



A NON-PROFIT SOCIETY

A STAR SOCIETY

Information Package

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Children have immense natural artistic capacities. They are constantly using their imaginations to create songs and dances and to make up stories. A Star Society's programs are dedicated to nurturing these powers of creativity and imagination, leading children on the path to becoming creative and productive adults who bring innovative ideas and methods of problem solving to human relations, industry, technology and the arts, benefitting society and changing the world.

Our programs use the relevant music and dance styles of pop culture to interest and motivate students. Through the medium of dance, students learn values, ethics and professional expectations, which help create understanding and awareness. This increases their self-esteem, builds confidence; boosts social skills and discrimination awareness; and creates community.

A Star Society was created in 2009 to provide financial support to disadvantaged and at risk children and youth so they could participate in our programs: Freestyle Fridays, High School High (HSH), School Hip Hop Dance Workshops & Dance Clubs, and receive Scholarships for ongoing dance education.

Freestyle Fridays is a safe place for youth of all ages, cultures, and schools to gather, collaborate, share ideas, create meaningful works and build community.

High School High (HSH) is a dance competition with the purpose of bringing together over 500 dancers, from secondary schools all over British Columbia and across Canada to share their talent with one another. At HSH, both the dancers and their audience can learn about camaraderie, discipline, attaining a goal, integrity and connecting with others who share the same passion.

School Hip Hop Workshops teach children from Kindergarten to Grade 7 to dance, while enhancing their academic, physical, social and emotional well being. After only 4 days of dance instruction, students are able to perform and excite an audience with their new found skills. A Star Society has been delivering hip hop workshops to over 50,000 students since 2006.

Scholarships A Star Society works closely with Boogaloo Academy to provide scholarships annually to a minimum of 20 students who are in financial need. These students are able to attend one full year of classes.

Dancers from all of our programs create awareness through producing and performing works with meaningful messages. These performances bring the community together multiple times a year, bridging the gap between the ages, cultures and generations. We believe that the art of dance has the power to influence and affect changes in the world. It is through the creation and presentation of meaningful messages and experiences that we influence, educate and guide our students as well as engage and enlighten our audiences. Messages like anti-bullying, that are meaningful to the community, underlie all of our work. We are proud to nurture and encourage creativity and leadership in our students, and inspire, motivate and bring everyone together to share in the passion and joy of the arts. Education in the arts is considered by leading educators to be as important as literacy and numeracy, but it is often the first to be cut. We need your help. Tax receipts are available through our sponsor, Arts in Action Society.

Anita Perel-Panar has been educating children in music, dance and drama for over 30 years. Jheric Hizon is a pioneer in the Vancouver street dance scene and has judged and choreographed competitions and shows across North America including the Vancouver Olympics 2010 Closing Ceremonies. Anita and Jheric share the same philosophies and vision about collaborating, building community, networking locally and internationally, creating awareness (like about antibullying) through producing and performing works with meaningful messages, and raising the next generation of artists.

WHO WE ARE

A Star Society for the Performing & Fine Arts provides financial support for disadvantaged and at-risk children and youth to take these valuable dance programs. Our programs motivate students, increase self-esteem, build confidence and create community. Besides excellent training in dance, students can become empowered to actualize their potential, be socially responsible and create positive change.



PURPOSE

The purpose of A Star Society is to advance education in the performing and fine arts by providing instruction and support to individuals in dance, music, theatre and fine arts; and advance education of the public by raising its awareness of dance, music, theatre and other artistic works through direct presentation.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

VISION

We believe that the art of dance has the power to influence and enact changes in the world. Messages like anti-bullying, that are meaningful to the community, underlie all of our work. It is through the creation and presentation of meaningful messages and experiences that we influence, educate and guide our students as well as engage and enlighten our audiences. We are proud to nurture and encourage creativity and leadership in our students and inspire, motivate and bring everyone together to share in the passion and joy of the arts.

MISSION

A Star Society's mission is to inspire and empower lifelong artistic awareness through actualizing children's natural creative capacities, using the power of music and the art of dance.

Education in the arts is considered by leading educators to be as important as literacy and numeracy, but it is often the first to be cut. **We need your help.** Tax receipts are available through our sponsor, Arts in Action Society.



BIOGRAPHIES



ANITA PEREL-PANAR Anita Perel-Panar has been educating children in music, dance and drama for over 30 years. Her fascination with creativity, imagination, inherent motivation, human nature and actualizing human potential led to completing a Masters of Arts degree with a thesis on The Development of Artistic Awareness. Anita's passion for the arts coupled with her love for teaching led her to establish A Star Studio, A Star Society and Boogaloo Academy. Her dream to integrate the arts where students can develop their creative, expressive, and physical potential is now a reality. She is thrilled to be working with our talented and dedicated teachers who share her vision and join her in providing an excellent education for all our students.



JHERIC HIZON Jheric Hizon is an international hip hop pioneer, master dance teacher and choreographer, who is able to interpret and transform music into meaningful gestures that touch your soul. His genre is hip hop which has a great up-to-date appeal and is easily accessible for all. Besides choreographing the 2010 Vancouver Olympics closing ceremony, Jheric has been teaching thousands of children over the past 25 years.



A Multidisciplinary School for all Ages and Levels offering Dance, Drama, Music, and Arts

After years of collaborative partnership focusing on quality education in the arts and developing A Star Society's Free Style Fridays, School Hip Hop Workshops, Pro D Day for Educators, and High School High programs, Anita Perel-Panar and Jheric Hizon have joined forces to create Boogaloo Academy. Along with their unique talents, expertise, and experience Anita and Jheric bring their strong educational philosophies, values and ethics to establish this state-of-the-art institution. Boogaloo Academy provides space, scholarship classes, and other 'in kind' support for A Star Society's programs and events.

WHAT WE DO

Anita met Jheric when she was interviewing teachers for her studio. They discovered that they have the same philosophies and vision about collaborating, building community, networking, imparting meaningful messages and bringing up the next generation of artists. They also found that they had the same style of teaching.

While Jheric has been engaging children through Hip Hop dance styles, Anita has been engaging children using their natural interests and motivation. They essentially were working with similar concepts!

- a. Children naturally bounce and sway to music.
- b. It is in our human nature to be captivated by stories, imagery, rhythm, and rhymes, communication and semiotics.
- c. Our inherent intrinsic motivation is piqued by what is “current” and “cool.”

Using the ever-changing music and dance styles of pop culture, Jheric and Anita maintain interest and create relevancy. All of our programs, classes and workshops motivate students, increase self-esteem, build confidence and create community. We provide the following opportunities for children to become involved with dance:



BRIEF HISTORY

2006 Jheric and Anita began teaching **School Hip Hop Workshops** in all the school districts. To date over 50,000 students at hundreds of schools have been influenced by these workshops. Teachers report that they use pedagogics from these workshops to recreate full participation and enthusiasm for their other academic subjects.

Professional Development Hip Hop Workshops for Educators became available.

2009 **A Star Society** was created to provide dance education, performance opportunities and financial support for disadvantaged and at risk students. **Set it Off, High School High, Ground Zero, Hip Hop 101, and Freestyle Fridays** programs were created in this year.

2010 Oakridge Anti-Bullying Flash Mob preparing for January 2011 at Oakridge Mall Performance. To date, it has over 1,446,495 views on YouTube.

2011 Oakridge Anti-Bullying Flash Mob Performance <http://youtu.be/MhYyAa0VnyY>.

Practice for the Richmond Anti-Bullying Flash mob performed in early 2012 at Aberdeen Centre.

2012 Richmond Anti-Bullying Flash mob Performance.

A Star Studio was incorporated into partnership to create **Boogaloo Academy**.

Cool Moves Project A Vancouver School District initiative, combining dance instruction and workshops aimed at personal development. The Vancouver Police Foundation funds this initiative.

citizenU Collaborating with The City of Vancouver's Action Research Initiative for helping create safer, stronger and a more inclusive Vancouver by tackling racism, discrimination and bullying head-on, on all fronts and building stronger, more positive relationships among Vancouver's diverse communities.

Heart Mind Body Diverse group of dancers who met through High School High and Freestyle Fridays Programs have formed a performance crew.

Scholarships for ongoing dance education begin.

2013 **Busta Move** project in collaboration with the Community of School director targeting at risk students from their district elementary schools.

Heart Mind Body Performance "**Instructions for a Bad Day**" with BC Poet Laureate **Shane Koyczan** in attendance. A Star Society inspires, motivates, generate awareness and brings communities together.

2014 **Jingle Jam** begins Annual gathering in early December for community to enjoy pot luck party and dance performances.

2015 **Beats Motel** begins Annual gathering in October for community to participate and watch an all-styles dance competition.

2016 **FreeStyle Fridays scholarship program** begins. Over 50 students per School Hip Hop workshop schools participate and attend 4-6 free classes sponsored by A Star Society and Boogaloo Academy.

A Star Society inspires, motivates, generates awareness and brings communities together.

SCHOOL HIP HOP WORKSHOP

SCHOOL HIP HOP WORKSHOPS

Teaching elementary and secondary students to dance, while enhancing their academic, physical, social and emotional well being.



At the end of 4 days of dance instruction, with 7 classes a day and 60 students per class; students are able to perform and excite an audience with their new found skills. This culminating performance teaches students about rehearsal and performance etiquette, and brings together the whole community of parents, teachers, administration, staff and classmates. It is inspiring to see that every student is engaged and captivated. Even those students who have challenges in their academic and social school life are focused, enthusiastic, participating fully and able to complete a project and experience success. Research shows that more instances of experiencing success is highly correlated to an individual's optimism and resilience.



Teachers and principals see how much their students are benefiting in artistic expression, creativity and physical education from our school hip hop workshop that they are recommending on-going dance classes.



Students can have opportunities other than in sports, to experience the benefits of being on a team; while maintaining physical activity, increasing their musicality and sharpening their dance skills. This prepares them for the dance teams when they get to secondary school.

Teachers report that they use pedagogics from A Star Society workshops to recreate full participation and enthusiasm for their other academic subjects.

VIDEOS

Grade 2 Performance <http://youtu.be/Rr7DkssMQrA>

Grade 3 Performance <http://youtu.be/2K90f8TsGfl>

Grade 7 Performance <http://youtu.be/fz7FhNGxuag>

Vancouver School Board Highlight Reel http://youtu.be/dwaLD7Z_KY

School Hip Hop Dance Documentary <http://youtu.be/BFCaN44ZUIY>

A Star Lunch Hour <http://youtu.be/guWY6x4Haco>



FREESTYLE FRIDAYS

A Safe Place to Hone Leadership, Social Responsibility & Create Community

Freestyle Fridays is a program for youth of all ages, cultures, and schools to come together to collaborate, share their creativity and build community.

Studies show that youth are most vulnerable during the after school hours. Freestyle Fridays offers a safe place to go after school on Friday and has grown to include other days of the week. Everyone is welcome to gather, be inspired, and feel a sense of belonging, purpose, and accomplishment.

Freestyle Fridays has now evolved to become leadership groups of teens who get together to share ideas about choreography, create socially responsible works, prepare and plan many events, fundraisers, and performances.

Educators have identified disadvantaged and at-risk students and requested that they continue their School Hip Hop Workshop experience at the studio. We are thankful to Boogaloo Academy for providing the space.

Here they can meet students from other schools, experience being in an inspiring, energized dance environment with sprung floors and mirrors, with people who have the same interests and together discover their own abilities.



A Star Society provides up to 8 free classes. Over the last few years, Freestyle Fridays has had over 3,050 participants, and entertained and enlightened over 3700 audience members.

VIDEOS

FreeStyle Fridays Sponsored Grade 4 to 7 Dance Class <http://youtu.be/5BIXerHssPc>

Pop Can Music Video Cover <http://youtu.be/S1DhC57CvEY>

FreeStyle Fridays - The Collective Teaching <http://youtu.be/aQgqJwSI-s>

The Collective Practice <http://youtu.be/TS3jWtNd0H0>

The Collective Promotional Video http://youtu.be/_qqIsP3B0lo



HIGH SCHOOL HIGH

Bringing Students Together to Share their Passion for Dance

A Star Society's High School High brings together over 20 secondary schools, 36 teams and over 500 dancers from all over British Columbia and as far away as Ontario to share their talent and passion with one another. The students are given the opportunity to showcase their choreography in a professional theatre instead of the usual acoustically challenged gym.



Competitions hold a great attraction in our culture; therefore the art of dance is often displayed through competition. Instead of building relationships with one another and appreciating each other's choreographic works, the dance teams primarily focus on winning. High School High is designed so everyone can participate together in the warm ups, workshops and cool downs. In this way the students have the opportunity to meet each other, and together build community.

Inspiring Elementary School Students

Elementary School Educators recognize High School High as a valuable learning experience. They want their young students to be enlightened with the possibilities of what they can achieve when they get to high school. What better way than to watch the high caliber performances at HSH. They can learn about camaraderie, discipline, integrity, attaining a goal and connecting with others who have the same passion. During the live adjudication they can witness the results of striving for excellence, and the importance of nuances and quality. Many of these dancers plan to meet at Freestyle Fridays, which results in the creation of dance crews made up of students from multiple schools.

Over 8 years, High School High has inspired over 3000 students and over 5000 audience members.

VIDEOS

High School High 2014 Playlist

<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLlfxFoh4GVeJFhBbE-gvGCbifunxk4A2B>

High School High 2013 Playlist

<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLlfxFoh4GVeLOFt5KlqEedeVbPncjAugo>

High School High 2013 Trailer

<http://youtu.be/7LrsQg38P5M>

High School High 2011 Trailer

<http://youtu.be/igj-tnxTeoY>

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR DANCERS

Sponsored by Boogaloo Academy



Boogaloo Academy is a multidisciplinary school for all ages and levels offering Dance, Drama, Music and Arts. Boogaloo Academy's students are taught in an atmosphere of caring and trust, and receive excellent training in both classical and urban styles of dance. Students can choose from Ballet, Jazz, Lyrical, Contemporary, Musical Theatre, to Hip Hop, Break Dance, Popping, Hip Hop Contemporary and Street Jazz. The best teaching techniques supported by strong educational philosophies, values and ethics underlie all the classes offered at this 5000 square foot facility.

A Star Society works closely with Boogaloo Academy to provide multiple scholarships for students in financial need. Boogaloo Academy reaches out to dancers, musicians and artist to empower all to have a voice and shape the culture of dance and art in the lower mainland.



A Star Society, along with Boogaloo Academy, brought together the Vancouver Dance Community to support **DJ Kool Herc**, the founder of Hip Hop.

BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS

Benefits Include:

- Increased hand eye coordination, body awareness, balance, strength, flexibility
- Increased concentration, focus, memory, listening skills, spatial awareness, attention to detail
- Improved creativity, musicality and literacy skills
- Enhanced group synergy, team building and team dynamics (Learn to work, count on and trust one another and understand that each one is an important element to the success of the whole group)
- Addressing social needs - Community building: Providing social support, feelings of belonging
- Leadership development
- Self-esteem and confidence building; identity-affirmation: learning to believe in themselves
- Anti-bullying awareness
- Anti-discrimination awareness
- Mentorship - In our programs and classes, youth are exposed to exemplary mentors who are role models of popular culture, who can motivate and influence them to make good choices, have strong values and lead healthy lifestyles.

Our teachers are sought after choreographers and recipients of prestigious world-class awards. They impart values of good work ethics and commitment, striving for excellence, working together, supporting and accepting one another.

Research shows that programs such as ours support the development of executive functions in children and youth. These critical, core skills include: creativity, cognitive flexibility, discipline, inhibitory self-control and working memory. Well developed executive functions are correlated to school success, job success, marital harmony and success in life. (Diamond,2010).

Michigan State University researchers' study draws a strong line between creative arts and scientific acumen. 93% of the students who graduated from science, technology, engineering and math programs have music or artistic training at some point in their lives. These graduates reported applying skills such as imagination and intuition to solve complex technological problems in their careers.

Students can become productive, creative and sensitive, well-balanced adults who can bring innovative ideas and methods of problem solving to human relations, industry, technology and the arts; benefitting society and changing the world.

Social Responsibility and Creating Communities Through Our Programs

Our programs are interrelated. Participants from our different programs meet; establish friendships and form dance crews across the many school districts. Together as guest performers, they enlighten audiences at High School High, School Hip Hop Workshop performances, studio performances, community events and festivals. Inherent to each of these programs are the performances that bring the community together multiple times a year, bridging the gap between the ages, cultures and generations.

ANTI-BULLYING

It is the students from **High School High** and **FreeStyle Fridays** who danced in the anti-bullying flash mobs and anti-bullying performances obtaining a profound understanding of these messages while bringing awareness to their audience.



One of groups, **Heart Mind Body** dance crew, created, choreographed, and performed their own anti-bullying message to the poem by Canada's world-renowned poet **Shane Koyczan**. This has been performed many times, including along with Shane Koyczan, to audiences of over 500. Heart Mind Body have been invited to perform many times, from **TEDxKids@BC's** audience of 400 people with hundreds of YouTube views to the Dalai Lama Centre conference of 550 people. The Dalai Lama Centre requested permission to film the HMB's rehearsal process and performance of "Instructions for a Bad Day." This film has been posted on YouTube.



The two anti-bullying flash mobs choreographed by A Star Society in Vancouver and Richmond continue to inspire the viewers. The Vancouver anti-bullying flash mob directed by Anita Perel-Panar and choreographed by Jheric Hizon was the top favourite most discussed YouTube Video in Canada, influencing and affecting over 1.4 million viewers worldwide.



Anti-bullying Awareness

Through the medium of dance, students learn values, ethics and professional expectations, which help create understanding and awareness. Dance teaches healthy risk taking, physical and emotional growth. It encourages and teaches students the benefits of positively engaging with others and their community. As the students bond with each other, they organically understand one another facilitating the prevention of bullying and discrimination. Here is proof of the saying "When you fire together, you wire together."

"What a positive impact the dance program is having on our students and in such a relatively short time! Last week the Grade 4/5 teachers informed me that the girls are getting along much better and seem happier. This is good news because a few months ago we had some significant bullying going on between the girls in the class. I can also tell that the students seem more positive and confident."

~ **Lani Morden**, Principal of Graham Bruce Elementary & Collingwood Neighbourhood School

VIDEOS

Oakridge Anti-bullying Flash Mob <http://youtu.be/MhYyAa0VnyY>

Aberdeen Centre Anti-bullying Flash Mob <http://youtu.be/GFoYIezk3Po>

Instructions for a Bad day <http://youtu.be/bY50GGzs0qg>

TEDxKids@BC <http://youtu.be/isy58pZvJiQ>

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

“Creativity is as important as literacy and numeracy. We must see its connections to other parts of the curriculum and devote ourselves to developing these powers of imagination and creativity as a strategic priority.”

~ Sir Ken Robinson

Children are always using their imaginations, singing, dancing and making up stories. They have immense natural artistic capacities of innovation, creative thinking, the ability to see connections and think in metaphors and analogies.



More often than not, as they get older this ability dwindles and fades. Our dream is for everyone to have the opportunity to learn how to access their artistic abilities, and maintain it as part of their identities as they grow into adulthood. In a study that followed 1500 children between the ages of 3-5, George Land and Beth Jarman reported that 98% of the children scored at the genius level at divergent thinking, which is the fundamental part of every creative process. Only 2% of the 200,000 adults who were given the same test, scored at the genius level. Arts education is often the first to be cut.

How You Can Help

A Star Society is seeking funding for scholarships to provide dance education for disadvantaged and at-risk children and youth, as well as funding for our three unique programs: Freestyle Fridays, High School High (HSH), School Hip Hop Dance Workshops. Tax receipts are issued immediately through Arts in Action Society. Your support is vital for enriching the lives of children and youth who would otherwise not receive the profound benefits of education in the arts.



Help us change the future for these children:

Donate online by e-transfer to astarsociety@gmail.com (Question: What? Answer: Donation); or send a cheque to: #101- 8410 Ontario Street, Vancouver BC, V5X 3E8

For more information please contact us at **604.805.0558** or email us at astarsociety@gmail.com.

TESTIMONIALS

A BIG THANK YOU to you and Jheric for the amazing job you did with the kids during their week of hip hop! We were all so impressed with how awesome each group's hip hop dance performance was and it just got better and better! Wow... that's incredible you were able to achieve that in 4 days! Big hugs to you and thank you again for all of your time, hard work and positive energy! The kids LOVED it and so did all the parents and staff :) Wishing you all the best.

~ **Janey Lee**, *Kindergarten Teacher, Thunderbird Elementary, Vancouver*

Not only does A Star Society's wonderful program help develop physical skills and abilities, but the program also emphasizes positive attitudes, encouragement of others, and hard work and sportsmanship. The staff was fantastic with our students, and certainly modeled enthusiasm and care for the students. This program provides an incredible opportunity for students to excel and especially those students who may not excel in other sports.

~ **Henry Peters**, *Principal, Lloyd George Elementary School*

My current research explores the meaning-making processes of youth dancers, examining how they construct and invest their identities into the art that they create. In addition, I look at how these processes correspond to and support traditional print literacy skills and success in mainstream schooling. I am finding that when youth are supported to express themselves through their preferred kinesthetic modality, that success is mirrored in increased engagement in learning overall. A Star offers our students the chance to dance that will support them in their overall academic, emotional, and social growth.

~ **Kim Meredith**, *PhD Candidate UBC Department of Language and Literacy Education*

Instruction was excellent, engaging and fun. Classes were entirely geared to each grade level, by Anita's (Perel-Panar) talented and creative teacher. Now Weeks later, the kids are still dancing every chance they get!

~ **Mr. Beach**, *University Hill Elementary School, Principal*

The Emphasis of the program has been on rhythm and movement set to music and fulfills many curricular outcomes. And the response has been overwhelmingly positive!

~ **Richard Zerbe**, *Jules Quesnel Elementary School, Principal*

From April 8th to 17th all students and staff were dancing with local and internationally acclaimed dance artist, Jheric Hizon. Jheric along with Anita Perel-Panar led daily dance sessions for us all. Oh the fun we had! It was amazing to see how fast and well students learned the choreographed steps. Students, through their dancing, demonstrated great courage, imagination, curiosity, self-awareness, perseverance, adaptability and passion. In a very short time we had eight quite polished numbers for our two performances, which were held on Wednesday, April 17th. It was nice to see that so many parents were able to attend. There was great joy and excitement all day. There is something about dancing that just keeps you smiling and laughing! We did plenty of both!

~ **School Principal**

I just wanted to tell you how much the kids love the hip hop classes that were recently offered at University Hill. Since they started, my daughter and her grade one friends have been hip hopping all the way from the school bus! We attended a birthday party, and hip hop dancing was the feature activity for all the kids, who ranged in age up to grade five. So thank you!

~ Parent Letter

Anita and Jheric were fantastic with our students – they were not only professional in their instruction and choreography, but they also displayed enthusiasm, warmth, and had fun when interacting with our kids. The overall environment created by A Star is very healthy and positive. By the end of the week, when we were ready to perform their numbers, I barely had to offer any guidance to many of these kids, which is a testament to the high level of instruction being offered. The hip hop performance that A Star organized was a huge success. I was totally overwhelmed by how many family members and friends came to our school to see this performance. It made me quite emotional because events like this have a massive and positive impact on our community. I guarantee you that the performance will be talked about for quite some time. Everyone that was there offered comments of gratitude, appreciation, and spoke of how truly impressed they were of the performance. Parents were so proud of their kids, and some were frankly amazed at what their child was capable of. For many, it filled their hearts with happiness. Even some of our staff members who were not there for any of the classes, were blown away! It truly was a rewarding experience.

~ Ken Costea, PE Instructor, Thunderbird Elementary