Online resources

Tools that connect, empower and inspire

Introducing

Video Career Conversations and an enhanced National Career Network

On our website in the last year, more than: 39,000 visitors read previous issues of MovingOn, 21,000 used the directory of transition links, and 31,000 viewed the schedule of events.

In response to the substantial use of resources on our site, we’ve launched a new section to bring more services to dancers nationwide and 24/7.

Since the launch of our new website last year, we’ve been looking at visitor traffic on our site for the purpose of better understanding the needs of our dancer-clients. It’s not surprising that dancers are spending considerable amounts of time using the core resources on the site, those sections that provide rich content such as comprehensive articles, essays, links to guides that are external to our site, and schedules of events that bring people together for meaningful exchanges. Our analysis of visitor traffic revealed that dancers are looking to those areas of the site that provide for more than basic information.

We believe that dancers are looking for content-rich tools that connect, empower, and inspire—tools that can help them navigate their life-long career moves. And that’s exactly what we’ve developed and are now delivering.

Our new Online Resources section contains tools to help dancers begin the career transition process free of the limitations imposed by work schedules and location. They facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience between dancers and professional mentors, experts from a variety of fields, career counselors, and our staff.

New Online Resources at careertransition.org

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Streaming seminars and group discussions

In these thought-provoking seminars, dancers can learn from the experience of experts in a variety of disciplines, including former dancer-clients who have already transitioned.

Video Career Conversations explore topics such as how to start your own business, what you need to know before returning to school, and how to balance your personal life and work schedule. Videos are available for viewing directly from our site. You can also subscribe to our video podcast with iTunes, download files to your computer for viewing offline at a later time, and share links to videos with friends.

Career Conversations seminars, the live recording sessions, are held on a regular basis in New York City and Los Angeles, and are open to all dancers. If you are interested in attending a seminar in person, feel free to visit the Schedule of events section of our website. If you can’t attend, just wait until the seminar is available online to view at your convenience. Video Career Conversations are made possible by Rolex Watch USA.

National Career Network
Connect with professionals

The National Career Network connects dancers with professionals that have excelled in fields beyond performance. The hundreds of professionals in our Network, many of them former dancers, volunteer their knowledge and experience to help dancers navigate their career moves.

We’ve put our complete networking database online to help dancers in all stages of their careers exchange information with experienced professionals. This is the first of several web-based initiatives designed to connect dancers with the knowledge and resources they need to succeed.

There are over 500 professionals in our Network. These volunteers have gone into diverse fields from choreography to marketing and law. We take great care to screen professionals before adding them to the Network to ensure that dancers nationwide receive outstanding peer support and professional development guidance.

Using the Network is easy. Dancers select a career path or a geographic region to see a list of professionals. They review the results of their search and filter the list by criteria such as alma mater. The last step is to make contact with a professional through our site. To help simplify introductions, we have included a pre-written letter that can be personalized and an area to submit initial questions and voice concerns.

Professionals can join the Network on our site. It only takes a few minutes to sign-up, and an additional few minutes each time the professional is contacted to participate in this unique online program. As always, we are concerned about privacy. To that end, we’ve taken steps to ensure that the information submitted on our site remains confidential. We have security practices in place that ensure the Network is safe and secure for both dancers and the professionals that generously volunteer their time, insight and experience.
President’s Message
Get connected at careertransition.org
By Cynthia Fischer

As you know, our new website was launched in May 2008, and continues to improve and increase the range of available services and information.

Our website is a thing of wonder to me, as one of the technically challenged generation! However, even I find it extremely user-friendly and I am able to navigate it with ease. This was one of our goals and it just keeps getting better.

We were astounded to learn at the last board meeting that traffic to careertransition.org has more than doubled, from an average 33,000 monthly requests for content to 67,000; with over 39,000 dancers reading previous issues of MovingOn, and over 21,000 using the transition links directory.

Recently we put other popular services online such as a video directory of previous Career Conversations seminars and an online version of our National Career Network.

Each of the Video Career Conversations highlights a panel of experts in a specific field. They cover a wide range of topics such as starting a business or job search strategies. These are and will continue to be attended by interested dancer-clients, but now they are available at any time for dancers.

The National Career Network provides indispensable mentoring opportunities with professionals who work in over 50 fields, many of whom are successfully transitioned dancers. They provide support and information for dancers who are contemplating a career move or interested in attending a particular school or university. When using the Network, a dancer can simply search for someone by occupation, by the geographic region in which they went to school, or by the school or institution that they attended. Searching is done via simple menus, without any typing, to make exploring the Network easy. Once the dancer has found a professional who can provide them with the information they are looking for, the Network will connect the two individuals by email or by phone.

Our Annual Gala has gone online as well. Clients, supporters and anyone interested can access information about the gala, see great photos from last year and order tickets online. It is also possible to make donations online, a critical service. As you can imagine, dancers are coming to us in record numbers seeking scholarships and counseling. Unemployment has hit this sector particularly hard, so we need all the help we can get.
Scholarships nationwide harder to receive

More dancers than ever seeking support

Students applying for scholarships are finding it harder to solidify funding as providers, hammered by falling investments, returns and declining support in donations, are being forced to cut back, as reported by the New York Times.

The recession has made many foundations, corporations, government organizations, and colleges reduce their support for students who cannot afford college tuition. As reported by Peterson's, a college preparation website, the number of scholarship awards rose by almost 21% in 2008, from 1.4 million to 1.7 million, yet the average amount of scholarship money awarded dropped by almost 7%, from $4,607 to $4,300.

As a result of cutbacks, Career Transition For Dancers has seen a substantial increase in scholarship requests from dancers nationwide. If this trend continues, the organization will award over $456,200 in grant and scholarship money, $125,000 more than our budgeted amount for the year.

To ensure that no dancer is denied an opportunity for education, the organization has asked many of our loyal donors to make gifts that will meet the growing demand for educational scholarships. We have also initiated a special campaign dedicated to closing our funding gap of $125,000 by inviting donors to create a $2,000 named scholarship. Some have opted for an installment plan of $170 per month for one year, making this a financially accessible option. If you are interested in supporting this program, please contact us or make a donation on our secure website. You may also return the enclosed reply envelope and state that you want your gift to be dedicated to educational scholarships. Every dollar given to this initiative will be awarded directly to one of our many deserving dancers-clients.

Mail call

Letters from our clients

Steven Davis

Mrs. Vivian Milstein,

Thank you for your support of Career Transition For Dancers. The counseling they provide has been invaluable and the grant I received will be a great help in my transition from a wonderful, ten-year career at American Ballet Theatre and Ballet West to my undergraduate studies in International Relations at Brown University.

All the best,
Steven Davis

Sabra Perry

Dear Mrs. Anka Palitz,

I would like to express my gratitude for your generous support towards my tuition at Empire State College, where I just completed my BA.

I have been a professional dancer for seventeen years. Since 1999, I have been a member of Complexions Contemporary Ballet, and continue to perform with the company both in the United States and internationally. The program at Empire State College allowed me to continue my studies while maintaining a full rehearsal and touring schedule. The scholarship I received ensured that I was able to complete my degree before retiring from performing, and thus be better prepared to make a transition to a new career.

With sincere thanks,
Sabra Perry

Stephanie Pope-Caffey

Dear Ms. Mary Lou Westerfield of Actors’ Equity Association,

I have recently received a grant to help cover Liability Insurance for my new business, Bikram Yoga – East Harlem opening in September of this year. It is comforting to know that after 20 years of giving my all on stage to the Broadway Theatre Community, the same Community is able, in its own very special way, to give back through these grants.

I cannot begin to tell you how much it is appreciated!

With regards,
Stephanie Pope-Caffey

Renee Stork

I have been deeply touched by the support I have found at Career Transition For Dancers. Had I known about your organization earlier, I would have been at your door years ago. Learning that an organization like yours exists has made a significant difference in my life. I often felt that most of the transition process would be a solo act without much of a supporting cast, but I know now there is a solid support system out there which helps and understands people like me.

Knowing that a group of people, who acknowledge me as a former dancer transitioning into a new career, and support me in this significant way has been a meaningful assurance during an exciting but challenging time. Thank you for your support.

With sincere gratitude,
Renee Stork
Transition tales
John-Mario Sevilla

From the pen of John-Mario Sevilla, this former dancer with Pilobolus talks about his transition from dance to arts administration and returning to dance while developing a career in education.

When I received a Career Transition For Dancers grant a dozen years ago, I had recently left Pilobolus. I had been the Dance Captain, but had entered that stage when the one-night gigs and transportation hassles, the physical demands, and my own waning passion coalesced into an inevitable, however fraught, decision to move on.

A dancer from birth to earth, however, I was determined to stay in the field. I adored the wise, gracious teachers who had moved me in unexpected directions, so I ventured to become one of them. Career Transition For Dancers helped in my matriculation at Teachers College, Columbia University. While there, I landed a job at New York City Ballet designing curricular programs for thousands of the city’s schoolchildren and their teachers. I eventually was promoted to direct the whole Education Department. But after years of wearing an arts administrator’s hat, I began to rue my drift away from dancing. So I then initiated another career change to go back to the studio and stage.

I left NYCB for the MFA in Dance Performance program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. I will graduate from this awesome low-residency program in August, and I’m dancing again as a result.

Fortunately, I had another opportunity to fulfill my educator’s heart. I am now the director at the Dance Education Laboratory (DEL) at the 92nd Street Y, Harkness Dance Center; a community-centered institution with a deep dance history, where I organize professional development courses to train teachers that will bring dance meaningfully into people’s lives.

Through the many changes one thing has remained constant: the support I have received from Career Transition For Dancers and their career counselors. I know that if I ever feel the need to make another change, Career Transition For Dancers will be there to help me along the way. Amidst all of these many attempts to be an artist and educator, they helped me realize I will always be essentially a student, of life and of dance. I’m ever in training, constantly becoming, curiously seeking inspiration in my doings, taking risks, supremely grateful to discover grace in my unavoidable transformations, in the interstitial transitions of a dance life... in the sublime, evocative gestures between gestures.

Spotlight On
Randy Davis

Randy talks about his dance career and giving back to dancers and dance students alike.

As a boy in Oregon, Randy Davis experienced what could easily be called a “Billy Elliot moment.” Upon registering as the only boy for his magnet school’s unique dance course, Randy became the subject of his instructor’s concentrated focus. With appreciation for this attention and finding both skill and joy in his early dance training, Randy continued to pursue his performance studies as a high school and university student before launching into a successful career as a Broadway and internationally touring dancer.

Rising through the ranks from ensemble member to dance captain in shows such as Guys & Dolls, Cats, and Harlem Song, Randy began to develop a keen commitment to the value of passing on dance and choreography.

Yet while nurturing a growing interest in teaching and preserving the art of dance, Randy simultaneously realized, “I wanted to find out what else I liked to do. I didn’t even know what my favorite color was.”

Indulging a long-held interest in real estate, Randy enrolled in a licensing course at New York University with the goal to develop cooperative housing for artists. He shortly thereafter inaugurated a dance training program at a private school in New York City.

When he became a Career Transition For Dancers client in 2006, Randy sought advice on combining his performance and post-performance work experience into one effective resume. After being referred by Board member Mercedes Ellington, Randy was invited by career counselor Lauren Gordon to speak on a Career Conversations panel, providing one more opportunity to share his experiences and knowledge with colleagues.

Randy currently works at the Global School and the Roy Arias Dance/Acting Studio, where he helps performers prepare for auditions and theater roles. Remembering his time as a dancer-client, Randy says that Career Transition For Dancers taught him “not to be scared. If you can step in front of 1,500 people, you can step into a new life.”
Happenings
Across the country

Career Conversations  In New York City
Oct 26  Finding off-season and survival jobs
Nov 16  Cool social networking for career development: Facebook, Twitter & LinkedIn
Dec 7  Annual holiday networking event
Dec 16  Teaching careers
Jan 25  Getting / completing your degree
Feb 22  Health and wellness careers
Mar 22  Embracing your transition
May 17  Planting and growing your business

Career Conversations  In Los Angeles
Jul 21  LEAP: Going back to school on your own terms
Sep 9  Changing lanes: Attack the job market in a recession
Dec 17  Annual holiday networking event
Jan 26  Roundtable 3rd annual meeting: Update on the LA dance scene
Feb 23  Personal finances: Recession does not have to mean depression
Mar 30  Finding meaning in your life
Apr 27  Social networking: More trouble than its worth, or a lifeline to your success?

About
Career Transition For Dancers

We believe in the potential of dancers. We are committed to providing the experience, insight, and resources dancers need to define their career possibilities and develop rewarding post-performance careers.

Dancers possess unique skills and unrivaled dedication. Their passion for discovery, innovation and expression is an exceptional strength. In everything we do, we celebrate dancers’ unique potential and empower them to continue to affect our world in positive ways, both on and off the stage.

Our mission  Your future
Career Transition For Dancers is a not-for-profit organization that enables dancers to define their career possibilities and develop the skills necessary to excel in a variety of disciplines.

Our commitment  Your potential
We are supportive, perceptive and resourceful. As dancers continue to develop their strengths, many of them look to us to help cultivate their unique abilities as they begin the process of defining viable career possibilities. At Career Transition For Dancers, dancers’ needs always come first. Our insightful career counselors focus on and address each dancer’s individual needs. We do this because we believe that strong relationships are built on understanding, which is why our programs are designed to provide long-term support when dancers need us most.

With offices in New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago and a mobile National Outreach Project, we have provided over 45,000 hours of individual and group career counseling, with a dollar value of over $4.9 million, and awarded over $3.1 million in educational, entrepreneurial and certification grants. Outside of the organization’s 4,400 active clients, we have helped thousands of dancers in 47 states take their first steps in discovering rewarding second careers.

Career Counseling  Vital dialog
Providing career counseling is at the heart of our mission. We help dancers with the process of self-evaluation, guide their discovery of practical options, and motivate them to achieve their long-term goals. Created to provide dancers with an open-ended dialogue, career counseling helps define dancers’ interests and skills. We provide individual and group counseling that introduces dancers to useful skills and topics. We also have local and national outreach projects to engage dancers outside of our local offices. In 2008 we provided over 5,079 hours of counseling to dancers across the country.

Scholarships and Grants  Financial assistance
Career Transition For Dancers is the only organization in the nation that provides financial assistance specifically to help dancers’ careers. The various programs within The Caroline H. Newhouse Scholarship Fund and The Sono Osato Scholarship Program for Graduate Studies provide assistance for dancers who are looking to earn undergraduate or graduate degrees, vocational certification, or the acquisition of new skills. The organization also provides seed money to entrepreneurial dancers to found new businesses, encouraging the community’s vitality. In 2008 we awarded over $328,000 in scholarships and grants.

We are now on Facebook
Let your friends know
Stay current with our nationwide services, view images of our Annual Gala and other events, and share your thoughts with Facebook. To join our group, visit facebook.com and enter Career Transition For Dancers in the search field.
Resources Beyond counseling and scholarships

As Sir Francis Bacon said, “Knowledge is Power.” He couldn’t be more right in this day and age. Information is the key to the success of individuals striving to realize their life’s goals. Just as dancers depend on their knowledge of technique to develop their talent as artists, they also need the right information to help navigate their life-long career moves. We provide resource centers in our New York and Los Angeles offices, equipped with a computer lab and a library stocked with career development literature, university guides and other relevant materials. We also have a comprehensive website with an online video directory of over 50 career oriented videos, transition tools directory with over 130 links to career resource websites, and an online version of our popular National Career Network, a database of over 500 experts from a variety of disciplines who have volunteered their time to help transitioning dancers.

Donate now Send in your reply envelope

In addition to the organization’s 4,400 active clients, we have empowered thousands of dancers in 47 states to reach their potential. Every contribution towards our mission makes a difference. $5, $10, or $50 may not seem like a lot, but combined with the over 1,900 donors who are committed to our programs, it provides almost 70% of our annual budget of $1.3 million. Donations can also be made at careertransition.org/DonateNow.

America Dances On Broadway

On May 7th, Capezio / Ballet Makers hosted a gala kick-off party at their flagship store on Broadway for the organization’s 24th Anniversary Jubilee, America Dances! Celebrating our Sparkling Heritage – Broadway, TV, & Film.

Twitter the Annual Gala Stay up to date

Conveniently receive updates on new presenters and performers by following the Annual Gala on Twitter. Click the blue icon on our website that says Twitter the Gala or search for our profile CTFDGALA, on twitter.com. Not only will you receive updates but you can also add your own personal information you think others may want to read.

Winter Heat Dinner and dancing at the Rainbow Room

On March 9th, Career Transition For Dancers and Harbor Conservatory for the Performing Arts joined for Winter Heat at the famed Rainbow Room. The purpose was to raise funds to ensure futures for both performers beginning in dance as well as performers preparing for transitions from their dance careers. The event was a huge success, raising almost $70,000 for our programs and services, thanks mostly to the hard work of the organization’s Benefit Chairs, Janice Becker and Fe Saracino Fendi and Enrica Arengi Bentivoglio, Emily Chen, Michelle Clemack, Justine DiCostanzo, Mercedes Ellington, Susan Krysiewicz and Thomas Bell, and Maria and Philip Yang whom served on the Benefit Committee. Thank you to everyone who supported this event, including Rolex Watch USA and Capezio / Ballet Makers who were this year’s sponsors. We hope to see you again next year when the heat is on!

Rolex @ Sardi’s Pre-gala celebration

On June 2nd, Allen Brill, President and CEO of Rolex Watch USA hosted a pre-gala luncheon. The event celebrated Patrick Swayze being honored with the Rolex Dance Award and Lawrence Herbert and Lloyd E. Rigler – Lawrence E. Deutsch Foundation, who will receive the organization’s award for Outstanding Contributions to the World of Dance. They will receive their awards on November 2, 2009 at the organization’s Annual Gala America Dances! Celebrating Our Sparkling Heritage – Broadway, TV, & Film. The event was underwritten in part by Alexander J. Dubé.
Career Transition For Dancers

The Caroline & Theodore Newhouse Center for Dancers

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Career Transition For Dancers admits eligible current, former, and future professional dancers of any race, color, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to its clients. The organization does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origin in administration of its policies, scholarship awards and other organizational programs.

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Visit our new websites with enhanced career resources, and let us know what you think:
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Lawrence Herbert
Lloyd E. Rigler – Lawrence E. Deutsch Foundation

“extraordinarily spectacular... everything that showbiz should be”
– The New York Times

“dazzling... sizzling... flawless execution”
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AMERICA DANCES!

Career Transition For Dancers 24th Anniversary Jubilee

Presents

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