



Meet a #ThodosAlumni

Name: Sharon Kung

Current city: San Francisco, Dancing with Dance Theatre of San Francisco, Oakland Ballet Company and Kambara+Dancers

When did you dance for TDC? August 2008 – May 2011

What are three words that describe your experience with TDC? Artistic, athletic, nurturing

What is your favorite TDC memory? Our tour to Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in 2010. At Thodos, we were all understudies for multiple roles in pieces. One of the dancers got injured two hours before we were scheduled to perform at "Inside/Out" at Jacob's Pillow. Artistic Director Melissa Thodos spoke with me on the side and asked if I was ready to go on stage for the dancer. Given I never ran the part during rehearsal, but had physically rehearsed the steps on my own, I hesitated but responded with, "Yes." Melissa had faith in me and before I knew it, I was on stage rehearsing the part. This performance was also very special, because I felt the comrade within the company. I was fairly young, and they cheered me on while I was dancing off the nerves. During my last season at Thodos, I was very lucky to dance alongside artists that supported one another physically, mentally and emotionally.

Describe how your time at TDC made a difference in your career/life. As most of the former and current Thodos dancers know, the repertoire is very athletic. Till this day, some of the hardest dancing does not surpass the intense endurance, stamina and cardiovascular activity I encountered at Thodos! So I thank the Company for pushing my physical capacity! Educational outreach programs are a priority at Thodos, and I am very thankful that during my seasons with the Company, the program helped me develop skills as an artist and educator. Currently, I also teach dance and mentor pre-professional dancers, and the interpersonal and communication skills I developed through the Company's program assisted me in becoming a better educator for the next generation of dancers.

Please feel free to add any additional anecdotes or memories here. I still remember the first day I stepped into the studios as a college senior for my Thodos audition in 2008. I've danced professionally for nearly a decade, and I still look back at my experience with Thodos. Not only were we encouraged to be exceptional dancers, we were also encouraged to develop skills as a choreographer and educator. Not many companies offer dancers opportunities to branch out from "performing". Thank you for hiring me and allowing me to learn, make mistakes, be challenged, be inspired, and grow!



THEN: Sharon Kung was featured on the poster for *New Dances 2010*.



NOW: Sharon Kung continues her dancing career in San Francisco.