Career Transition For Dancers celebrates its 22nd Anniversary Jubilee with DANCE ROCKS presented by Rolex
The Joffrey Ballet

Music: Prince

Photo: Richard Termine
Cheerleaders, break dancers, bag pipes! OHHH MY!

This was the reaction to Gala Director and Producer Ann Marie DeAngelo’s opening number, IN THE MIX. On October 29th, over 110 performers brought the house down at New York City Center for DANCE ROCKS.

The electric evening was a mash-up of Rock, Funk, Jazz, Soul, and Folk that helped raise over $1,150,000 for CTFD’s vital programs and services.

The program included performances from Atlanta Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Ballet San Jose, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Dancing Wheels, The Joffrey Ballet, Parsons Dance, and Williams/ Henry Dance Company. Highlights included a world-premiere by Lynne Taylor-Corbett with Melissa Manchester, and a special performance by the 2006 winner of the hit TV show SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE, Benji Schwimmer, who busted a move to GET UP OFFA THAT THING by James Brown. CTFD clients Elizabeth Parkinson and Keith Roberts also performed an excerpt from their Tony-nominated roles in the Billy Joel/Twyla Tharp musical MOVIN’ OUT.

The star-studded lineup included special appearances by Christine Ebersole, Ben Vereen, Kathleen Marshall, John Selya, Jason Samuels Smith, and Mr. Wiggles. Allen Brill, President and CEO of Rolex Watch USA presented the Career Transition For Dancers Award to Anka K. Palitz for Outstanding Contributions to the World of Dance which was also presented by Charlotte d’Amboise to The Jerome Robbins Foundation. Nine time Tony Award winner Tommy Tune was on hand to present the Rolex Dance Award to his good friend Bebe Neuwirth.

Following the performance, over 700 patrons kept on rockin’ until 1 AM with dinner and dancing styled by Dinner Chair, Janice Becker.

The highlight of the evening’s dinner was a live auction which raised $165,000 and included 15 luxurious packages organized by Auction Chair, Ann Van Ness.

The success of the gala was largely due to the dedicated efforts of 22nd Anniversary Chairs Patricia J. Kennedy and Allen Brill and Gala Chairs Yolanda Santos Garza and the late Peg Ranieri, as well as the many other hard working Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Gala Leadership Committee.

The evening was made possible by Presenting Sponsor Rolex Watch U.S.A., Inc and Underwriters Condé Nast Publications and The Samuel I. Newhouse Foundation. Beni di Batasiolo was the 22nd Anniversary Wine Sponsor and Capezio generously donated the artist dance wear and patron gift bags. Thank you to all of our ROCK STARS who made this such a memorable event.

John Selya & Nicole Graniero
Music: Janis Joplin
Photo: Richard Termine

Melissa Manchester, Kurt Froman & Yuki Ogasawara
Music: Melissa Manchester
Photo: Richard Termine
President’s Message

Coming Soon—
A New Look for CTFD

As I reported in our last newsletter, CTFD is currently engaged in a branding project. The centerpiece of this project will be our new website, which will be attractive, informative and user-friendly.

Our new website will be a true portal into CTFD and its services, providing our clients throughout the United States with the same kind of access they now have in New York and Los Angeles.

The site will guide our dancer clients through the array of CTFD’s services, allow online filing of scholarship applications, and have links to other organizations and resources. For example, a client preparing an application for an entrepreneurial grant can access the Small Business Administration site where he or she can get help in preparing a Business Plan. A client needing income while in school can access the Actors’ Fund Work Program. Dancers will be able to directly access the CTFD National Networking Directory. They can watch a streaming video of any of the Career Conversation seminars. Dancers will even be able to download these seminars and view them at their convenience on their computer or a portable device like an iPod.

A tremendous amount of time, research and reflection has gone into this project, and it is very exciting. The website will be a hub of all transition resources nationwide and make them available to clients wherever they are.

The website is going to be launched in 2008—look for it!

Transition Tips CTFD Career Counselor
Lauren Gordon responds to questions she hears most often from dancers as they consider their future.

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Jason Samuels Smith
& Mr. Wiggles
Music: DP One
Photo: Richard Termine

American Ballet Theatre
Music: Frank Sinatra
Photo: Richard Termine
Where do I begin? Start dreaming, exploring, and planning while you continue to dance. What are your interests outside of dance? What are your passions? Remember, dancers are multifaceted and creative. They know how to multitask and work harder than anyone!

Do I need to go back to school?

College and university classes are not for everyone. Sometimes there is specialized training available (film editing, or watch repair, for example) through a special program. Also, a prospective employer may offer on-the-job-training.

We often recommend taking a class at a local college to dip your toe in the educational waters. Try a computer, writing, presentation skills, or dance education class. Check into off-peak classes and online courses that make it easier to study while still performing. Many community colleges and state universities want to work with “nontraditional” students and more programs than ever now offer course credit for life and dance experience.

Who am I if I’m not dancing?

You are a talented, intelligent, creative person with many skills and interests. Your life will always include your dancer’s identity. Transitions can bring wonderful beginnings, but may also bring up feelings of loss and grief. This is normal, and you are not alone. This will likely not be your last career transition. Most adults now experience multiple careers during their lifetime. It can help to talk with a professional counselor or to join a support group.

Ten things to do now

1. Learn more about yourself
2. Be curious about the world
3. Set both short-term and long-term goals for income producing work and career planning
4. Take inventory of your skills as a dancer and otherwise
5. Research alternative careers on the Internet, in books and articles, and at seminars and workshops
6. Look for “good-fit” careers that match your values and interests
7. Talk to others who do work you may be interested in
8. Experience “hands-on” by shadowing, volunteering, or interning
9. Try creating a first draft of a non-performing resume
10. Plan for your financial present and future

CTFD Counselors’ Favorites

Books

Advice For Dancers: Emotional Counsel And Practical Strategies

Career Solutions for Creative People: How To Balance Artistic Goals With Career Security

Dance from the Campus to the Real World (and Back Again) Edited by Susan Callahan.
Dance USA. www.danceusa.com

www.dancemagazine.com

Web sites

www.actorsfund.org www.danceusa.org
www.idealist.org www.careertransition.org

Self-assessment

Self Directed Search
John L. Holland
www.self-directed-search.com

Seven Stories Exercise from Building a Great Resume
Kate Wendleton
www.fiveoclockclub.com

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Dancers’ Resource Fund

CTFD has established the Dancers’ Resource Fund in order to recognize the support received from our many clients and alumni. This enables dancers to assist in maintaining the vital programs and services which helped guide them into their successful post-performance careers. CTFD alumnus Sam Bennett was one of the first to give to this initiative. Recalling his experience, Sam states that, “I’ve been there, making the transition, and I know how wonderful it is to have the support of CTFD. I want to give back so that these services will continue for other dancers.”

CTFD would like to thank Sam and the following generous clients and alumni who have donated to the organization this year:

Diana Baffa-Brill
Tony Barberio
Jeri Beaumont
Jonah Bokaer
Robert Brogan
Christopher Brough
Michael J. Byars
Cheryl Clark
Andrew Currie
Yvonne Curry
Justine DiCostanzo
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Susan Gayle Josephson
Kelly Hogan
Diane Hsu
Suzie Jary
Rebecca Rigert
Priscilla Kathe
Rogerson-Rein
Carole Rosen
Alexis Sarris Cook
Amy Schwartz Moore

Donors Seeing More Benefits from Giving Securities over Cash

As the holiday season approaches, donors all over the country will be giving to their favorite organizations—and, according to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, they are increasingly giving in the form of securities like stock, mutual funds, and other investments.

Driving this trend is the desire to give in the most effective way possible: appreciated stock allows generous donors like Gerry Golub, who will contribute “tens of thousands of dollars” this year to charities including Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and Research for the Cure Foundation, to claim a deduction against his federal income taxes for the current market value of the shares. He and the charities he contributes to also won’t owe any capital-gains tax on the profit from the shares. As Mr. Golub says, “It’s an opportunity for people who have done well in the stock market to count their blessings” and “help them give back” to worthy causes.

According to a recent analysis by Fidelity Investments, 10 to 20 million American households could potentially save between $2.2 billion and $4.5 billion a year in taxes by donating appreciated securities rather than giving cash directly to charities.

When deciding which shares to donate, donating those with unrealized long-term gains (stocks owned for more than one year) typically allow individuals to deduct the shares’ full market value.
Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program, a donor-advised fund, says appreciated securities represent 69% of all donations so far this year, up from 46% last year; according to Internal Revenue Service data, corporate stock donations represented the largest category among non-cash donations for the 2004 tax year, with $15.1 billion on more than 170,800 individual returns. Gifts of mutual funds and other investments totaled an additional $1.5 billion. Additionally, donors can easily reacquire this contributed stock to continue appreciating their investments.

National Outreach Projects ’08

Career Transition For Dancers extends its reach by taking its programs and services on the road with National Outreach Projects in the following cities in 2008:

- Becket, MA @ Jacob’s Pillow
- Dallas-Fort Worth, TX @ Texas Ballet Theater
- Milwaukee, WI @ Milwaukee Ballet
- Minneapolis, MN @ Minnesota Dance Theatre & The Dance Institute
- Pittsburgh, PA @ Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre
- Winston-Salem, NC @ North Carolina School of the Arts

Career Conversations in NYC

January 10, 2008
Thursday 11-1pm
Diamond Group: Health and Wellness Discussion
Please join the Diamond Group and a physical therapist from the Harkness Center for a midday discussion on wellness and staying fit.

January 14, 2008
Teaching Artist Opportunities K-12
Learn best practices on how to hone in on your dance skills to get that perfect teaching job.

January 16, 2008
Wednesday 5:30-7pm
Getting/Completing Your College Degree
It’s never too late to get your degree. Representatives from NY undergraduate and graduate programs, including life/dance experience credit, will discuss your options. (Co-sponsored with the Actors Work Program)

February 25, 2008
High Powered — Big Bucks Careers
A panel of speakers talks about what it takes and how to become a tycoon or mover and shaker.

April 7, 2008
Start-up Business Advice and Resources
A panel of Entrepreneurs and representatives from Smith Barney “Working Wealth” investment firm will coach you on how to keep your hard earned money and use it to get you more.

April 24, 2008
The Business of Being a Dancer/Choreographer
Representatives from Smith Barney investment firm reveal how to best manage your money and always stay ahead of the game (co-sponsored by Dance/NYC).

May 12, 2008
Idealists & Do Gooders — Careers in the Non-Profit World
A panel of dancers discusses interesting careers in the Non-Profit and Foundation world and how to snag those great jobs.

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

Career Conversations in LA

January 29, 2008
The ABCs of Credit
Understand the definition of credit, its impact, managing credit, the application process and safeguards to help you protect your credit rights.

February 26, 2008
Behind the Scenes — In the Movie Business
Find out what it takes to work behind the scenes in the movie business. This workshop will include information on costuming, set decorating, producing, casting and more.

March 20, 2008
The ABC’s of Financial Planning
Understand the reasons for saving, the value of a personal financial plan, creating a successful plan and why budgets are important for taking control of one’s future.

April 10, 2008
Careers in Non Profits — Presented by Idealist.org
People are coming together to change the world by connecting people, ideas, and resources in every possible way. Find out how you can be a part of this movement.

May 27, 2008
Round Table — Los Angeles Dance Community
The L.A. dance community gathers to evaluate the state of Dance in Los Angeles today, by exploring its needs and solutions.

July 26, 2008
Balancing Life and Career
Are you trying to balance life and work and trying to do it all? Learn some simple techniques that will help you put order and control into your life.

Careertransition.org

Please check our website at careertransition.org regularly for information on all NYC & LA activities and updates/changes to the schedule above. Our site also includes helpful links to other important organizations. Select Programs and Services to check them out.
Spotlight On: Amy Lehman

“You can’t give something without getting something back for it. The philosophy goes that even if you get is the pleasure of giving, that’s your benefit. And there’s nothing wrong with that.”

Amy Lehman, a dancer from the age of five, and now a lawyer, has been on both sides of the altruistic equation: the support of her family and scholarships for her training made it possible for her to become a professional ballet dancer. At the end of her 15 year career, her transition from dancer to lawyer was smoothed by the emotional support of her network of friends and family.

Growing up as the only girl in a family of five children in Maryland, her parents encouraged Amy and her brothers to figure out what made them happy and to pursue it. After going en pointe at the age of 10, she switched ballet schools and began to study with Irena Prochotsky, a Czech defector and former soloist with the Czech National Ballet. Post high school graduation, Amy trained with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet as a student and a paid apprentice touring with the company. She danced with Ottawa Ballet from 1986-1992, where she was also acting ballet mistress and guested with the Royal Swedish Ballet. She freelanced in New York until 1996.

When a torn calf sidelined her dance career in 1996, she had been thinking about her identity as a dancer and preparing to transition for years. In 1994, she was living in New York City. “I knew that I’d have to stop someday and I wanted to know what the next steps were,” says Lehman, which is when she met with Career Counselor Suzie Jary at Career Transitions For Dancers. While performing with the Ottawa Ballet, she had taken college classes during her off-seasons to see what she was interested in. She later enrolled in New York University’s Gallatin School of Individualized Study to continue her education. With her parents’ support, Amy graduated in 1999 with a degree in Theater History and Dramatic Literature. After working for three years in the theater industry, she made the decision to go to law school, graduating in 2006 with a J.D. from the University of Michigan.

Now a second-year litigation associate with Fleming Zulack Williamsson Zauderer LLP, Amy has had the opportunity to use her success as a dancer and lawyer to give back to the network of people who have assisted her, including CTFD. Amy has volunteered to help the organization in wide range of projects, from group counseling seminars to the organization’s fundraising efforts. She is also a regular contributor to the organization’s Dancers’ Resource Fund. Amy recognizes the fact that she is lucky to have danced for as long as she did, and urges young dancers to appreciate every moment they are dancing and devote themselves to their careers, but to think about preparing for their transitions along with strategizing their dance careers right from the very beginning.

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Mailing List
If you would like to give us feedback or have your name added to our mailing list, please email us at info@careertransition.org

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