

# WONDERLAND

## WHO WE ARE:

Collide Theatrical Dance Company is non-profit professional dance company dedicated to telling narrative stories through dance and movement. Founded in 2013 by Artistic Director Regina Peluso, the company has produced more than 17 original dance theater productions.

## WONDERLAND:

In the spring of 2021, Peluso worked with mental health professionals to create our dance musical production Wonderland, a show that aims to de-stigmatize mental health issues. Set in a psychiatric hospital, characters from Alice in Wonderland face challenges, explore what “normal” means, and share an uplifting story of empathy, acceptance, and friendship in the face of mental illness. The story is told using Collide’s signature blend of high-energy dance set to a pop-rock soundtrack.

It was enthusiastically received by critics (“spectacular and striking,” said TwinCitiesArts.com) and audiences. “I had no idea how much my family needed your show,” said one patron. Another patron, clinical social worker Jeannine Myrvik, said, “When I saw Wonderland my first thought was, this performance HAS to be in schools.”

## Need:

The National Institute of Mental Health estimates that 20% of youth ages 13-18 live with a mental health condition. And in 2021, pediatric health experts and the U.S. Surgeon General publicized a growing mental health crisis among youth and how it has become worse during the Covid-19 pandemic period. Among the recommendations to address this crisis are programs to promote healthy development and provide avenues for help.

## School Tours:

Wonderland uses an accessible format (dance theater) to provide education and a positive message about the importance of mental health and empathy. Post-show group breakout sessions following each performance are facilitated by therapists from local organizations.. Students will be able to learn more about mental health and local resources for help.



**Contact:**  
[Nathan@collidetheatrical.org](mailto:Nathan@collidetheatrical.org)  
[www.collidetheatrical.org](http://www.collidetheatrical.org)  
651-395-7903

### School Performance Information

- The show is 45 minutes long, followed by a 15-minute Q&A session with the cast. It can easily be condensed to fit into a shorter time frame.
- The performers come directly to the schools, eliminating the need for transportation fees.
- The performance can take place in a traditional theater setting, dance studio, or gym.
- An educational pamphlet will be provided to teachers that contains vocabulary terms, exercises, and workshop ideas that explore mental health themes as well as dance education.
- The performance is suited for audiences of all ages, though highly recommended for Grades 5-12.
- The performance was created with assistance from certified mental health specialists; referrals can be provided upon request.

### Rates

\$1,500 per performance for schools in the Twin Cities metro area.

\$3,000–\$4,000 per performance for schools in Greater MN.

### 2024 Fall Touring Dates Available

- November 5–8, 2024
- November 12–15, 2024
- November 19–22, 2024
- December 2024 (open availability)

### WONDERLAND in the Press

[St. Paul Pioneer Press Feature](#)

[Twin Cities Arts Reader Review](#)

### Feedback from Schools

“What a treat and awesome format to encourage understanding and positive action regarding mental health. So many of our students were enthralled by the theatrical dance format and it sparked great questions to further the conversation.”

— Paula Gretzlock, New Richmond Middle School

“While I realize many might be afraid of something like this performance, the reality is...this is what these students are dealing with. And it was handled in such a poetic and artistic way. Thank you!”

— Counselor, Visitation School



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“Dance is such a powerful way to connect students to each other and to themselves. We are so grateful for the WONDERLAND experience, to gain exposure to the beauty and truth that dance provides to us and the world!”

— Laura Mahler, FAIR School Crystal

“Collide delivers amazing dance with an important message to hear! Don't miss this show!”

— Barbara Farley, Benjamin E Mays IB World School