

*Center Dance Ensemble*

*Presents*

# *The Attic*

*"... ideals, dreams, and cherished hopes rise within us only to meet the horrible truth and be shattered ... yet in spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart."*



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## About Center Dance

Center Dance Ensemble was founded in 1988 with the dual mission of creating original works of the highest artistic quality and designing arts education opportunities and programs throughout the valley. As the resident modern dance company at the Herberger Theater Center, CDE presents four major events throughout the season on Center Stage and Stage West. CDE partners with the Herberger in producing several special opportunities for students, including the Young Artist Competition and the Wolf Trap Field Trips.

Dances are created especially for CDE by Frances Smith Cohen, Artistic Director, and by international and national guest choreographers. Major works performed by the company include **“Slaughter on Tenth Avenue”** and **“Light”**, **“First Movement/Last Concerto”** and **“Yellow Shark”** (by Donald Dadey), **“Snow Queen”**, **“Hamlet the Ballet”**, **“The Attic”**, and **“La Llorona”** (by Frances Smith Cohen). Toronto based choreographer Michael Montanaro and Vancouver based choreographer Robyn Allen have also set pieces on the company.

### Wolf Trap

Wolf Trap Early Learning Through the Arts brings performing artists into Head Start classrooms to enhance the educational advancement of the children and to train parents and teachers in the use of the performing arts as a teaching tool through the disciplines of drama, music, and movement. A unique and innovative program addressing the specific learning styles of pre-school children, this is the only performing arts education program in Arizona specifically designed for early childhood education. It provides an alternative experience by combining creativity and learning through music, puppetry, storytelling and dance, and has proven to be an effective method for teaching pre-school children.

Center Dance Ensemble’s Artistic Director Frances Smith Cohen serves as Regional Director of the Wolf Trap Program, guiding the Seven Week Artist Residency Program, which brings various artists to the classroom twice per week for sessions with three-to-five year old children and their teachers.

At the end of the seven weeks, the class and their families are invited on a field trip to the Herberger. Here they experience live performances by CDE, musicians, and professional storytellers. Over the course of the school year, more than 750 children participate in the Wolf Trap Field Trips.

# Modern Dance- It's Mystery, It's Magic

Modern Dance is a “free form of dance created to break away from the formal and structured world of ballet with no restrictions on the theme, music, or emotional intent of the movement.” “Good” modern dance creates an environment using its vocabulary movements that communicate the choreographer’s visions. It turns from a vision to an art form when it has a beginning, middle, and an end. It is not an accidental happening.

While Ballet vocabulary is based on pre-described steps and positions, the vocabulary of a Modern dancer is created by each individual choreographer. Each choreographer uses words that depict the movements of his or her own body movements. This “personal vocabulary” is what makes each work created by one choreographer different from another.

Early modern pieces used political, social, as well as emotional themes and experiences to create new movement. Each helped immensely to define and create the artistic path that modern dance follows today. The list below is directly taken from “The Early Modern Dance” [www.pitt.edu](http://www.pitt.edu) under the history of Modern Dance.

## **Loie Fuller (1862-1928)**

1. Fuller was an inventor and stage craft innovator who held many patents for stage lighting, including the first chemical mixes for gels and slides and the first use of luminescent salts to create lighting effects. She was also an early innovator in lighting design, and was the first to mix colors and explore new angles. Fuller was well respected in the French scientific community, where she was a close personal friend of Marie Curie and a member of the French Astronomical Society.
2. Fuller had a school and a company beginning in 1908, where she taught natural movement and improvisational techniques. She did not, however, teach them her lighting and costuming "tricks."
3. Fuller was the first ex-patriot American dancer, and introduced Isadora Duncan to Parisian audiences.

## **Isadora Duncan (1877-1927)**

1. Duncan was the first American dancer to develop and label a concept of natural breathing, which she identified with the ebb and flow of ocean waves.
2. Duncan was the first American dancer to define movement based on natural and spiritual laws rather than on formal considerations of geometric space.
3. Duncan was the first American dancer to rigorously compare dance to the other arts, defending it as a primary art form worthy of "high art" status.
4. Duncan was the first American dancer to develop a philosophy of the dance.
5. Duncan was the first American dancer to deemphasize scenery and costumes in favor of a simple stage setting and simple costumes. By doing this, Duncan suggested that watching a dancer dance was enough.

### **Ruth St. Denis (1879-1968)**

1. Ruth St. Denis was the first American dancer to incorporate the traditions and practices of the vaudeville stage into the world of serious concert dance.
2. Her solo "translations" were unique combinations of dramatic mise en scene and contemporary dance steps that successfully combined theatrical and concert dance traditions.

### **Martha Graham (1894-1991)**

1. Graham's movement system and her theory of contraction and release are central to the development of modern dance in the United States.
2. Graham was the first modern dance choreographer to fully use collaborations with other modern artists to create her dance theatre masterpieces. Her collaboration with Isamu Noguchi and Aaron Copland in "Appalachian Spring," for example, remains one of the dance's great masterpieces.

### **Doris Humphrey (1895-1958)**

1. Humphrey's codification of "Fall and Recovery" and the development of a movement vocabulary based on its rhythms stands today as an important tradition in the modern dance family tree.
2. Humphrey was responsible for the creation of the first concrete, fully articulated choreographic method for modern dance-makers. Humphrey's 1958 book, *The Art of Making Dances*, was the first book of its kind, and remains an important document for choreographers and dancers.
3. Humphrey pioneered the first full use of the ensemble as opposed to the solo figure in concert dancing. She was the first modern dancer to analyze and write about the choreographic process, thus separating the dancer from the dance.

Today's modern choreographers such as Paul Taylor, Merce Cunningham, Twyla Tharp, and Mark Morris struggle to bring audiences into their space- the stage, and communicate their ideas through their movement techniques. They continue the journey of artistic freedom that the modern pioneers began over 100 years ago. It is interesting to note that Taylor and Cunningham danced in Martha Graham's company, and Tharp danced in Taylor's. They learned their teacher's techniques and then either expanded, molded, or reinvented the movement to make it their own. They now have their own vocabulary to pass on to the next generation of dancers. These differences will create the magic and the mystery of today and tomorrow.

## Study Guide- “The Attic”

It is estimated that 6 million Jewish and other socially and politically “undesirable” people lost their lives in the Holocaust between the years 1934 and 1945. Whether they died in the gas chambers, the ghettos, on death marches, by starvation, disease, or in work camps from exhaustion, it makes little difference. The importance is that 6 million human beings were destroyed. These victims were unable to live out their natural lives, to become what they could have been, to choose their own destinies. The people who died in the Holocaust were not the only victims of this horrific injustice of humanity.

The survivors were called “the lucky ones,” but each day since their liberation they fight the demons of their past. In books such as “Remembering: Voices of the Holocaust” by Lyn Smith, and the “Daughters of Absence” by Mindy Weisel, we are able to look through the eyes of survivors and see not only their own pain, but how their pain affected their families. We will never know all the stories of those who perished in the Holocaust, but we are lucky to have *The Diary of a Young Girl* to give us a glimpse of what it was like in “hiding.”



Anne Frank's diary has become a modern classic. It stands alone as a moving testimony of a young girl whose world collapsed around her in the nightmare of Hitler's Final Solution. Friends of the Franks found the diary in the annex after the Gestapo plundered it. Published in the United States in 1952, *The Diary of a Young Girl* has been translated from the Dutch into fifty languages and millions of people the world over continue to respond to her extraordinary voice. The introduction written by Eleanor Roosevelt states “it is one of the wisest and most moving commentaries on war and its impact on human beings that I have ever read. Anne’s diary is an appropriate monument to her fine spirit and to the spirits of those who have worked and are working still for peace.” In 1957 the mayor of Amsterdam spoke of Anne as a "realistic symbol" who made the incomprehensible story of the Second World War comprehensible. She brought abstract statistics down to a human level.

It is impossible to rewrite history, but if we heed the following quote from Anne, hopefully it will never be repeated. **“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”**


Frances Cohen, artistic director of Center Dance Ensemble, believes educating students through dance is one way of improving the world by generating understanding through movement. Through the power of dance, selected passages from Anne’s diary, and accompanied by the music of Franz Schubert’s *Piano Trio in E flat, OP 100* (written in 1827, and published shortly before his death in 1827) and Dmitri Shostakovich’s *Piano trio in E minor No. 2 Op 67* (written in 1944 in memory of his best friends’ death) “The Attic” explores both external as well as internal actions and interactions of the eight cohabitants of the “Secret Annex”: the Frank family (Otto, Edith, Anne, and Margo), the Van Pel’s referred to as the Van Daan’s in the Diary (Hermann, Auguste and Peter), and Fritz Pfeffer (referred to as Dr. Dussel in the Diary).

The following timeline is from [www.annefrank.com/who-is-anne-frank/timeline](http://www.annefrank.com/who-is-anne-frank/timeline)


**1889 - 1919**

	Frank Family	Nazi Movement
<b>1889</b>	May 12 – Otto Frank (Anne's father), is born in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.	April 20– Adolph Hitler is born in Austria.
<b>1900</b>	January 16 – Edith Hollander (Anne's mother), is born in Aachen, Germany.	
<b>1914-1918</b>	Otto Frank serves in German Army during WWI as a lieutenant.	Adolf Hitler also serves from 1914-1920, as a Corporal.
<b>1918</b>	Otto Frank 	November 11 - The Armistice which ends World War I is signed.  June 23 - Germany accepts the Versailles Treaty.
<b>1919</b>	Edith Hollander 	September 12 - Hitler joins the National Socialist German Workers' party.

**1920 - 1932**

	Frank Family	Nazi Movement
<b>1923</b>		January – The National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei), known as the Nazi Party, holds its first rally in Munich.
<b>1925</b>	May 12 - Otto Frank and Edith Hollander are married in Aachen, Germany.	July 18 - Mein Kampf, Hitler's autobiography and anti-Semitic plan, is published.
<b>1926</b>	February 16 - The Franks' first daughter, Margot, is born in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.	
<b>1929</b>	June 12 - The Franks' second daughter, Anneliese Marie or Anne, is born in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.	
<b>1932</b>	Anne and Margot 	July 31 - The Nazis receive 37.3 percent of the vote and are asked to form a coalition government.

## 1933 - 1939

Frank Family	Nazi Movement
<p><b>1933</b></p> <p>Summer - The Franks decide that the family must move to the Netherlands because of increasing tensions in Germany. Edith, Margot and Anne Frank join Grandmother Hollander in Aachen. Otto Frank travels to Holland.</p> <p>September 15 - Otto Frank establishes his firm Opekta Werke in Amsterdam.</p> <p>October - Alice Frank-Stern, Anne's paternal grandmother, moves to Basel in Switzerland.</p> <p>December 5 - Edith and Margot Frank move to Holland.</p>	<p>January 30 - Hitler is appointed Chancellor of Germany.</p> <p>February - Freedom of speech and assembly is suspended by the Nazi government.</p> <p>March - The Gestapo, or Secret State Police, is established. Dachau, the main concentration camp for political prisoners, is built.</p> <p>April 1 - The Nazis declare a boycott of Jewish businesses and medical and legal practices. A law excluding non-Aryans removes Jews from government and teaching positions.</p> <p>May 10 - Books by Jews, political enemies of the Nazi state, and other 'undesirables' are burned in huge rallies throughout Germany.</p> <p>July 14 - Hitler bans all political parties except for the Nazi Party.</p> 
<p><b>1934</b></p> <p>February - Anne Frank joins her family in Holland. Anne Frank attends the kindergarten of the Montessori School.</p>	<p>January 1 - Forced sterilization of the racially 'inferior', primarily Gypsies and African-Germans, and the 'unfit', the mentally and physically disabled, begins.</p>
<p><b>1935</b></p>	<p>September - The Nuremberg Laws are passed defining Jews as non-citizens and making mixed Aryan and Jewish marriage illegal.</p>
<p><b>1936</b></p>	<p>March 7 - Germans march into the Rhineland, violating the Versailles Treaty.</p> <p>Summer - Olympic games are held in Berlin, Germany. The United States participates.</p>
<p><b>1937</b></p> <p>Summer - The van Pels family flees from Osnabruck to Holland.</p>	
<p><b>1938</b></p> <p>December 8 - Fritz Pfeffer flees Germany and arrives in Holland.</p>	<p>March 12 - Germany annexes Austria</p> <p>November 9, 10 - Kristallnacht. Jewish businesses and synagogues are looted and destroyed in Germany and in Austria by order of the strike.</p>
<p><b>1939</b></p> <p>March - Grandmother Hollander comes to live with the Frank family</p>	<p>March 15 - Germany occupies Czechoslovakia</p>

1940 - 1945

Frank Family	Nazi Movement
<p><b>1940</b></p> <p>December 1 - Otto Frank's company moves into the premises at number 263 Prinsengracht.</p>	<p>April, May - Germany invades Denmark and Norway, the Netherlands, France, Belgium, and Luxembourg.</p>
<p><b>1941</b></p> <p>May 8 - Opekta-Werke changes its name to Messrs. Gies &amp; Company.</p> <p>Summer - Anne and Margot attend the Jewish School Amsterdam.</p>	<p>July 31 - Hermann Goering authorizes Reinhard Heydrich to find a 'Final Solution' to the Jewish question.</p> <p>December 11 - Germany declares war on the United States.</p>
<p><b>1942</b></p> <p>January - Death of Grandmother Hollander.</p> <p>June 12 - Anne receives a diary for her thirteenth birthday.</p>	<p>January 20 - Heydrich, at the Wannsee Conference, mobilizes Nazi bureaucratic support for a 'Final Solution'.</p> <p>February, March, April - Auschwitz, Belzec and Sobibor all become fully operational death camps.</p>
<p>July 5 - Margot Frank, 16, receives a call-up notice to report for deportation to a labor camp. The family goes into hiding the next day.</p> <p>July 6 - The Frank family leaves their home forever and moves into the 'Secret Annex'.</p> <p>July 13 - The van Pels family, another Jewish family originally from Germany, joins the Frank family in hiding.</p> <p>November 16 - Fritz Pfeffer, the eighth and final resident of the Secret Annex, joins the Frank and van Pels families.</p>	
<p><b>1943</b></p>	<p>February 2 - The encircled German Sixth Army surrenders to Soviet forces at Stalingrad, Russia. The tide of the war begins to turn against Germany.</p> <p>June - SS leader Heinrich Himmler orders the complete liquidation of all Jewish ghettos in the Soviet Union and Poland.</p>



## 1944 - 1945

### Frank Family

### Nazi Movement

1944

August 4 - The residents of the Secret Annex are betrayed and arrested. They are taken to a police station in Amsterdam.

August 8 - They are all taken to the transit camp at Westerbork.

September 3 - The eight prisoners are transported in a sealed cattle car to Auschwitz, on the last transport ever to leave Westerbork. Hermann van Pels is gassed on September 6, 1944.

October 6 - Anne and Margot Frank are sent to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in Germany.

December 20 - Fritz Pfeffer dies in Neuengame.

1945

January 26 - Edith Frank dies at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

January 27 - Otto Frank is liberated from Auschwitz by the Russian Army. He is taken first to Odessa and then to France before he is allowed to make his way back to Amsterdam.

February or March - Anne and Margot Frank die at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp within days of each other.

Spring - Mrs. van Pels dies in Theresienstadt concentration camp in Czechoslovakia.

May - Peter van Pels dies in Mauthausen.

June 3 - Otto Frank arrives in Amsterdam, where he is reunited with Miep and Jan Gies. He concentrates on finding the whereabouts of Anne and Margot.

October 24 - Otto Frank receives a letter telling him that his daughters died at Bergen-Belsen

June 6 - D Day. The Allies invade Western Europe.

November 26 - To hide Nazi war crimes, the demolition of the crematoria at Auschwitz begins.

April 30 - Adolf Hitler commits suicide.

May 7 - Germany surrenders, and the war ends in Europe.

November - The Nuremberg Trials of Nazi war criminals begin.

## 1946 - today

### Frank Family

- 1946** April 3 - An article in Het Parool discusses Anne's diary.
- 1947** Summer - 1,500 copies of Anne's diary are published by Contact Publishers in Amsterdam.
- 1951** The diary is translated into English.
- 1954** The Dutch Red Cross officially declares that Anne and Margot died at Bergen-Belsen in 1945.
- 1955** The play based on The Diary of Anne Frank opens on Broadway
- 1960** May - The Anne Frank House opens.
- 1980** August 19 - Otto Frank dies in Birsfelden, Switzerland. He is 91.
- 1988** Rescuer Miep Gies writes Anne Frank Remembered.
- 1995** The 'Definitive Edition' of the Diary is published in the United States.
- 1997** A new adaptation of The Diary of Anne Frank opens on Broadway.

# Vocabulary Words

**Concentration Camp-** Guarded enclosures set up by the Nazi government to confine special categories of people (following their roundup or mass arrest without a trial) who are then subject to a range of extremely poor living conditions.

**Death Camps-** Camps built by Nazi Germany during the Second World War in which millions of Jews and others were gassed, burned, starved, shot, or worked to death.

**Death Marches-** Forced march of prisoners of war in which there is limited to water, food, or rest. People are often killed during the march, due to their inability to walk any further.

**Degradation-** Humiliation, disgrace, dishonor. Verbally or physically abused.

**Ghetto-** A zone found in most European cities during the Nazi reign in which Jews were required to live in poor conditions.

**Holocaust-** Meaning “widespread destruction”. The systematic murder of Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe from 1933-1945, in which 6 million Jews, Gypsies, and other “undesirables” were tortured, executed, experimented on, or starved to death in ghettos and concentration camps.

**Horrific-** Something which causes fear. A horrible event.

**Kitty-** The name Anne Frank chose for her diary.

**Undesirable-** Someone or something that is unwanted.

## Suggested Readings and Websites

**The Diary of a Young Girl** by Anne Frank

**Anne Frank- A Hidden Life** by Mirjam Pressler

**Night** by Ellie Wiesel

[www.annefrank.com](http://www.annefrank.com)

[www.holocaustcenterpgh.net](http://www.holocaustcenterpgh.net)

[www.remember.org/educate](http://www.remember.org/educate)

[www.annefrank.org](http://www.annefrank.org)

## Writing Assignment

1. Write a paragraph describing the worst thing that has happened to you in life so far.

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2. How do you think your life would be different had it never happened?

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# Movement Study

Talk to your students about confinement, in terms of people hiding, and also in the camps having limited space in which to move. Explain that in both cases people needed to be quiet. In hiding they were afraid of being found, and in camps they tried to become “invisible” so they would not be singled out. In both cases it was a way to keep them “safe for the moment.”

1. Day One- Ask the students to move or dance through a large area of the room. They must remain silent (no talking, laughing, etc) and move with as little foot noise as possible. Have them do this for 2-3 minutes.
2. Day Two- Repeat the above but cut down the area that they can use, and increase the time to 3-4 minutes.
3. Day Three- Decrease the area again and increase the time to 4-5 minutes.
4. Day Four- Decrease the space again (by now it should be difficult to move around) and increase the time to 5-6 minutes.
5. Day Five- Decrease the space to a point that it is almost impossible to not move as a group, and increase the time to 6-7 minutes.

Discuss how when a group or community works as one in close quarters, it is much easier to get a job done, and live in harmony than when they are all headed somewhere by themselves.

Did it get easier each day because it became a normal routine?

Was it harder to stay quiet in a small space, or a large space?

Talk about how they felt being so close together. Was it uncomfortable? Talk about personal space.

## Identity Map

Make copies of the map and pass out to students.

In the heart have children write the 3 most important things that determine who they are (something they are good at, a special quality like kindness, or the ability to make people laugh).

Next have them fill in the rectangles with things we can tell about them by looking at them today (eye color, hair color, shirt, etc.) Have them circle one word in one of the rectangles. This should be the thing that they think classmates will notice first about them.

Lastly, have them fill in the ovals with things people wouldn't know about them by just looking at them (favorite color, band, book, favorite pet).

Once they have finished ask them to compare the circled word in the rectangle. Did anyone have the same word? Now have them compare ovals with a partner.

It's fun to learn more about each other, and find out how many things we all have in common.