

# Pilot

A 37TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION FOR THE LASANSKY STUDIO OF DANCE AND THE DANCE THEATER ENSEMBLE

## Free dance, poetry performance at Camden Opera House May 5

By Kay Stephens

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**Event Date:** Saturday, May 5, 2018 - 7:00pm



Rehearsals for the performance. Photo courtesy Daniel O'Connell





CAMDEN—On Saturday, May 5, the community is invited to a special performance that has taken the dancers at Lasansky Studio of Dance the entire year to compose. Filled with original choreography, original poetry as well as six dance repertoire pieces, the performance will include 12 diverse dance selections with 35 dancers of all ages performing.

Lasansky, who has been dancing and teaching for nearly 50 years, is excited to showcase the hard work her dancers have been practicing for the free, public performance.

“Throughout the year, we create individual dances for each class,” she said. “The first time a piece is performed in front of an audience, it is called a premier. We will have six premiers. We will also feature a repertoire piece titled Akhmatova Songs, which is a

series of established dances where our dancers take on specific roles. With the Dance Theater Ensemble, we will have a selection of solos, duets, trios and a quartet in the repertoire with two of my former and present dancers, Emily Seymour and Anna Rich, assisting in re-staging repertoire.”

“The most important part of this for me is the process that the children go through together in creating the dance,” said Lasansky. “I want them to understand where a dance comes from. I want them to believe that whoever they are; they have a dance inside them. What I help them do is search for it.”

The dancers have participated throughout the choreographic and costuming process. They developed inspiring ideas and themes, find music, steps, patterns, and, finally, titled their pieces.

“It’s a really long, involved process and takes the entire year,” she said. “The most important part of it for them is to figure out what they want to say and how to express it.” Lasansky’s summer workshops all have themes, and some of the elements from her past workshops, will be pulled into the performance, including a selection of 13 short poems written 30 years ago by her students and read by Molly Eddy of Camden.

“The very first summer thematic workshop I did, had the theme of ‘Echoes’ in which the children would dance and write poetry, or they dictated it if they were too young and then worked on art projects. I had to track down a lot of my past students—some of whom wrote these poems when they were four years old and are now adults, married with children. I contacted them for permission to have them read during the performance.”

The show begins at 7 p.m.

Jimena Lasansky, dancer, choreographer and educator, has taught creative movement, ballet, modern dance and choreography in the area since 1977. Her new dance studio is located in Rockport. For more information visit: [www.lasanskydance.com](http://www.lasanskydance.com)

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