China Trip
Following my first trip to Beijing, I was invited back to China under completely different auspices to accept the position as Artistic Director of the Duncan Dance Academy in Shenzhen, China. The week was filled with meetings to introduce the facilities, headquarters, and studios of the Duncan Dance Academy. We also traveled to the interior by bullet train, learned about Chinese culture and customs, and explored many cultural sites, including the amazing Terra-cotta Warriors in the ancient city of Xi’an.

A little bit about the invitation... The DDA is part of the YMM Art Education organization with centers around the world, including Beijing, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Dongguan, Suzhou, Tianjin, Washington D.C., USA, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Paris, Berlin and Tokyo. Their mission is to provide the highest quality art programming and to stimulate the progress of human civilization through art education. It was a natural for YMM Director Moses Wang to embrace both the dance style and philosophy of Isadora Duncan. With two locations, and eight studios in Shenzhen, the Duncan Dance Academy currently offers a variety of dance styles. Under my directorship, the Duncan Dance Academy will offer Duncan dance technique, the philosophy, and repertory, and Duncan dance will be the required dance technique with the curriculum built for ages 4-18 years. As part of the inaugural year of the appointment we will bring

Upcoming Residencies and Performances

Peabody Dance
September 22-26

Manhattan College
September 29

Rutgers University
October 27

Marywood College
November 1

Randolph College
November 2-13

PS 112 Manhattan
November 9

Escola Contemporanea
Salvador Bahia, Brazil
November 10-24

The Creative Center
at University Settlement
January 4, 11, 18, 25

Gramercy Arts High
January TBA
the company to perform in Shenzhen and tour throughout China in 2016.

Photo (top): Duncan Dance Academy teachers pose in front of the Shenzhen campus.
Photo (right): Lori Belilove waves in front of Duncan Dance Academy.

Photo (top left): Lori Belilove lectures on “Who is Isadora Duncan?” as part of U.S.-China Art Education Summit in Shenzhen.
Photo (top right): Lori meets with Moses Wang (in white) and Mythos Yang (in blue), Directors of YMM Art Education.
Photo (bottom left): Lori poses in front of a Tang Dynasty Palace miniature in Xi’an.
Photo (bottom right): Customized Duncan Dance Academy paper cups!

Athens Conference

After China, I ventured over to Athens to participate in the joint conference held by two esteemed organizations: Society of Dance History Scholars (SDHS) and Congress on Research in Dance (CORD). The theme of the conference was “Cut & Paste: Dance Advocacy in the Age of Austerity”. Greece is seriously struggling in so many ways. For me it was like returning to my childhood hometown, every corner and square, park and ancient site was filled with memories of my early adventures studying Duncan dance with Vassos Kanelllos.

Isadora Duncan is known as the American “mother of modern dance,” her dances were greatly influenced by Greek culture, art and philosophy. While there, Meg Brooker and I joined up for the week to visit with Penelope Iliaskou, Artistic Director of The Isadora and Raymond Duncan Dance Research Center located in Vyronas (southeastern part of Athens) and we started to plan many things for next year. Also, under the invitation of Executive Director Alkis Raftis, we were invited to perform at The Dora Stratou Dance Theatre, an 800
seat garden theatre located on Philopappou hill across from the Acropolis. With possible support from the U.S. Embassy in Athens, initial plans are underway to have a study tour May 25 - June 8 (dates still TBD) with daily dancing and museum and archeological site visits. Anyone interested in celebrating Isadora's birthday in Athens in 2016? We plan to include a scholarly section with lectures, talks etc. Mark you calendars and get in touch with us!

Photo (top left): Meg Brooker posing in front of the Parthenon.  
Photo (top right): Lori Belilove posing in front of The Isadora and Raymond Duncan Dance Research Center. 
Photo (bottom left): Meg, Lori and Emi Yagishita at SDHS/CORD conference.  
Photo (bottom right): children's dance class at The Isadora and Raymond Duncan Dance Research Center.

Chicago Dancing Festival Performance
In August The Company was invited to perform at the annual Chicago Dancing Festival, as part of the inaugural "Modern Women" program. Lori staged Isadora Duncan's Valse Brilliant for the Company. Afterwards, we enjoyed a day of sightseeing, ending our stay by feasting on the city's famous deep dish pizza.

Fort Tryon Park Classes and Performance
This summer IDDF offered free, bi-weekly children's classes series at Fort Tryon Park in Inwood. The series ended with a children's pre-show and a Company performance. The program was made possible by Fort Tryon Park Trust and with generous support from EILEEN FISHER.

Cape May Fundraiser Performance
On August 7 The Company was invited to perform at the "Midsummer Night's Dream Party" in Cape May, NJ. The event was sponsored by the Fund for Cape May, a non-profit organization whose mission is beautification and preservation of the Cape Island communities and providing children's educational programs. The events proceeds benefited their Rotary Park Renovation Project.

Alice Austen House Performance
On August 1 The Company returned to Staten Island to perform "Victorian Rebels", drawn from dances by Isadora Duncan created between 1900 and 1924. The performance -- marking our 10th engagement at Alice Austen House Museum and overlooking the Staten Island Waterfront -- was a fitting tribute to Duncan and to Austen, one of America's first women photographers.

Old Westbury Gardens Performance
On June 28, The Company returned to perform at the annual "Midsummer Night" celebration in the scenic formal gardens of the Long Island Gold Coast Phipps estate. The program included children's classes throughout the gardens with live music accompaniment,
followed by company performance of a series of dances telling a story based on the Greek myth Orpheus and Eurydice.

Isadora Duncan Dance Foundation, 141 West 26th Street #3, New York, NY 10001

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