

# The neon lights were bright the night of October 27th to celebrate dancers and the Great White Way at New York City Center

**ON BROADWAY! reunited audiences with some of their favorite Broadway choreographers and raised over \$1,084,000 for the organization's programs and services.**

The evening featured works by [Jerome Robbins](#), [Bob Fosse](#), [Susan Stroman](#), [Agnes de Mille](#), [Gower Champion](#), and [Marius Petipa](#) from Broadway shows including [West Side Story](#), [Oklahoma!](#), [Pippin](#), [Crazy For You](#), [Damn Yankees](#), [The Pajama Game](#), and [42nd Street](#).

Produced and Directed by [Ann Marie DeAngelo](#), the star-studded lineup included performances by [Herman Cornejo](#), [Cheyenne Jackson](#), [Jane Krakowski](#), [Bebe Neuwirth](#), [Noah Racey](#), [Xiomara Reyas](#) and [Karen Ziemba](#), plus a cast of sixty dancers.

The evening's host, [Angela Lansbury](#), presented the Award for Outstanding Contributions to the World of Dance to [Brian Heidtke](#). [Mikhail Baryshnikov](#) presented the second award to [Sono Osato](#), and announced that in her honor, her husband [Victor Elmaleh](#) donated \$250,000 to increase her endowed scholarship fund to \$1,000,000. Star of stage and screen [Brooke Shields](#) came to support her good friend [Tommy Tune](#) and presented him with the Rolex Dance Award. Mr. Tune used his acceptance speech as an opportunity to give an impromptu tap performance that inspired Ms. Shields and the rest of the evening's artists to join him on stage for a grand finale performance showcasing an excerpt from [Seesaw](#).

Following the performance, over 730 patrons continued the festivities until 1am at the Hilton New York's Grand Ballroom, styled by Dinner Chair [Janice Becker](#). The highlight of the evening's dinner included a live auction that raised over \$110,000 from 12 lots prepared by Auction Chairs [Denise Cobb](#) and [Ann Van Ness](#) and their auction committee.

The evening was made possible by the generous support of Presenting Sponsor [Rolex Watch USA](#), and [Underwriters Condé Nast Publications](#) and [The Samuel I. Newhouse Foundation](#). The evening's success was due largely to the dedicated efforts of 23rd Anniversary Chairs [Anka K. Palitz](#) and [Allen Brill](#) and Gala Chairs [Victor Elmaleh](#), [Victoria Herbert](#), [Michele Riggi](#), [Yolanda Santos](#), [Susan Fawcett Sosin](#), and [Laura Zeckendorf](#), as well as the many hard working Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Gala Leadership Committee. We would also like to thank the over 2,300 supporters who helped raise the money to help continue our vital services for dancers across the nation.

## President's message

### Warm up with Winter Heat

By Cynthia Fischer

Just when you need a break from the cold and gloom of a New York winter, our Winter Heat event will be held on March 9, 2009. The joint event with Boys and Girls Harbor has become enormously popular, and sells out every year. So, don't wait to order your tickets.



Our family has come to look forward to this evening of good food, good music and non-stop dancing. The event is more popular every year, and we've moved to larger and even more elegant quarters at the fabled [Rainbow Room](#) at

**Rockefeller Center.** What could be more fun (and more romantic!) than non-stop salsa atop Rockefeller Center with the New York skyline before you and the divine cuisine of Cipriani? It just doesn't get any better.

Dance away knowing that the proceeds of the event go toward increased services at the harbor and to support our many programs.

Whether or not you are a salsa dancer, our program includes a free group lesson, and dancing or not, you will be entranced by the Latin rhythms of the 21 piece **Harbor Latin Big Band.**

Despite the bigger and better event that our Winter Heat Chairs, **Janice Becker** and **Fe Saracino Fendi** have organized, in deference to your budgets at this challenging moment, ticket and table prices remain the same as last year. Trust me, it is a bargain! For more information on the event or to download an invitation, please visit our website, [careertransition.org](http://careertransition.org).

If you haven't come before, join us this year and see what all the buzz is about. Just put on your dancing shoes and we will see you in the Rainbow Room on March 9, 2009.

From all of us at Career Transition For Dancers, let me take this opportunity to hope that you enjoy your holidays with family and friends, and send you our best wishes for a happy, healthy and hopeful New Year.

## Mail call

### Letters from our clients

**Michael Holdsworth** Emory University School of Medicine, Class of 2012

Dear Mrs. Vivian Milstein,

As you know, the pursuit of a professional dance career represents a major investment in a labor of love. Having realized such an enormous dream, when it came time for me to "retire", I could not envision a future any less fulfilling than the past I enjoyed as a dancer. While it has taken me in a decidedly different direction, I feel most fortunate to have discovered a passion for medicine which rivals my love of dance.

Mrs. Milstein, I cannot thank you enough for your gift, to the organization, and to me; and for the difference it will make in achieving my life's next great dream.

Yours in gratitude and friendship,  
Michael Holdsworth

### Deanne Brown

Dear Ms. Nora Heiber,

I'm not sure if I can express in words exactly how much I appreciate the scholarship I received this summer through this wonderful organization! Having spent 10 years with the Joffrey Ballet, I always knew I wanted to follow that up by working in the field of physical therapy—and now I can!

Through this generous grant, I was able to afford my first year of tuition in a Physical Therapist Assistant program, and due to the success of that year, I've now qualified for an academic scholarship that will cover my last year of tuition until graduation!

Thank you so much for helping me move forward.

Love,  
Deanne Brown

## Board profile

### From Broadway fan to boardroom fundraiser

As a young woman growing up in New Jersey, Denise Cobb loved Broadway. Every visit to New York City was a fresh chance to marvel at the magic being staged in theatres stretching across the avenues of Midtown Manhattan. Finding great joy in Broadway's kick-lines, pas de deux, and jazz steps, Denise never contemplated that the life of a dancer would ever lead anywhere but the footlights.



When she was introduced to the work of Career Transition For Dancers by Director Emerita Caroline Newhouse, Denise discovered a renewed and refined passion for the dancers she had watched as a teenager—and a way to repay the joy they continued to bring to her life. Her respect for the hard work and dedication it takes to perform live for an audience was now enhanced as an adult from her experience having to "perform" live every day as one of the original news anchors for CNN. She credits many of the skills she learned in this field to helping her transition into a successful business manager.

Following her introduction to the organization, Denise spent two years supporting the organization's Annual Gala, eventually translating her experience with the Naples Children and Education Foundation to help enhance the organization's gala auction. During her tenure as a member of the auction committee and as a Gala Chair, Denise inaugurated a full-color Auction Journal and cultivated many relationships with patrons outside of the organization's home office in New York City to support Career Transition For Dancers. Her tireless efforts helped grow the organization's gala auction that recently raised over \$172,000—one of the largest summations of auction gifts in the organization's history.

For Denise, volunteering on the Board of Directors and the organization's Fundraising and Development Committee **"is an opportunity to help with advice, with support, with money; it's not about geographic proximity,"** she notes from Naples, Florida, where she makes her home. **"The organization is growing, doing more outreach—we're doing our own small part, and that brings a lot of joy."**

Through the realization that the life of a dancer truly extends far beyond the stage, Denise's love for the art has been transformed into an even more deeply-vested dedication to the lives of the dancers themselves. In many thanks to her commitment, Career Transition For Dancers continues to grow in its efforts to support the needs of transitioning dancers nationwide, and for this, we are grateful.