



Contact Rebka Sakati
Telephone 402-216-3736

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 17, 2014

Email takethestagekc@gmail.com
Website www.takethestagekc.org

Area Students Ready to Take the Stage

Kansas City, Missouri, September 17, 2014– **Owen/Cox Dance Group's Take the Stage Program** is set to get 4th grade students across Kansas City moving and thinking! Take the Stage brings high-quality music and dance education directly into the classroom to uplift children in our community who need it most. Backed by funds from the Missouri Arts Council, Country Club Christian Church Metro Mission Council and the Bright Futures Fund of Kansas City, the Company kicks off its distinctive in-school dance residency program this week at John T. Hartman Elementary, Our Lady of the Angels and Holy Cross Catholic Schools.

Now in its second season, Take the Stage is the newest outreach initiative of Owen/Cox Dance Group and is inspired by the award-winning work of the National Dance Institute (NDI). Take the Stage's professional teaching artists use the power of the arts to help children develop personal discipline, confidence and a standard of excellence that positively impacts academics and all aspects of their lives.

Take the Stage offers high-quality dance education to underserved populations with powerful results:

"It's a great learning initiative for these kids....It engaged their brains, forced them to think visually, musically and provided physical activity. This was high cognition. You had to be thinking to do this well. You had to watch and listen to do this well....There was every kind of kid in that group of kids and they were functioning like one. For the principal, that was a home run." --Jean Ferrara, principal Holy Cross Catholic School 2013

The Program's 2014-15 curricular theme explores children's books and literature and is being developed in partnership with local libraries and teachers. The 28-week dance residency will culminate in a main-stage Event of-the-Year when students from participating schools are presented in a joyful public performance. Backed by professional musicians, students from across Greater Kansas City will *Take the Stage* together in April 2015 for **Dancing in the Stacks: A Celebration of Children's Literature**.

Classes are on-going from September to April. Guests are always welcome to attend and see us in action. To schedule a class visit or simply learn more about our exciting programs, go to www.takethestagekc.org, contact Take the Stage Artistic Director, Rebka Sakati at 402-216-3736 or email takethestagekc@gmail.com.