

RAD FEST

15TH ANNUAL
MIDWEST REGIONAL
ALTERNATIVE DANCE

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO GUIDE

About RADfest:

The Midwest RAD Fest is hosted and supported by Southwest Michigan's oldest professional dance company, Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers. The festival is a juried event at the Epic Center in Kalamazoo, MI, featuring the best in modern, post-modern, and contemporary dance from all over the country. However, here is a brief explanation of styles seen frequently on our RAD Fest stage:

What is Contemporary Dance?

Contemporary dance, an interpretive style rooted in innovation, blends techniques from classical ballet, jazz, modern, and lyrical dance. Unlike traditional forms, it prioritizes floor work, improvisation, and versatility, allowing for freedom of movement and fluidity. It serves as a storytelling medium, conveying characters, events, or personal narratives, and also communicates abstract ideas like ethical values and social issues. Costumes align with the thematic tone, often performed barefoot, and dancers express themselves to diverse musical styles, spoken word poems, or silence, evoking emotions in the audience through its dynamic and expressive nature.

Reference: [What Is Contemporary Dance? A History of Contemporary Dance - 2024 - MasterClass](#)

What is West African?

West African dance is a vibrant and culturally rich form of expression deeply rooted in the traditions of the West African region. Characterized by its energetic and dynamic movements, the dance styles vary across countries such as Nigeria, Senegal, Ghana, and Mali. These dances are closely intertwined with the rhythmic complexities of traditional West African music, featuring intricate polyrhythms and percussion instruments. Often performed in communal settings, West African dance serves diverse purposes, ranging from religious rituals and social events to storytelling and celebrations. Dancers engage in expressive gestures, quick footwork, and rhythmic body movements, creating a powerful connection between movement and music. With ceremonial and ritualistic significance, these dances play a crucial role in preserving cultural identity, passing down traditions, and fostering community bonds.

Reference: [West African Dance: A Cultural Tapestry in American Movement Free Essay Example \(studymoose.com\)](#)

What is Ballet dance?

Ballet dance stands as a cornerstone of the performing arts. Originating in the courts of the Italian Renaissance, ballet evolved into a refined and codified art form in 17th-century France. Characterized by its emphasis on precise technique, disciplined movements, and aesthetic beauty, ballet is known for its formalized positions and vocabulary. Ballets can have a storyline or be plotless. The artistry of ballet extends beyond physical skill, encompassing movement through graceful gestures, emotional expressions, and elaborate costumes. Traditionally accompanied by classical music, ballet continues to enchant with its combination of technical precision and artistic expression.

Reference: [A Brief History of Ballet - Illustrated by Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre \(pbt.org\)](#)

What is Bharatanatyam?

Bharatanatyam, a classical dance form originating from Tamil Nadu, India, is a mesmerizing display of intricate hand gestures (mudras), rhythmic footwork, and expressive storytelling. Dancers weave together movements that embody grace, strength, and fluidity, captivating audiences with their skillful execution. Abhinaya, the art of expression, plays a central role, as performers convey a range of emotions and narratives through facial expressions, body language, and eye movements. Accompanied by classical Carnatic music, Bharatanatyam performances are a harmonious blend of melody, rhythm, and poetry, with dancers intricately synchronizing their movements with the music's cadence. Rooted in Hindu mythology and devotional themes, Bharatanatyam is not only a dance form but also a spiritual and cultural journey, reflecting India's rich artistic heritage and profound cultural traditions.

Reference: [Bharatanatyam Classical Dance - History, Clothing, Exponents \(culturalindia.net\)](#)

What is Baile folklórico?

Baile folklórico, or folkloric dance, is a vibrant and colorful form of traditional Mexican dance that celebrates the diverse cultural heritage of Mexico. Rooted in indigenous, Spanish, and African influences, baile folklórico showcases a dynamic fusion of rhythmic footwork, intricate choreography, and elaborate costumes. Dancers often perform in groups, executing lively movements that reflect the rhythms and traditions of various regions across Mexico, from the exuberant polkas of the northern states to the rhythmic zapateado of Jalisco. Accompanied by lively music played on traditional instruments such as guitars, violins, and trumpets, baile folklórico is a captivating display of cultural pride and artistic expression, embodying the spirit and vitality of Mexican culture.

Reference: [Inside the History and Techniques of Folklorico \(dancespirit.com\)](#)

Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers Theater Information:

Address: 359 S Kalamazoo Mall Ste 204, Kalamazoo, MI 49007
- 2nd floor, Epic Center Building

Parking: The Epic Center Parking Ramp has accessible entrances from South St. and Lovell St. Metered Parking is also available on South St., Lovell St., and the Kalamazoo Mall.

- o Parking is free on the ramp for 90 minutes, and then \$1.75/hour after that
- o \$5 flat fee on Saturdays. Free on Sundays.

Accessibility: For those in need of barrier-free access to the Epic Center, we recommend entering the building through the Epic Center's front doors, located on the Kalamazoo Mall. The first floor of the building has an elevator, located across from the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra Suite, that will bring you up to our theater on the 2nd floor!

Concessions: Concessions is located on the second floor with Wellsprings Theater. Please no outside food or drinks. Concessions accept credit cards and cash.

- o We offer a variety of alcoholic and nonalcoholic drinks as well as a variety of small snacks. Merchandise is also sold at the concessions stand.

Tickets: Tickets are scanned upon entering the theater. Please have a mobile device with a ticket available or a printed-out receipt of your ticket ready to be scanned. Please contact our office at 269.342.4354 if you need assistance printing your ticket.

Dress Code: The Wellspring Theater has no formal dress code. To get the most out of your experience, we suggest wearing something that is both comfortable and reflective of your personality.

Bathrooms: Bathrooms are located down the hallway from the theater. We have signage posted and staff on site to help direct patrons.

BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE

Please take your seat upon entrance and read through the program. See if you recognize any songs or themes amongst the pieces. Getting familiar with the performance lets you enjoy the show more!

Also, look for any **sensory warnings** within the program. Visually, there might be bright lights, strobe, or more within the production of the piece. Auditorily, there also could be loud music or sounds that accompany a piece. Please read through the program to know before encountering it unexpectedly.

Note that once the piece begins, you will not be able to enter until the piece is complete and there is a transition into the next one.

Tip: Saying "merde" is a way of telling dancers to have a good show for the packed audience.

DURING THE PERFORMANCE

Lights: Lights come on between works. During this time, it would be good to review the program for either the work you just saw or to prepare for the work you're about to see.

Phones: Phones and other mobile devices must be put away and silenced during performances out of consideration for the performers and other patrons. No photography or videography is permitted during performances. We invite you to sit back and enjoy the show!

Clapping: It is traditional to clap after each piece after the lights dim. At the end of the performance, there is a final bow from the performer that allows for cheering and clapping.

AFTER THE PERFORMANCE

Please exit the theater and take any belongings or trash you have with you. If you'd like to keep your program for a keepsake, we encourage you to do so! If not, we ask that you leave the program either in your seat or with our staff so we can recycle it for a future performance.

Congratulations: Feel free to see a performer after the show and congratulate them on their performance! Many dancers would love to talk about their work with you.