

# Susan Hakes

## From Russell Field to Las Vegas

Susan Hakes will present a chronological journey at the Adams Theater celebrating her 60+ year career in the dance business. She founded the Brookfield School of Dance in 1962, The Studio in 1972, and the Berkshire Dance Theater in 1982. She taught dance to more than 30,000 students ages 3 to 80 in Massachusetts, Vermont, New York, and now in Nevada.

She directed a girls' choral group THE MUSIGALS with her mother in the 60's and created THE BROADWAY EXPRESS, a touring cabaret company in the 80's. She produced, designed, directed, choreographed or costumed over 400 dance, theatrical, skating, pageant, musical theater, television, and radio productions. Susan's students have gone on to perform with Michael Jackson (*BAD* video), Madonna (*A League of Their Own*), Barbara Mandrell, Shirley MacLaine, and Stephanie Mills shows, to name a few.

Her students have performed on tour in the US, Europe, and Australia in *A Chorus Line*, *Starlight Express*, *Hair*, *Can-Can*, and many others. Some have been in movies (*The Poseidon Adventure*, *The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*) or on TV shows (*Star Search*, *Dance Fever*, *Law and Order*, *Orange Is the New Black*). Some do print work, appear in commercials and videos, and have earned degrees in Dance, Theater Arts, and Arts Administration at prestigious American colleges and universities. Many own their own dance schools and companies, teaching dance all over the country.

This will be a unique event with the audience being able to see thousands of student photos, video clips\* from 50 shows, and newspaper clippings, ads and programs from 1962 through 2022.

\*Video clips include ballet, modern dance, lyrical, tap, jazz, improvisation, break dancing, ballroom, folk dance, and musical theater from Massachusetts, Vermont and Nevada performances:

1962-1972 Brookfield School of Dance  
1972-1982 The Studio  
1982-2004 Berkshire Dance Theater  
2010-2011 Sun City Anthem Performing Arts Club  
2012-2016 Kaleidoscope Productions  
2017-2023 Spotlight Club, Sun City Anthem TV

The event will be held on October 7, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. in the Adams Theater, an inclusive, accessible, and interdisciplinary arts and performance venue in Western Massachusetts.

For more information contact: Gail Kolis Sellers, Event Coordinator by telephone at (440) 339-9087 or e-mail [Gail@riverhillpottery.com](mailto:Gail@riverhillpottery.com). Tickets are free and priority seating at \$10, can be obtained at the theater's box office or online at <https://ci.ovationtix.com/36681/production/1161952?performanceId=11291180>.