

## **Taking it to the Street - Teaching the rules of street performing to kids**

Kids need to be street smart not just book smart, so the saying goes. It seems to apply as well to performing. This year the Lawrence Busker Festival will be offering classes on the skills needed for a street performance as a way to make a living. Children from the ages of 6 to 16 will be able to learn from professional street performers the lessons that will help make them good buskers. Busker is an old english term for just about any street vendor or performer and is used world wide to describe the growing group of acts on the street. The producers of the Lawrence Busker Festival hope to add to the group from their own community.

"The performers we bring in can easily perform on stages, festivals and other venues" states Richard Renner the main producer for the event, "but they have the adaptability to doing in on the street too." According to Renner, this ability to work the street comes with experience and time but he hopes to pass it along in a classroom too. "The kids that watch our shows during the Busker Festival are already using the performers as role models, I get emails, letters and drawings that show that" Renner replied, "we just want to respond to that desire in a constructive way".

The response will be a series of classes taught August 21st, the Saturday morning of the Busker Festival, at the Lawrence Arts Center at 940 New Hampshire on mime, juggling, puppetry and belly dancing. The first class will start at 10 am in the morning and be scheduled throughout the day until 1pm. The fee will be \$5 per student per class with a class size limited at 20. Parents can call the Lawrence Arts Center at 785-843-2787 to enroll or email them at [ricaverill@lawrenceartscenter.org](mailto:ricaverill@lawrenceartscenter.org).

After the classes the students will encouraged to attend and see as many of the street performers at the Busker Festival as possible with the intention of learning how they work on those skills on the street. The Festival starts on Friday night August 21st and runs through Sunday the 22nd. More information the Busker Festival itself can be found online at [www.lawrencebuskerfest.com](http://www.lawrencebuskerfest.com).