

Thank You Monica Hill

This weekend we celebrate the 20th year of Monica Hill's volunteer tenure as Artistic Director of the Young Dancers Competition. Monica was named a 2015 Colorado Legend of Dance for her outstanding contributions to dance. Her contributions to this competition alone are too numerous to mention, but her work ethic, attention to detail, and enthusiasm have been contagious for all who have also served alongside her.

One of Monica's main tasks as Artistic Director, has been to locate a Master Teacher and Judges who are suited to work with young ballet students. She always strives to assemble a cohesive team of Dance Masters who often had, at some point in their careers, a common philosophy and background. Through her 20 years, Monica has had the opportunity to meet and work with dozens of ballet professionals across the country and she has become extremely good at cobbling together a well-integrated group of teachers and judges for this competition.

Once assembled, no one is more conscious of the Master Teacher and Judges individual and personal needs than Monica. Whether their comfort depends upon eye drops to combat our dry Colorado air, cough drops to soothe a scratchy throat, or just a nice cup of Chamomile tea, Monica makes sure all these items and more are available throughout the weekend. Any special dietary needs are always accounted for. The Young Dancers Competition has been fortunate to have outstanding dance professionals adjudicate and teach our young Colorado dancers. Monica has been adamant that each one should know their value to the competition.

Through her knowledge of ballet, Monica created the 4-year rotation of ballet variations currently in use by the Young Dancers Competition. She acquired the immense talent of pianist Miki Kubo to record the music of each variation thereby assuring a standard version of the music for all the dancers.

Monica has performed far too many tasks each competition weekend over 20 years to enumerate here. Her energy and drive for excellence has been an inspiration to all who have the opportunity to work with her. Underlying it all for Monica though, is her deep and obvious love for ballet and the young ballet dancers who have graced our competition by their presence. Because of this love, it has always been Monica's goal to run a clean and fair competition and one of the highest integrity. Monica has had enormous success in this regard and the Denver Ballet Guild is beyond grateful for the 20 years Monica Hill has given to the Young Dancers Competition.

