, Blair Weese, Leah Jo Davis, Abby Armentrout, Gracie Simmons, Mattia Auville. Back Row: Kara Barb, Ella Littlejohn, Madison Sherman, Grayce Ketterman, Sydney Rumer, Veronica Carr, Elizabeth Williams. Photo by Mellissa Kay.

Dance teaches discipline, accomplishment, social skills, manners, taking turns, team spirit, coordination, imagination, and much more, Shockey noted, emphasizing that it "can be an integral part of childhood development. I am so proud of each member of our dance troupe for their efforts."

"*Creatures Great and Small*": First and second grader "Dancing Divas", from left: Front Row: Keyra Fisher, Emma Ludwig, Kaelyn Swick; Middle Row: Ryen Sites, Sophie Hardy, Leah Kessler, Emmie Whitaker; Back Row: Amber Williams, Grace Mallow, Chloe Weikle: photo by Mellissa Kay.

Shockey also praised her dancers' parents for their unwavering commitment to the program, and pointed out that without the assistance of her own daughter, Shannon Shockey, the class would not have achieved so much success for its students.

"*Creatures Great and Small*": 3rd through 5th grader "Showstoppers" from the recital, from left: Front Row: Rachel Smith, Amber Riggleman, Paige VanMeter, Madalynn Clayton, Sierra Whitaker; Middle Row: Sydney Riggleman, Rebecca Rao, Makenzie Keplinger, Marissa Simmons; Back Row: Makenzie Wratchford, Madison Wratchford. Photo by Mellissa Kay.

"Shannon brings eleven years of dance experience, and is a real key to our program. She relates well to our dancers' youth and feeds their eagerness to learn. And she serves as a strong role model for them."

"*Creatures Great and Small*": "Entertainers" duo at the recital, sitting: Kelsee Boggs; standing: Allison Barr. Photo by Mellissa Kay.

The Eastern/Wellness Center partnership will offer classes for the 2013-14 term starting in August, and class size is limited. To register your child, and for more information, call (304) 434-8000, ext. 253.

"*Creatures Great and Small*": The "Dazzling Duo" at the recital, Shannon Shockey, left, and Muryssa George: photo by Mellissa Kay.

Serving the residents of Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, Pendleton and Tucker counties, and fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College is a comprehensive and equal opportunity community and technical college bringing the resources and assets of Education That Works to the families, communities and employers of the Potomac Highlands.

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