

# The Washington Post

THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2003

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## ALEXANDRIA ARLINGTON ARTS

### Live!

- **What:** Jane Franklin Dance Company
- **When:** 11 a.m. today
- **Where:** Lee Center, Alexandria

It's a commonly used phrase—"making art more accessible to general audiences"—but the local dance company known as Jane Franklin Dance puts its best foot forward, literally, to do so. For the past three years, the group has presented its "Concert for Community" series during daytime performances in Arlington to meet the needs of seniors and others who are unable to attend nighttime activities and to entice summer camp youth groups, too. The company recently expanded the program and will be holding its first such performance in Alexandria this morning. (If you can't make today's show, read on. There's another chance to see the group coming soon.)

Jane Franklin Dance has been praised for its artistic and friendly mix of dance, theater and humor, exploring everyday experiences with live music, poetry and original art in addition to movement. At the group's Web site,

[www.janefranklin.com](http://www.janefranklin.com), the stylish photography displays the company's skillful moves, while the humor shines through in a giddy appeal for funds (\$20 makes you a Toe Jammer, \$75 a Thigh Master, etc.) and a thoughtful manifesto: "Jane Franklin Dance celebrates the splendid, scatter-brained, thoughtful and sublime moments of life."

Artful and playful, the company is also known for its programs and collaborations with artists from other disciplines and with school groups. One recently completed workshop, a collaboration with Drew Elementary School students, resulted in "Sand in My Shoes," which explored life science and four outdoor environments surrounding the school—the high rises and crosswalks of Crystal City, the orchards surrounding Charlottesville, the mountains near Luray and recreational Northern Neck. Segments from "Sand in My Shoes" will make up the program at this morning's show.

And if you happen to be reading this later in the day, don't despair.

Jane Franklin Dance will also perform at Lubber Run Amphitheatre at 8:30 p.m. July 5, in a free show as part of Arlington's "Arts al Fresco" summer series. Because it is being performed in the open air, the program will include varied bits of the Jane Franklin Dance repertory inspired by outdoor locations.



BY RAY GNEWEK

Alex Short and Nicole Pouliot of Jane Franklin Dance, which mixes dance, theater and humor.

— Marianne Meyer

The Lee Center Auditorium is located at 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for those 15 and under. For more information, call 703-298-3235, or visit

[www.janefranklin.com](http://www.janefranklin.com). For information about Arlington Arts al Fresco, call 703-228-1850.

Be a patron of the arts. Send a "Live!" suggestion to [marianнемeyer@comcast.net](mailto:marianнемeyer@comcast.net).