Broadway at Sardi’s  Caitlin Carter, Charlotte d’Amboise, Mercedes Ellington, Donna McKechnie, and Desmond Richardson hosted CTFD “Between Shows,” March 28th.

Underwritten by the Shubert Organization for the 4th year, over 80 dancers from the Broadway musicals A Chorus Line, Beauty and the Beast, Chicago, Curtains, Hairspray, Mamma Mia, Tarzan, The Producers, The Lion King, The Pirate Queen, and 110 in the Shade attended. CTFD Board member Caitlin Carter spoke about CTFD’s methodology and programs and introduced clients Ana Maria Andricain of Beauty and the Beast and Todd Michel Smith of Hairspray. Both clients spoke about their introduction to CTFD at last year’s Sardi’s event and how CTFD has helped them develop their skills outside of dance. Through 1-on-1 career counseling and an entrepreneurial grant, Ana Maria started an online jewelry business, Jewel of Havana (jewelofhavana.com), and has expanded it to five retailers across the USA. Through an educational grant from the Caroline Newhouse Scholarship Fund, Todd recently graduated from college and will pursue a career in Physical Education.

Photos (clockwise from top left): CTFD Clients Judine Somerville & Michelle Marie Robinson, Karen Ziemba, & Board Member Caitlin Carter, CTFD Counselor Suzie Jary, Hostesses Charlotte d’Amboise and Donna McKechnie, & CTFD Client Noah Racey; Members from The Lion King Kylin Brady, Dawn Noel Pignuolo, Michelle Camaya, Jennifer Newman, Dennis Lue, Torya, Angelica Edwards, Kristina Bethel, Shekiha Harke, & Camille Brown; Guest speaker Todd Michel Smith with members from Hairspray Arhender Robinson, Bryan West, Andrew Rannells, Abdul Latif, & Tommar Wilson (Photos: Linda Lenzi / BroadwayWorld.com).

Winter Heat  Representing the spectrum of dancers’ careers, CTFD and Harbor Conservatory for the Performing Arts joined together March 1st for the third year of Winter Heat.

The evening’s event included special performances from the Gestures Dance Ensemble and members of Dance Times Square. After the performances, nearly 300 patrons took over the dance floor so they could “bust a move” to the 21 piece Harbor Latin Big Band. The event was a huge success thanks to Benefit Chairs Janice Becker, Fe Saracino Fendi, Beth Dannhauser, and Ginny Knott Honorary Chairs included Peter Martins, Rosie Perez, Chita Rivera, and Sylvia Waters. Ronda and Mark Axelowitz, Caroline Cronson, Lisa I. Cuevas, Justine DiCostanzo, Kelly DeMarco, Robert Dorf, Alexander J. Dubé, Mercedes Ellington, Barry S. Friedberg and Charlotte Moss, Yolanda Santos Garza, Roberta Silbert, Susan Krysiwicz, Ketty Maisonrouge, Lady Maughan, Jean Shafiroff, Patricia Shah, and Susan Fawcett Sosin served on the Benefit Committee. The evening was sponsored by Rolex Watch USA and Capezio/Ballet Makers.


Rolex Hosts Gala Luncheon  Allen Brill, President and CEO of Rolex Watch USA, hosted a gala kick-off event at Sardi’s.

The June fifth luncheon was held to celebrate Anka K. Palitz and The Jerome Robbins Foundation being honored with CTFD’s awards for Outstanding Contributions to the World of Dance at the Annual Gala on October 29, 2007. Twenty-second Anniversary Chairs Allen Brill and Patricia J. Kennedy gave heartfelt speeches about the honorees, dedication to the mission of CTFD, and what an extraordinary privilege it is for the organization to be able to honor Ms. Palitz and the Robbins Foundation. Mr. Brill stated that “the movie industry has Cher, the music industry has Madonna, but the dance industry has Anka.” Ms. Kennedy announced this year’s goal of $1.1 million and the strategy she and the many other hard working gala chairs have created to achieve it. The luncheon was underwritten by the Gala’s Executive Producer Alexander J. Dubé. Thanks to Auction Chair Ann Van Ness, the wine for the event was graciously donated by Beni di Batasolo, the Official Wine Sponsor of CTFD’s 22nd Anniversary Jubilee.


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Family Trees