

Outreach Activities

Galumpha offers residency or outreach programs as part of performance contracts and where possible, independent of public performances. Workshops or master classes are offered and are geared toward older students and adults, especially high school and college students interested in dance, acting, music and visual arts. Special attention is paid to working creatively in a collaborative setting. Dance elements such as balance, strength, flexibility and movement quality are combined with improvisation, character studies and a particular style of weight sharing we call “experiments in human architecture”. Emphasizing safety and the necessity of clear communication between partners and groups is central to the workshops. These approaches can be suited to address target audiences such as parent-child partnerships and other non-dance trained groups. For example, the members of Galumpha have successfully led workshops to incarcerated youth, sports teams and to groups with as much as a sixty-year difference between the oldest and youngest participants.

For younger grades (K-12), teachers, administrators and Arts in Education Institutes prefer assembly type outreach activities as it exposes the maximum number of students to the athletic, humorous, artistic, creative and highly accessible experience Galumpha offers. For these reasons, Galumpha has developed its most requested outreach activity: the lecture/demonstration, or “lec/dem” for students and faculty. The Lec/dem is most successful when a qualified “teaching artist”, usually a trained dance teacher who has studied our work from live and recorded performances, first introduces the students to Galumpha’s particular approach to dance and music.

A lec/dem typically runs 45 – 50 minutes in the school auditorium, gymnasium or other large space. The atmosphere is informal. The performers warm up in the stage area, talking with children as they enter, or behind a closed drape where available. Designed to be low-tech, Galumpha only requires a CD player loud enough for the space and a splinterless floor for these shows. The performers talk to the students throughout the presentation, introducing the pieces with stories and explaining a little about the work. The performance portion of the show runs 30 – 35 minutes, consisting of five or six complete pieces, followed by a 10 – 15 minute Q & A. The program is designed to be both educational and entertaining and so the most humorous, diverse and acrobatic pieces are selected from the company’s repertoire, presented exactly as they would be on the concert stage but without the technical requirements.

Where schools prefer to offer their students the complete theatrical experience in a fully equipped theater, Galumpha is happy to oblige, provided the needs of the company’s technical rider (and the added costs associated) can be met. Reviews/recommendations from past outreach activities offered by Galumpha are available upon request.