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.