

The 2019/20 KP3 year in review

by Keshet's Pre-Professional Education Director, Sarah Gonzales

This fiscal year the KP3 (Keshet's Pre-Professional Program) program had an emphasis on getting the pre-professional students out in the community more. In the early fall, KP3 students were cast in small pieces that rehearsed for a little over a month before being shared in the Albuquerque community, including National Dance Day, a performance on Civic Plaza in SOMOS ABQ and a holiday performance at Cottonwood Mall. In October and November, the KP3 students jumped into an abbreviated rehearsal and performance process for Alice, an adventure of wonder and wondering. In December, some KP3 students opted to participate in the Keshet Winter Concert.



Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the KP3 Program shifted to an all online model in March 2020. Faculty members shifted classes to online using Zoom and set up areas to teach from their homes. Students used make-shift barres, like countertops or chairs in their classes. KP3 faculty members stepped up and checked in with each KP3 student weekly, offering an ear to listen to what was going on in their lives, providing an outlet and encouragement.

It was extremely important to maintain some normalcy and mark the ending of the KP3 school year that 20/20 Vision was produced. The students and faculty members had already invested a great deal of **time and effort**. Hearing the students' desires to be in-person, we landed on a drive-in model. With support from Bernalillo County Parks and Rec, who allowed Keshet to borrow their outdoor projector and Keshet's neighbor **21st Century Public Academy**, who provided use of their parking lot and building on which footage could be projected. KP3 Director, Sarah Gonzales purchased a radio transmitter for sound.

Each choreographer determined how they wanted to present the pieces cast in December 2019 and rehearsed in the early spring. Some had filmed rehearsals, some showcased sections of their work

from Zoom rehearsals, others asked students to film various sections of the dance and then edited them together. All the edited pieces were combined into a show.

In May 2020, 20/20 Vision was presented as both a drive-in and a streaming performance on Youtube. About 50 cars were present for the viewing of the show. At the Drive-In, students were able to see each other for the first time in months from the safety of their cars. KP3 faculty were able to honor our graduating seniors with flowers and a video of well-wishing.

The streaming presentation of 20/20 Vision reached families across New Mexico, the country, and the world with viewers reaching as far as the United Kingdom, Israel, and Australia. Entire families gathered and shared the experience in the safety of their homes.

