



Each year one dancer is recognized with the Leslie Swaha Award. This award was created in 2012 as a tribute to our dear friend who left us too soon. Leslie was a staunch supporter of education in the arts and was a talented choreographer and director. She could be found in the audience of virtually every arts performance in the entire community, usually accompanied by her beloved husband Scott Lewis. Scott helped to establish the fund which supports the longevity of this award. The acknowledgement and dedication of this award follows. The award announcement culminates each annual Student Demonstration.

THE OUTSTANDING DANCER WHOSE PERFORMANCE AND DEDICATION BEST EXHIBITS THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE WITH INTEGRITY. THIS WINNER EPITOMIZES GREAT ABILITY COMBINED WITH DILIGENCE, PERSEVERANCE AND HARD WORK WHILE MAINTAINING A POSITIVE DISPOSITION.

∞ A LIFE OF ACHIEVEMENT ∞

LESLIE LIBBY SWAHA WAS THE FOUNDER AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF SANTA CRUZ-BASED CRASH, BURN AND DIE DANCE COMPANY. SHE STUDIED DANCE FOR MOST OF HER LIFE, STARTING AT THE SAN FRANCISCO SCHOOL OF BALLET AND CONTINUING WITH VARIOUS TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS, INCLUDING ERIK HAWKINS IN NEW YORK AND THE STUDIO, SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL BALLET. SHE RECEIVED A B.A. IN THEATRE/DANCE FROM UC SANTA CRUZ. UNDER HER CO-DIRECTION OF MOVING AND STORAGE PERFORMANCE COMPANY, HER CHOREOGRAPHY WAS PERFORMED THROUGHOUT CALIFORNIA AS WELL AS IN NEW YORK AND JAPAN. AS A PATRON OF THE ARTS, SHE INSPIRED AND INFLUENCED MOST EVERYONE WHO CAME IN CONTACT WITH HER. SHE BELIEVED WHOLEHEARTEDLY IN DANCE EDUCATION AND WAS AN ADVOCATE OF WHAT YOUTH COULD PRODUCE THROUGH THE WORLD OF DANCE.



LESLIE LIBBY SWAHA  
1943-2011