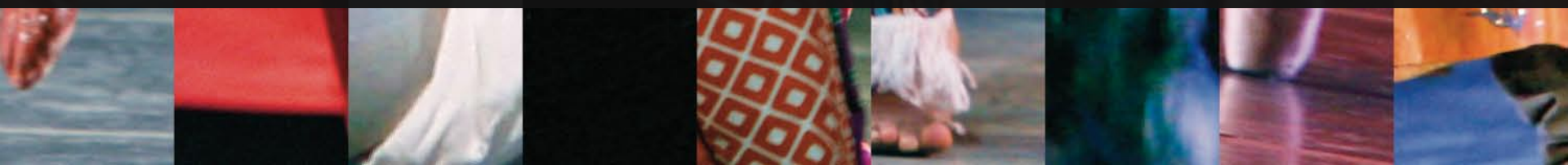




CTFD celebrates its 21st Anniversary Jubilee
with ONE WORLD presented by Rolex

Moving On
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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**.



Ricardo Garcia & Vanessa Valecillos of Luna Negra Dance Theater,
Willy Shives & Megan Quiroz of The Joffrey Ballet, with Eric Lewis on piano
Photo: Richard Termine

One World

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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 **Capoeira** 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**.

James Earl Jones read an excerpt from **Duke Ellington's** show "My People" titled **The Purple People and The Green People** with improvised counterpoint performed by Bassist **Jay Leonhart**. They were introduced by the grand-daughter of the playwright, Board member and Gala Vice-Chair, **Mercedes Ellington** who wore a purple and green clad outfit for the occasion. The legendary **Sachiyo Ito** performed **Fuji Musume**, a traditional kabuki dance that originated in 19th century Japan. **Lorena Feijoo** of the **San Francisco Ballet** performed **Lambarena**, a sensual and rhythmically driven work that fused the counterpoint of Bach's Partita in E major with traditional Gabonese rhythms. Also **Gennadi Saveliev** of **American Ballet Theatre** performed the traditional Ukrainian dance **Gopak**, with feats of strength that left the audience in awe. The show ended with a performance from the **National Dance Institute of New Mexico** and **Rosie's Broadway Kids** titled **Beats of Love**, choreographed by CTFD client and patron **Catherine Oppenheimer** and **Lori Klinger**. The title song was performed by **Billy Porter** which was written by **Jim Morgan** and **Ann Marie DeAngelo**.

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. Palitz** 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**, **Helène 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.



Liza Minnelli

Photo: Richard Termine



Gennadi Saveliev

Photo: Richard Termine



Ballet de Monterrey

Photo: Richard Termine