

Pageantry is a Collective Art

By Christine Clayton

Pageantry is collective. When I say collective I mean more than just the fact that we call our groups “teams” and we joyously invite them all to gather together at awards ceremonies. It is more than just one performance or one season of performances that has created our pageantry community. As instructors we each carry with us our own history as performers, coaches and fans. Every time we watch a show that inspires us or we admire the ease with which one of our peers brings the floor to life we add that to the creative well from which we draw.

We would be very arrogant to think that we alone have an original thought. We are not separate from everything else around us. It is just our ego that makes us think we are. Instructors, as you move into the 2005 season, look around you. Feel free to fall in love with the writing of others. Watch their body of work; note how they evolved creatively. Your ability to love the product of someone else means those capabilities are awakened in you. It will only make you bigger; it won't make you a copycat. Older instructors, take this next season as the opportunity to reach out to younger instructors and share the wisdom of your experience. Younger instructors, gravitate to those you have grown up watching and embrace the information they can provide.

Remember, we are carried on the backs of those that came before us, we are motivated by our contemporaries and we will inspire the new instructors of the future.