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Leyte Dance Theater

The **Leyte Dance Theater** caters to the numerous demands of dance enthusiasts and continue providing dance productions and trainings to children from public schools, elementary schools and out of school youths in Eastern Visayas region.

After 14 years of artistic pursuits, the Leyte Dance Theater (LDT) can rightfully claim as one of the top dance companies in the Philippines today. The acclaim and recognition, accrued through the years of performances in major cultural centers in the country and abroad, and even in the remotest town or barrio, are testimonies to the excellence it pursue in the field of dance.

The LDT today is a handiwork of its founder, **Jess de Paz**, who never stopped training and learning under the hands of local and foreign masters. His scholarship to the Joffrey School of Ballet in New York and his representing the Philippines in the ASEAN-sponsored "Study of Traditional Dance, Music and Choreography" in Thailand, widened his teaching and choreographic interest. He then initiated his company into the rigorous, demanding and exhausting world of ballet and contemporary dance. These genres have ever since provided venue for the company's creativity to capture in movement, or to suspend in tableaux, what is profound and sublime to subjects that Filipinos warmly identify with... stories and legends, historical accounts and current events, steeped in indigenous humor and values.

The singular appeal of LDT's performances lies in the **dynamic infusion of western techniques on indigenous movements** that glosses over the exotic and mystifying. The company has ever since been identified with fusing ethno-folksy and mimetic actions, a distinctive style that is richly visual, emotionally stirring and truly riveting. Its theatrical identity is intense, flippant, pleasantly endearing and artistically awesome in its totality.

Today, aside from its regular performances and travels, the LDT continues with its **dance productions and training**. These programs of training, production and performance make LDT a venue for dance development, artistic expressions and national pride.

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