CTFD celebrates its 21st Anniversary Jubilee with ONE WORLD presented by Rolex

Moving On
Winter 2006
The Semiannual Newsletter of Career Transition For Dancers
On October 23 the New York City Center curtain rose to the opening number from Drum Café NY, a throbbing and demonstrative drum and dance work from the African Ivory Coast. The number was a perfect introduction to the evening’s host, the vivacious and awe-inspiring Bebe Neuwirth. The 90-minute program explored traditional dance forms from over twelve countries and 5 continents; a feat that could only be accomplished by Gala Director and Producer, Ann Marie DeAngelo and a performance that could only be seen at the Annual CTFD Gala.
CTFD celebrates its 21st Anniversary Jubilee with ONE WORLD presented with the gracious support of Rolex.

The evening of performances included a traditional fan dance from Sounds of Korea, a stately Indian Khathak dance from Parul Shah Dance Company, a challenging and complex hoop dance from the Thunderbird American Indian Dancers, an acrobatic red ribbon dance from Dance China NY, the athletic martial arts ritual of Cupoera from Ologunde, and many other exciting performances from Balam Dance Theatre. Donny Golden Irish Dance, Rosie’s Broadway Kids, the National Dance Institute of New Mexico. The Joffrey Ballet, Luna Negra Dance Theater, San Francisco Ballet, and the New York premiere of Ballet de Monterrey.

J. Kennedy

Highlights of the performance included an appearance by Broadway Superstar Sutton Foster, who presented the Career Transition For Dancers Award to Barry Weinstein President of the Rudolf Nureyev Dance Foundation. The Joffrey Ballet and Luna Negra Dance Theater gave the World Premiere of San Juan: Allegro con Sabor! with music written and performed by Eric Lewis. The piece was conceived and produced by 21st Anniversary Gala Chair Patricia J. Kennedy. In addition, Broadway superstar Noah Racey, and Hip-Hop innovator Mr. Wiggles, gave testimonials and performed original pieces representing their lives as dancers. Their testimonials elaborated on how vital Career Transition For Dancers’ services are towards helping all types of dancers around the country. Noah Racey’s heartfelt testimonial addressed how CTFD helped him receive counseling, medical referrals and regain hope after he tore his Achilles tendon while rehearsing for a production of West Side Story. Mr. Wiggles dedicated his performance and testimonial to the Harkness Center for Joint Diseases who sponsored his surgery and therapy after he tore the ACL of his knee last year at the dress rehearsal for CTFD’s 2005 gala and to Dr. Donald Rose who volunteered to operate on him pro bono.

Liza Minnelli, host of CTFD’s 20th Anniversary Jubilee, presented the Rolex Dance Award, to the two-time Tony Award winning actress Chita Rivera. The Rolex award was a breath-taking 18k gold Oyster Watch made for the Broadway legend. Liza sermonized about the first time she saw Chita Rivera perform in West Side Story. She explained how Ms. Rivera’s dancing was at a level she had never seen before in her life, and how that performance was the inspiration behind her desire to become a dancer and the motivation for her to perform on Broadway. Liza professed that “[Chita Rivera], set a standard from the very beginning that everybody had to live up to, it was a standard of fire, of performance and of great dancing.”

Following the performance, over 680 patrons entered the Hilton Grand Ballroom with décor and dinner hand-picked by Dinner Chair Janice Becker. During the dinner, a live auction took place where patrons bid over $272,000 on 13 exciting packages created by Auction Chair Ann Van Ness and her committee. The highlight of the live auction was a one-week cruise on a 149-foot mega yacht in either the Mediterranean or the Caribbean donated by Gala Chair Denise L. Cobb and her husband Brian Cobb which sold for $100,000! The dancing lasted until 1 AM and the evening was a huge success - raising over $1,120,000 for Career Transition For Dancers’ vital programs and services. The evening would not have been so successful if it hadn’t been for the dedicated work of 21st Anniversary Chairs Patricia J. Kennedy and Anka K. Pallitz as well as Gala Chairs Denise L. Cobb and Yolanda Santos Garza, Vice-Chairs Jami Baldwin, Norma Lynn Cutler, Mercedes Ellington, Victoria Herbert, Johanna Judah, Peg Ranieri, Linda May Suzar, Helene Alexopoulos Warrick, Laura Zeckendorf, West Coast Chair Roberta Silbert Greene, Journal Chair David Goldring and the Gala Leadership Committee.

The evening was made possible by Rolex Watch U.S.A., Inc., our Presenting Sponsor, and Underwriters Condé Nast Publications and the Samuel I. Newhouse Foundation. Cambria Estate Winery was the Official Wine Sponsor of the 21st Anniversary Gala Jubilee. Baccarat generously donated the crystal Career Transition For Dancers Award and Capezio generously donated the Artists Dance Wear and patron gift bags. Thank you to all who made this such a memorable event.
CTFD extends far beyond the fundamentals. Check us out.

By Cynthia Fischer

While our scholarship and career counseling programs are fundamental to a successful transition, CTFD provides so much more! Starting with our offices: chosen for easy and safe access, our New York office is in the heart of Times Square and our LA office is in the AFTRA building that houses the performing arts unions on Wilshire Blvd. There are extensive resource libraries, video viewing of past Career Conversations, information on events, programs and opportunities at CTFD and elsewhere.

Career Conversations

These in-depth presentations and discussion sessions with a panel of experts cover life skills, employment choices and guidance for the practical and emotional challenges facing dancers in transition. Just in the last year, typical programs covered included financial management, legal issues, health insurance and the basics on starting your own business. Video tapes of all Career Conversations are available for viewing at the New York and Los Angeles offices.

Focus Groups

Over the years, support and focus groups have developed in response to our dancers’ particular needs and interests. Focus Groups are six week career counseling programs with weekly meetings for up to six dancers where a CTFD career counselor facilitates discussion of career exploration, financial management and job search experiences. Dancers exchange both information and support. The Dancers Managing Change Support Group meets monthly to help dancers process the emotional side of transition. The Business Group provides practical business advice and mentoring by dancer entrepreneurs and outside volunteer business people. The Diamond Group, formed by a group of mature dancers, addresses their particular needs and points of view.

Networking Directory

The National Networking Directory is a brilliantly conceived resource, listing volunteer dance clients by their educational institution and by career. Thus, any dancer seeking advice on a particular educational institution or exploring a possible career can speak directly and be mentored by a CTFD client who has “been there and done that!” 350 of CTFD’s dancer-clients have volunteered to be listed in order to supply information or even mentor other dancers.

Take care and best wishes for a happy new year.

Board Profile

Anka K. Palitz is a name virtually synonymous with the New York Dance community.

Anka K. Palitz is an arts patron who has served for many years on the boards of American Ballet Theatre and Career Transition For Dancers. Her wealth of knowledge of the dance world is immeasurable, and her philanthropy is boundless. Exposed to dance at an early age, Anka shares an innate fondness for the art, and she shares this fondness with all of the dancers she serves. Her efforts to satisfy the needs of the dance community illustrate the tremendous amount of respect, admiration and devotion she possesses for these dancers.

Walking through her elegant Fifth Avenue apartment overlooking Central Park, one can find several awards and her understanding of how much work is put into the organization’s gala each year.

This year, as 21st Anniversary Chair, Anka worked with fellow chairs, Patricia Kennedy, Denise Cobb, Yolanda Santos Garza, Janice Becker, Ann Van Ness, Roberta Silbert Greene and David Goldring to help create one of our most successful galas ever, raising over $11 million. Anka knows much of this year’s success is due to the tremendous efforts of the gala chairs as well as the gala producers, Ann Marie DeAngelo and Alexander Dubb: “the reason why this year’s gala was so successful was because there were more people
involved in it." Regarding her fellow chairs, Anka mentions how great it was to have each chair contribute their own individual talents: "it was a unison of different talents... we worked together as a team very well."

As a dance enthusiast who has worked alongside dancers at American Ballet Theatre, and as a sponsor for principal dancer at ABT, Ethan Stiefel, Anka empathizes with all of the various aspects of a dancer’s life. "I know how much practice goes into perfecting the art form. Their lives are so dedicated... for not that great of a remuneration. And if you ask a dancer — they will tell you its something they must do — they have to dance." Anka also understands how dancers develop strong bonds with other dancers during their performance careers. Working together for long hours, dancers form a special kinship with their colleagues. "This is why it is especially difficult for dancers to leave their dance careers. To leave this community is very tough for them." This is an issue Anka relates to first hand, as Mr. Stiefel has recently injured himself and has had to refrain from dancing. With the thought of not being able to perform again looming over him, Ethan has looked towards his fellow dancers for support. Anka’s involvement with CTFD reflects her concern for these life-altering issues: “I just want to really do good and help dancers.”

Through her work, Anka is exposed to all of the stages of a dancer’s life — the steps towards establishing a successful career and maintaining it, as well as the issues dancers face when contemplating new career options. Anka has witnessed these daunting and fragile moments in a dancer’s life, and possesses great compassion to want to help them during these processes. Thus, through the Clarence Y. Palitz Scholarship Fund at CTFD, which Anka created six years ago to honor her late husband, Anka has benefited the lives of 25 deserving CTFD clients. The dance community is lucky to have such a wonderful cheerleader rooting for them. Acknowledging just how lucky they are to have her on board, CTFD has chosen to commemorate Anka’s contribution towards its success and growth by honoring her in its 22nd Anniversary Jubilee gala next October. This will be a very special event, marking Anka’s fourteen years with the organization. As honoree, Anka deserves all of the recognition she receives, for this organization thrives on the counsel, love and dedication of people like her.

My career of more than two decades was over. What does a dancer do then? I cried for about a month without stopping. I hid in my apartment, drinking heavily and watching movies on TV. Without dance, I didn’t want to live. What other skills did I have? I had never even waited a table in my life (which I shamelessly boasted about during my career). I went from being the lucky dancer who was always working to someone who had no income.

But I had bills to pay. Depressed or not, I needed my booze and cable service! I got out of bed and stumbled upon an organization called Career Transition For Dancers in New York City (there is also a branch in Los Angeles). I went to CTFD in tears, and sat in an office with career counselor, Suzie Jary. I was embarrassed, angry, and upset — but Ms. Jary let me know I was not alone. We made a detailed list of my interests. We set goals. I was skeptical at first, but I had nothing to lose. Much to my surprise, there were many options on that list — not easily met, but obtainable possibilities. Those options gave me confidence. Not being alone gave me strength. I took control of my life again.

I couldn’t go back to the physical demands of full-time modern dance, but I could still perform. I had never done a Broadway show, yet always dreamed of doing just that. I took voice lessons, while I taught dance to make money. I auditioned for everything I saw in the trade papers. I auditioned for everything I saw in the trade papers.

I landed a tour of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, starring Deborah Gibson and Patrick Cassidy. So what if I was the oldest in the cast, at 41! When the tour was over, I didn’t waste time being depressed — I went back to CTFD. I enrolled at Empire State College to complete the undergraduate degree I had never finished; CTFD even gave scholarship me a grant to help pay the tuition. When I finished that degree with honors, I went on for a graduate degree, also partially funded by the organization.

**Confessions of a Dancer**

By Michael Blake

I read Stephen Pier’s article, “After The Dancing Stops,” and recognized myself. I was a modern dancer with the companies of Murray Louis, José Limón, and Donald Byrd for 22 glorious years before severe arthritis of the hip brought a halt to my career at age 40. I needed a lot of help finding a new identity and a new career, and I was lucky enough to get that help from a great organization.

Dancing was all I’d done since I began at 18; I went to college for dance and never looked back. But when the pain in my hip went from inhibiting me from working fully to stopping me from working altogether, I went to two doctors who concurred: I needed to stop dancing and consider surgery.
At 46, it was finally time to have that hip replacement surgery. Career Transition For Dancers came through once again, referring me to several contacts for a grant to help with expenses while I was recovering from surgery (which is scheduled for next month).

I may have lost an identity that I worked very hard to attain. But through that loss, I learned that I have skills I never dreamed I had. I have an intellect I’ve never used. I have strength beyond the physical. And I have learned that I am not alone. Most importantly, Career Transition For Dancers has taught me that my spirit can continue dancing even though my body cannot.

Michael is also a contributing writer for Dance Magazine. Look for his article in the January issue, topic is dancers with hip replacements.

All About Career Transition For Dancers

Dance is a passion. As a career, it is the fulfillment of a childhood dream — a privilege that many aspire to and few attain. At CTFD, our goal is to keep dancers moving.

Moving as performers, as curious inquiring people, and when the time is right, as professionals possessed of all the qualities and skills to make success happen, a second time around.

Our Clients
Dancer-clients come to CTFD from such prominent companies as: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; American Ballet Theatre; American Repertory Ballet; Atlanta Ballet; Ballet Arizona; Ballet Florida; Ballet Hispanica; Ballet West; Boston Ballet; Bebe Miller Co.; Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company; Trisha Brown Company; Dance Theatre of Harlem; Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company; Garden State Ballet; Martha Graham Dance Company; Houston Ballet; Hubbard Street Dance Chicago; Joffrey Ballet; Kansas City Ballet Company; Lar Lubovitch Dance Company; Limón Dance Company; Los Angeles Chamber Ballet; Mark Morris Dance Group; Miami City Ballet; MOMIX; Nevada Ballet Theatre; New Jersey Ballet; New York City Ballet; Oakland Ballet; Ohio Ballet; Ondine And Company; Pacific Northwest Ballet; David Parsons Dance Company; Pennsylvania Ballet; Pilobolus Dance Theatre; Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre; The Radio City Rockettes; San Francisco Ballet; Paul Taylor Dance Company; and the White Oak Project — as well as from Broadway, off-Broadway, and national musicals, Las Vegas shows, industrials, and the television and film industries, nationwide.

Our Purpose
Whether dancers are novice performers, seasoned artists at the height of their technical and artistic prowess, or professionals on the brink of retirement, CTFD recognizes that they possess the assets and growth potential that every employer seeks and entrepreneurial ventures demand. As the only arts-service organization in the United States dedicated solely to the enrichment of dancers’ post-performing years, CTFD is committed to enhancing dancers’ many attributes through self-empowerment. Unique in purpose (unlike other programs that focus only on “survival jobs”), CTFD helps dancers build their self-esteem and skills as they plan, pursue, and, ultimately, establish rewarding careers to last a lifetime.

Our Programs and Services
CTFD provides a broad range of cost-free specialized services and resources. These include: one-on-one career-counseling and related “Career Conversations” seminars, Focus and Support groups; limited educational scholarships and entrepreneurial grants; the National Outreach Project; local outreach to the performers of major dance companies, as well as to pre-professional students of universities, conservatories, and dance company-related academies; CareerLine, a national toll-free telephone number; www.careertransition.org, a comprehensive website; bi-coastal Career Resource Centers; the National Networking Directory; and computer literacy classes.

From the perspective of history, since its inception in 1985, CTFD has awarded more than 3,300 dancers in 47 states with an excess of $2.5 million in grants for various levels of education and retraining, and provided approximately 37,000 hours — equivalent to $3.9 million — of innovative career-counseling. Essential to building a productive, satisfying future, these services have enhanced the lives of dancers who are attending, or have graduated from, an estimated 170 colleges, universities, and specialized certification programs, both here and abroad.

Our Results
The exceptional accomplishments of CTFD’s clients reflect the diversity of the dance-community-at-large and the wealth of talent among its members. All of the organization’s clients value the opportunities that CTFD gives them to begin or complete their education as the first step in establishing successful careers that, literally, run the gamut from A to Z, including: advertising; agriculture; alcohol/drug counseling; architecture, environmental and landscape design; arts-management; art, dance, music, and occupational therapies; aviation; bridal consulting; career-counseling; catering; civil, electrical, and recording engineering; computer technology/graphic and web design; corporate job training; costume, lighting, and set design; dance education and history; public and private primary, secondary, and higher education; electrophysiologic technology; event-planning; fashion; film-making; film/music composing; finance; firefighting and paramedic certification; horticulture/floral design; foreign language translation; forestry; fundraising; hair design and cosmetology; interior design; international relations; journalism; law; marine biology; physical therapies such as reflexology, massage techniques, personal training; Pilates, Yoga, the Alexander Technique and Feldenkrais Method, gyrotomics, and aquatic training; medicine; performers’ employment agency; pet care; photography; psychology and psychiatry; publishing; real estate; social work; stage management; television and theatre direction and production; theology; violin restoration; and zoology.

Winter Heat

Thursday, March 1st, 2007
Back by popular demand, Career Transition for Dancers and the Harbor Conservatory for the Performing Arts will present our Third Annual Salsa Party at the Copacabana in New York City. Sponsored by Rolex Watch USA and Capezio / Ballet Makers: “March Sizzles, with the Winter Heat!”
CTFD in Las Vegas

Support Us Now

When you support our organization, you share in the future. The support we receive from our patrons is greatly appreciated. Gifts can also be restricted to ensure that your money goes directly to programs of which you feel connected. $550 will allow 5 dancers to receive this same opportunity. $2000 will grant a dancer an educational scholarship or entrepreneurial grant. $5000 will underwrite a National Outreach Project — a two-day seminar that provides dancers with personalized one-on-one and group career counseling and allow our vital services to personally reach a dance community outside of the New York and Los Angeles area.

Contributions take various forms. Most offer substantial tax benefits to the donor. By choosing the type of gift that is right for your needs and interests, you may be able to make a more substantial contribution than you might have considered, resulting in significant tax and estate planning benefits. Carefully planned, your gift could not only help strengthen CTFD, it could also improve financial security for you and your loved ones.

Cash Gifts

Making your annual gift to CTFD by personal check, VISA, MasterCard, or American Express is easy, quick, and direct. Cash gifts entitle donors to income tax deductions and are immediately available for the organization’s use. You can also receive the same benefits by making a gift online which is secured by PayPal on our website (www.careertransition.org).

Matching Gifts

You or your spouse may work for a company with a Matching Gift Program. If so, by completing the company’s matching gift form and returning it to CTFD with your gift, you could double or perhaps even triple the value of your gift.

Gifts of Securities

Donors wishing to give long-term securities (those held for at least one year) will find the tax advantages particularly beneficial. Gifts of long-term securities entitle donors to a tax deduction for the gift — up to a maximum of 30 percent of your adjusted gross income with a five-year carry-over period for the excess.

Gifts of Real Estate, Life Insurance, Retirement Plans, IRAs, Personal Property

Making gifts of primary residences, vacation homes, land, other personal property, as well as life insurance, can be quite advantageous to both donors and CTFD. With the new Pension Protection Act H.R.4., you can also make donations to CTFD through your IRA, and its tax-free.

Planned Gifts

Your will can be a creative vehicle for making a thoughtful bequest to benefit CTFD in perpetuity. Bequests are an important and simple way in which donors can strengthen CTFD’s financial base and provide significant funding for its expanding programs and ever-increasing client-base. Bequests are exempt from both federal and state estate taxes, and any limitation on deductions. Donors may bequeath an unrestricted gift, endowed fund, or educational scholarship to benefit the organization and its dancer-clients for years to come.

Career Transition For Dancers welcomes your inquiries and feedback. Please contact William J. Dale, Director of Development, at (212) 764-0172.
National Outreach Projects
CTFD’s professional career counselors are taking their vital individual and group career counseling services “On the Road” to select cities in 2007.

Boston, MA hosted by Boston Ballet
Cincinnati, OH hosted by Cincinnati Ballet
Miami, FL hosted by Miami City Ballet
Salt Lake City, UT hosted by Ballet West
San Francisco, CA hosted by San Francisco Ballet
Seattle, WA hosted by Pacific Northwest Ballet

For more information regarding our National Outreach Projects, please visit at www.careertransition.org.

Career Conversations in NYC
January 22, 2007
Careers in Performing Arts Therapies
Discussion Panel will include psychodrama, dance, movement and occupational therapists. Could this be the career for you? Come and find out.

March 12, 2007
Juggling Your Life & Career Part II
We’re back this time to give advice on getting organized with your finances, personal obligations, and a performance schedule on top of everything else! Could you benefit from a coach in any of these areas?

April 2, 2007
How to Plant and Grow Your Business
Successful dancers share their personal success secrets. One of our business mentors will offer some advice and tips. Do you want a production company? To enter the fashion world, or become a healthcare provider? Get the advice you need!

May 7, 2007
Teaching Dance in Public Schools
A special panel presents the “how to’s” on artist/dance teaching opportunities, resources, and stories.

New York City Career Conversations are held in the Actors Equity Council Room at 165 W 46th Street, 14th Floor, from 5-7pm. Career Conversations are always free but seating is limited. Please RSVP by calling (212) 764-0172.

CTFD would like to thank Actors’ Equity Association for hosting Career Conversations in New York City.

Career Conversations in LA
February 22, 2007
Careers in the Healing Arts
If you are looking to help others, work in an empowering and healing environment and have a passion for your chosen career, then attend this seminar!

April 24, 2007
Dancers in Education: Give Beyond the Stage
Want to teach but think you need a degree? Learn how to teach with or without one. There is a place for you in education.

June 26, 2007
How to find your potential: The Myers Briggs Workshop
Myers Briggs is an assessment of your abilities and personality traits that identifies your values and personal preferences. Come and seek where your secret passions and abilities lie.

July 19, 2007
Exotic Careers & Bread and Butter Jobs
Why not work in a job that is as wild and exotic as you are? Learn about how to start your career in professions that is fun and unique.

Contact the LA office for Career Conversation locations. Career Conversations are always free but seating is limited. RSVP by calling (323) 549-6660.

Career Transition For Dancers

The Caroline & Theodore Newhouse Center for Dancers
375 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10001

Career Line
(212) 764-0172

New York Office
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Fax: (212) 764-0343

Los Angeles Office
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Suite 455
Los Angeles, CA 90036-3689
Tel: (323) 549-6660
Fax: (323) 549-6810

Career Line
1-800-581-CTFD (2833)
Sponsored by The Silvert Foundation, Dance Magazine, and Cynthia Fischer

Visit Us Online
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Mailing List
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Missing has been generously underwritten by the Screen Actors’ Guild – Producers Industry Advancement and Cooperative Fund.
Selected CTFD services are supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, The New York State Council on the Arts, the New York City Department of Education, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the New York City Council, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

Career Transition For Dancers admits eligible current and former professional dancers of any race, color, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to its clients. CTFD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sexual orientation, age, national and ethnic origin in administration of its programs and services, which is not made available to its clients.

For more information about National Outreach Projects for 2006 are underwritten, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.

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