

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



Cynthia Fischer
CTFD Board President

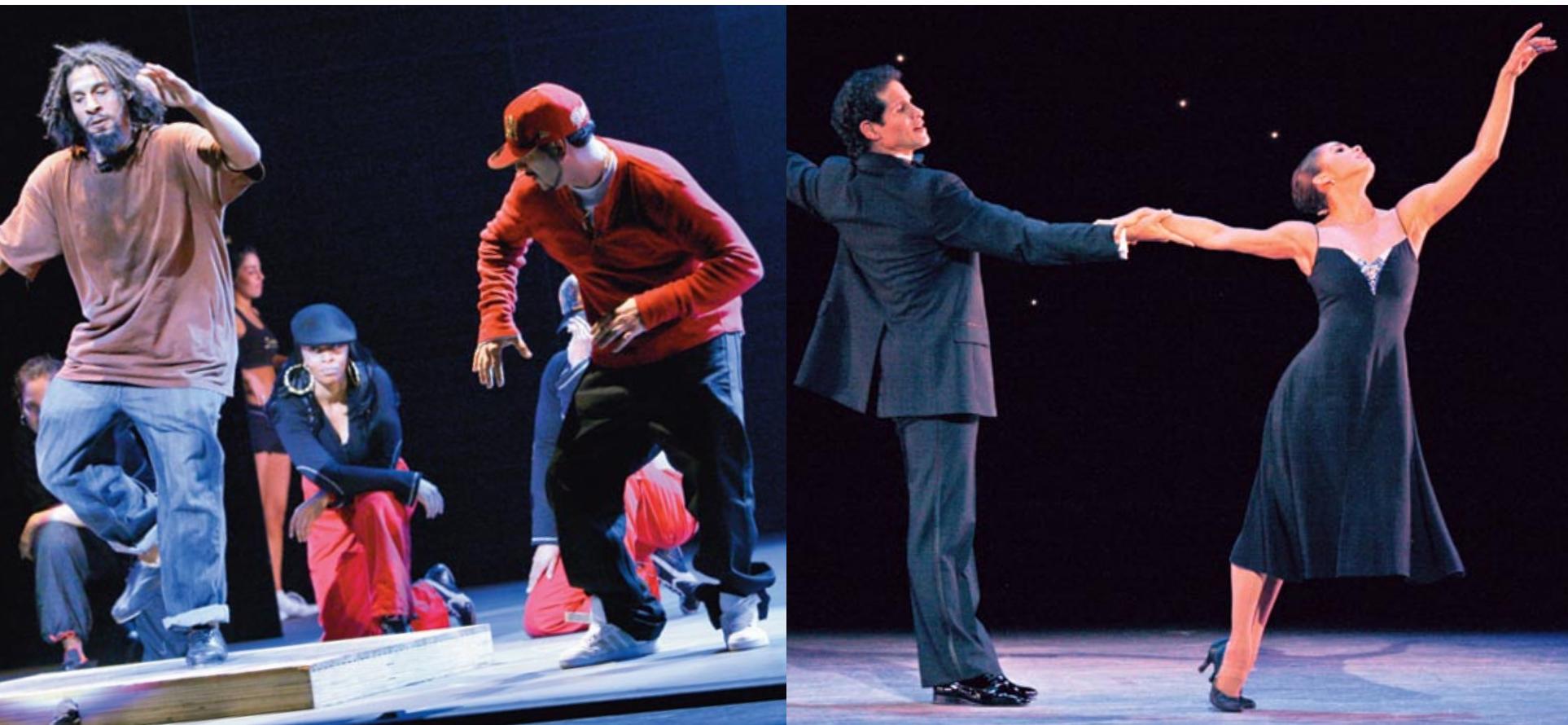
a Business Plan. A client needing income while in school can access the Actors' Fund Work Program. Dancers will be able to directly access the CTFD National Networking Directory. They can watch a streaming video of any of the Career Conversation seminars. Dancers will even be able to download these seminars 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.

Reprinted with permission, Dance Magazine and Dance Teacher



**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

Linda Hamilton, Ph.D. Jossey-Bass; Reprint edition Dec. 2002. 240 pages, paper.

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

Dr. Rhonda Ormont. Allworth Press. May 2001. 305 pages, paper

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

Dance USA. www.danceusa.com

Dance Magazine College Guide 2007/2008

www.dancemagazine.com

Web sites

www.actorsfund.org
www.idealists.org

www.danceusa.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



Tommy Tune

Photo: Richard Termine

Benji Schwimmer & Heidi Groskretz

Music: James Brown

Photo: Richard Termine

Parsons Dance

Music: Earth, Wind, & Fire

Photo: Richard Termine