



Steffi Nossen School of Dance Celebrates Its 2021 Annual Spring Gala with a Drive-In Movie Theater Experience

In Partnership with the Greenburgh Nature Center & John Jay Homestead Historical Site, the Gala Highlights the Richness of Westchester County, bringing dance, culture, history and green space all together for these wonderfully unique and innovative performances.

[Purchase Tickets at www.steffinossen.org](http://www.steffinossen.org)

Due to our “new normal” from Covid-19, Steffi Nossen School of Dance (SNSD), the oldest dance education institution in Westchester, has proudly continued to safely expand its platform with the health and welfare of its community members in mind. The celebration of its 84th annual spring gala is no exception to this commitment – as it will be held on Saturday May 22nd at 8pm at the John Jay Homestead Historical Site with a drive-in movie theater experience. Event attendees will safely be able to watch the debut of five pre-recorded dance films from the comfort of their own cars maintaining the practice of social distance and COVID-19 protocols during the hour-long experience.

These five films are an immersive dance experience performed by SNSD’s Master Class and Company dancers filmed on location at the Greenburgh Nature Center. On the big screen, the dancers are positioned throughout the Greenburgh Nature Center in site-specific locations accenting the varied “green space” textures of the center with its woods, ponds and great lawn as a beautiful backdrop. The choreography lends itself to each location emphasizing the center’s expansive natural spaces where the dancers can leap, stretch and fly. Each performance highlights the natural beauty of each site while bringing modern dance back to the purest historical element of its original lineage, the earth and storytelling. Overall, this event is a celebration of these three local organizations coming together in an unexpected yet delightful way during these usual times to celebrate the arts, culture, history and green spaces of Westchester county.

“Our 84th Anniversary Gala celebrates the beautiful connection between people, storytelling, creativity, history and the earth in a powerfully innovative site-specific dance exploration. The collaboration of our dancers, choreographers, community and other cultural non-profit Westchester organizations is a pivotal part of how the Steffi Nossen Foundation has risen from this challenging year. Honoring our highest caliber dancers from our pre-professional program we highlight their dedication, hard work, artistry and love for dance in this uniquely fresh evening of dance films,” said SNSD Executive Director Shelley Grantham.

In these times with most graduation activities eliminated, it is important for SNSD to continue its own rituals for those dancers moving on this year. The SNSD tradition is for each graduate to be highlighted on-stage receiving a yellow rose for their graduation at the annual spring gala. Due to Covid-19 and its new social distance format of the gala, this institutional practice will now be done on location so each student can receive recognition for their achievements.

Tickets are \$100 per car and available to purchase online at steffinossen.org. The fundraising arm of the event are pre-ordered movie themed concession bags created by Westchester's own *Spoonful of Sugar* with popcorn, gummies and brownies for the audience to enjoy at the event. Concessions are available to order when purchasing tickets.

Steffi Nossen School of Dance

We believe that dance is a unique form of education, developing the body, mind, spirit and character. Our classes are offered within several categories: dancing tots, young movers, core program, teen program, adaptive dance and pre-professional. Our supportive, inclusive environment provides a home in which students of all shapes and sizes may take risks and challenge themselves, thereby building confidence and self-esteem. Dancers come together from diverse backgrounds. By becoming actively involved in the creative process from the earliest years, they learn problem-solving skills and self-discipline as well as the value of collaboration and teamwork. Our dancers develop poise, elegance and a high level of technique and artistry.

The Steffi Nossen Method is an age and developmentally appropriate curriculum that teaches modern dance technique in the form of dances or patterns, rather than repetitive exercises. These patterns become more complex and challenging as students' progress—making SNSD ideal for beginners to pre-professionals. This joyous approach encourages individual creativity, develops technique, alignment, self-confidence, discipline and a respect for the artist and the artist in each dancer.

Greenburgh Nature Center

Greenburgh Nature Center is delighted to partner with Steffi Nossen School of Dance for its Spring Dance Gala. The Nature Center encourages our community to explore and connect with the wonders of nature, and through this new partnership, we look forward to seeing the creative interpretations of our mission to “ignite passion, curiosity and respect for the natural world.”

John Jay Homestead Historical Site

John Jay Homestead Historical Site is a 62-acre park; a collection of gardens; a playground for active and contemplative enjoyment; a museum of art and history, a farm with chickens and bees and a seasonal Farm Market, and a resource for scholars, educators, and learners of all ages. The original reason for its prominence was that it was home to Founder John Jay and his family from 1801 through the 1950s; now it embodies that history and has become a dynamic hub of the surrounding community.

###