

Mark Foehringer Dance Project | SF

What the dance critics say about Mark Foehringer's work:

San Francisco

“Only one among the five works on Summerfest/dance's second program really begged for a second viewing: Mark Foehringer's *Rhapsodia*. ”

Summerfest / dance, Theater Artaud (now renamed “Z-Space”), San Francisco
Rachel Howard, *SF Weekly*, 7/26/2000

“something we shouldn't miss”

Home Season, Yerba Buena Theater, San Francisco
Octavio Roca, *San Francisco Chronicle*, 8/18/2002

“Swift, dense and unfailingly musical” and “Foehringer has craftsmanship”

Home Season, Yerba Buena, San Francisco
Rachel Howard, *San Francisco Examiner*, 2002

“(it is) whimsy that distinguishes Foehringer's *The Four Seasons* from other balletic adaptations of Vivaldi's Score.”

Home Season, Yerba Buena Theater, San Francisco
Heather Wisner, *SF Weekly*, 8/21/2002

“...all of them [the dancers] impressive at working together to realize Foehringer's multifaceted vision of contemporary ballet.” and “almost Duncanesque in the way they (the dancers) floated between stillness and motion.”

Home Season, Yerba Buena, San Francisco
Rita Felciano, *SF Bay Guardian*, 8/28/2002

“with work like that in his company, Mark Foehringer Dance Project will always be welcome.”

Home Season, Yerba Buena Theater, San Francisco
Mary Ellen Hunt, *Critical Dance*, 8/23/2002

“a placement, elegance and verve that would be welcome by any international caliber company you would care to name”

Home Season, Yerba Buena, San Francisco
Allan Ullrich, *Voice of Dance*, 2002

“deserves a place to flourish, experiment choreographically and to grow”

Home Season, Yerba Buena, San Francisco
Michael Wade Simpson, *Bay Area Reporter*, 2002

“his choreographic voice is his own, not a watered down version of this, that or the other performing of a decade”

Diadorim, Yerba Buena, San Francisco
Renee Renouf, *Ballet Magazine UK* (www.ballet.co.uk) 2005

“Tenderness, synchronicity, the sense of completeness and satisfaction unfurled before us”

*Duetto*s, ODC Theater, San Francisco, CA
Renee Renouf, *Ballet Magazine* (www.ballet.co.uk) 2006

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“Abounding in charm and invention”

Mark Foehringer's Nutcracker Sweets, Zeum Theater, San Francisco: Allan Ulrich, *SF Chronicle*, 2009

“Simple first rate”

Mark Foehringer's Nutcracker Sweets, Zeum Theater, San Francisco
Renee Renouf, *Ballet Magazine*, UK (www.ballet.co.uk), 2009

“A joyous reinterpretation of the classic Christmas tale”

Mark Foehringer's Nutcracker Sweets, Zeum Theater, San Francisco
Andrea Pflaumer, *San Francisco Examiner*, 11/30/2009

“the cogency of the dance and the extended eloquence of the dancing bear remembering for the future.” *In Memoriam*, Theater Artaud, San Francisco

Allan Ullrich, *SF Examiner*, 1990

“A depth and naturalism rarely seen in dance ... Foehringer is an inventive dance maker with a great company”

Home Season, Yerba Buena Theater, San Francisco, CA

Ann Murphy, *San Francisco Chronicle*, 6/21/2004

“Dancers without borders, sampling forms far and wide / Mark Foehringer mixes up movements at Yerba Buena”

“The work was memorable for tenderness and the consistency of mood the dancers projected with remarkable projection in an outdoor setting, minus lights, audience sight lines shot to pieces and body lines truncated by the temporary stage construction.”

Dancing in the Park 2010, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA

Renee Renouf, *Ballet Magazine* (www.ballet.co.uk), June 2010

“Dancing in the Park 2010: Many diferent company's [sic] and sample dance classes”

New York City

“electrifying ensemble work”

Mixed Rep, Joyce SoHo, New York:

Lisa Jo Sagolla, *Backstage Magazine*, 2000

“Immensely likeable, sleekly classical ballet group”

Mixed Rep, Joyce SoHo, New York:

Jennifer Dunning, *New York Times*, 7/25/2000

“DANCE REVIEW: Orderly Hurtling In Matter Over Mind”

“Foehringer's considerable choreographic skill—and the dancer's gifts—shine clear”

Diadorim, Joyce SoHo, New York;

Tobi Tobias, *Village Voice*, 7/12/2005

“Yet if "Diadorim" might set you sighing, “This is much too much,” it is at least too much of something substantial and not just a lot of nothing.”

Diadorim, Joyce Soho, New York:

Jack Anderson, *New York Times*, 7/4/2005

“Dance Review: Gangs of Brazil and Their Feud, in Realistic Style”

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San Francisco Bay Area, California

“with each successive production, Mark Foehringer’s Western Ballet, the resident company at the Mountain View Center of the Performing Arts, seems to rise to greater heights, until it has clearly become a formidable presence on the San Francisco Bay Area ballet scene.”

Coppelia, Mountain View Center for the Arts (MVPCA), Mountain View, CA
Keth Kreitman, *San Mateo County Times*, 2002

“Western Ballet’s artistic director, Mark Foehringer, must have a magic elixir he sprinkles on his dancers. Whether it be a classic such as *Swan Lake* or choreography of a more recent vintage, the audience is guaranteed inspired and spirited performances.”

Swan Lake, MVCPA, Mountain View
Keith Kreitman, *San Mateo County Times*, 2001

“Artistic Director, Mark Foehringer is a choreographer of uncommon creative talent. He has proven this again and again in production of ‘The Nutcracker’ and his original ‘Rhapsodia.’”

Western Ballet, MVCPA, Mountain View:
Keith Kreitman, *San Mateo County Times*, 2000

“You can venture to professional performances of the San Francisco or San José Cleveland Ballet companies, but I will bet you won’t find a more delightful or satisfying production of Peter Tchaikovsky’s ‘The Nutcracker’ than Western Ballet’s rendition”

Nutcracker, MVCPA, Mountain View: Keith Kreitman,
The Los Altos Town Crier, 1999

“the world premiere of Mark Foehringer’s new ballet (Rhapsodia) was brilliant in concept”

Rhapsodia, MVCPA, Mountain View:
Keith Kreitman, *The Los Altos Town Crier*, 2000

“...His choreography will probably be his most lasting legacy. It is uplifting and thrilling in a uniquely American fashion.”

Four Seasons, MVCPA, Mountain View: Keith Kreitman, *San Mateo County Times*, 2001

“Mark Foehringer, who has excellently stage directed the show, is a splendid ballet choreographer”

La Traviata, Leshner Center, Walnut Creek, CA
Ken Bullock, *Berkeley Daily Planet*, 7/12/2011

“Foehringer's cogent staging of "Traviata" honors the libretto (by Francesco Maria Piave), clarifies the drama and contributes several vibrant dance sequences”

La Traviata, Leshner Center, Walnut Creek
Georgia Rowe, *San José Mercury News*, 7/13/2011

Aruba, Netherlands Antilles

“especially impressive due to the depth of expression”

Passion, Cas di Cultur, Oranjestad, Aruba: Floor Huygen, *Amigoe, Aruba*, 1997

Mark Foehringer Dance Project | SF

See video of company work on our Vimeo channel

Another Time

Choreography: Mark Foehringer

Dancers: Heather Cooper and Brian Fisher

This dance earned Cooper and Fisher an “Izzie” nomination
(Isadora Duncan Dance Award)

<https://vimeo.com/61093506>

Las Vicissitudes

Choreography: Mark Foehringer

Dancers: The Company

<https://vimeo.com/81332923>

Here to There

<https://vimeo.com/81318854>

Mark Foehringer Dance Project | SF

In the past 38 years in the dance industry, **Mark Foehringer** has created a dance organization and made works for dance companies and programs, directed operas and developed collaborative projects with artists and musicians from all walks of life. He is a producer, presenter, director, teacher, choreographer and mentor.

Mark Foehringer is an internationally active choreographer and dance educator who has directed his San Francisco based contemporary dance organization, Mark Foehringer Dance Project|SF (MFDP|SF) since 1996. The Company features some of San Francisco's finest dancers performing Foehringer's kinetically charged and finely crafted choreography. Foehringer choreographed and taught throughout the US and abroad, working with organizations that include: Rambert School of Contemporary Dance in London; Ballet Nacional del Perú; and Cisne Negro Dance Company of Brazil.

Besides being seen in Northern California and the San Francisco Bay Area for the past 16 years, Foehringer's work has been seen in Aruba 1997; New York City in 1999, 2000 and 2005; and Perú in 2007 and 2008 as part of the US Public Diplomacy Program.

Foehringer received two Fulbright Scholar Grants to hold residency in Perú in 2007 and 2012. His work has also been supported by numerous grants, including Zellerbach Family Fund; *In Performance Series* of Fort Mason Center; Arts Council of Silicon Valley; Peninsula Community Foundation; Until There's a Cure; Helen Bing Music Series; Valley Foundation of Silicon Valley; Community Foundation of Silicon Valley; California Arts Council; Grant for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund; Council for Cultural Exchange of Scholars; the U.S. Embassy in Lima, Perú; Center for Central Innovation; and The San Francisco Foundation.

Creating over 60 dance works, Foehringer has collaborated with San Francisco Chamber Orchestra; composer Jack Perla; and musical director and conductor Maestro Michael Morgan. Foehringer has worked with Festival Opera; West Bay Opera; San Francisco Conservatory of Music; and Zeum: San Francisco's Children's Museum, now called Children's Creativity Museum. Foehringer stage directed productions of Britten's "A Midsummer Night's Dream", Gounod's "Faust", Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor," and most recently Verdi's "La Traviata" for Festival Opera of Walnut Creek.

He held the positions of Artistic Director and resident choreographer of Western Ballet in Mountain View, CA for 10 years. During his directorship, he developed a strong classical and contemporary repertoire for Western Ballet as well as brought in some of the most sought after talent in the region and in the country to guest with the company. His current youth company, TDC, is a contemporary dance company for teens based Mountain View, CA focused on preparing dancers ages 12-21 for the next step of the dance lives.

Foehringer grew up and started dancing in São Paulo, Brazil. He went on to train and perform in New York, London and San Francisco. In 1977, he joined Cisne Negro Dance Company and toured throughout Brazil and Europe for 10 years.

MFDP | SF (Mark Foehringer Dance Project|SF)

MFDP | SF Mission Statement

Mark Foehringer Dance Project/SF (MFDP | SF) serves as a catalyst for professional level contemporary dance. We bring together artists and audiences, teachers and students, other organizations and communities in a creative process dedicated to opportunity and new ideas. Enriched by this collaborative process, MFDP | SF seeks to present diverse original dance work to a variety of communities on an annual basis. We focus on three areas of dance; producing and performing the works of Mark Foehringer, presenting works by other choreographers through *Dancing in the Park* and other dance events and dance education through our apprenticeship program and Young Choreographer's Forum.

MFDP | SF Company History

Mark Foehringer Dance Project|SF (MFDP | SF) was founded in 1996 to support and produce the work of choreographer and director, Mark Foehringer. MFDP | SF was incorporated as a 501c3 in 2003.

MFDP | SF presents between 25 and 35 performances per year and has performed at more than 40 venues in the San Francisco Bay Area since 1996. MFDP | SF was presented works in New York City in 1999, 2000, 2005 and 2012; in Aruba in 1997 and in Peru in 2008 and 2012.

The company performs diverse works that range from dance theatre, contemporary ballet to site specific work, opera and dance with themes for families and children. Mark Foehringer's work is imbued with the dynamics of ballet, dance theatre and the dances of Brazil where he grew up. His work uses plays the long lines of the body juxtaposed with quick angular movement and richly layered with an unfailing musical sensibility. Between 8 and 12 dancers are used for most productions.

Educational opportunities offered annually by MFDP | SF include; a forum for young choreographers ages 16- 24 which allows them to explore and expand their creativity while mentored by local notable dance professionals; workshops and classes for professionals and pre professional dance students; dance internships for pre professional dance students; free dance classes during our annual dance festival *Dancing in the Park*.

Some of the outreach programs that MFDP | SF offers include: *Dancing in the Park* which is presented each year during National Dance Week, consisting of a free public showing of works by dance programs, professional choreographers and community dance ensembles. Other outreach activities include; San Francisco library dance related story tellings; Q & A/meet and greet the artists during our Nutcracker season in November and December; *Young Choreographer's Forum*.

Our diverse programming reaches into many different communities. In 2009 in an effort to create a dance work for a family audience, Foehringer created a 50 minutes danced story telling of the Nutcracker performed with live music. "*Mark Foehringer's Nutcracker Sweets*" received rave reviews for its originality and imaginative staging. This production opened in its new home at Fort Mason Center December 1, 2012. It enjoys the sponsorship of San Francisco Examiner, KQED and Hearst Media and is seen by more than 3,000 patrons each year. Our estimated total audiences reached per year is 4,500.