

# “America, the mover and shaker of all times,” is what some would say after seeing *America Dances!*

November 2nd, audiences at New York City Center saw some of America’s greatest choreographers and dance genres along with some of the bright stars of tomorrow.

Produced and Directed by **Ann Marie DeAngelo**, the 90-minute show featured works by **George Balanchine, Isadora Duncan, Bob Fosse, Benoit-Swan Pouffer, and Sonya Tayeh**. The lineup included many companies and artists such as **Lori Belilove & The Isadora Duncan Dance Company, Ashley Boudier & Andrew Veyette** of New York City Ballet, the **Lombard Twins, Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, DecadanceTheatre, Sonya Tayeh Dance**, and featured performances by **Caitlin Carter, Kent Drake, Mercedes Ellington, Nicole Graniero, Robert LaFosse, John Selya**, and an additional 90 dancers from across the country.

**Jock Soto** presented the Award for Outstanding Contributions to the World of Dance to **Lawrence Herbert**. **Samuel Ramey** presented the second award to **James D. Rigler**, President of the Lloyd E. Rigler – Lawrence E. Deutsch Foundation. **Desmond Richardson** was joined by Tony Winner **Kiril Kulish** of “Billy Elliot” in presenting the Rolex Dance Award to **Lisa Niemi Swayze** in honor of her late husband **Patrick Swayze**. **Laura Benanti, Jacques d’Amboise, Nicole Fosse, Valerie Harper, and Kathleen Marshall** made special appearances to share their love for dancers and introduce some of the acts. **Gayle Conran**, former member of the Boston Ballet and newly appointed board member, introduced the audience to **Mary Barnett, Hope Clarke, James Crescent, Hans Kriefall, Krisha Marciano, Dottie Belle Meymann**, and **Leo Schmidt** to share their transition stories and how the organization contributed to their careers.

The evening continued with dinner and dancing with the stars at the Hilton New York’s Grand Ballroom, styled by Dinner Chair, **Janice Becker**, followed by a live auction that raised \$95,000, thanks to the hard work of Auction Chairs **Ann Van Ness, Heléne Alexopoulos Warrick** and their committee. The organization would like to thank our Presenting Sponsor, Rolex Watch USA, the hard work of Jubilee Chair **Michele Herbert**, 24th Anniversary Chairs **Anka K. Palitz** and **Allen Brill**, Gala Chairs **Victor Elmaleh, Michele Riggi, James D. Rigler, Susan Fawcett Sosin, Lisa Niemi Swayze**, and all the Chairs, Vice-Chairs, committee members and donors who enabled us to raise over \$924,000 that evening to support our programs and services.

## President’s message

### Helping dancers weather the storm

BY CYNTHIA FISCHER

As reported on our website and in various materials, there has been a dramatic increase in services needed by the dance community this year. Scholarship requests are up 46% and career counseling hours are up 29%.



Cynthia Fischer, President, Board of Directors

So, what do these statistics mean and how do they affect our dancer-clients?

Some are taking advantage of the forced hiatus to further their education or plan for future careers. Some are deciding that this is the time to stop performing and are coming to our counselors to develop an exit plan. Some are waiting out the storm and seeking survival jobs in fields such as yoga and pilates until new work can be found.

At Career Transition For Dancers, we are and will always be the connection to their future. We help them find ways to earn a living until work is available or support them if they decide to seek a new career. We also provide grants



through the Caroline H. Newhouse Scholarship Fund if they feel finding a new career involves earning a degree or certification in a particular field.

In the past year, we have provided counseling and scholarships to dancers seeking careers in such diverse fields as accounting, acupuncture, holistic medicine, law and nursing, to name a few.

What an amazing organization this is. I hope you are as proud as I am to help provide this vital safety net at such a critical moment in dancers' lives.

As the demand for services increases, so does our reliance on donations from people like you. The Board of Directors and I have pledged unwavering support for the organization's programs to ensure they continue to be provided free of charge to every dancer who needs our help, whether they be in person at our New York, Los Angeles or Chicago offices, online at [Careertransition.org](http://Careertransition.org), or around the country through CareerLine hotline or National Outreach Projects.

Thank you for making these services possible and best wishes from all of us for a happy, healthy and productive new year.

## Executive Director's message

### Celebrating 25 years of service

BY ALEXANDER J. DUBÉ

2008 and 2009 have been tumultuous years both financially and psychologically to our dancer-clients nationwide.

With businesses, including dance companies and other arts related organizations, cutting back, Career Transition For Dancers' Board of Directors has resolved that we will not reduce any of our programs and services, and this is evidenced this year by a 46% increase in awarding scholarships for education, entrepreneurial endeavors and certification programs that will total an expenditure of \$406,000, plus a 29% increase in our one-one-one career counseling services.

Our dancer-clients need us now more than ever and we will continue to be their "safety-net" through and including our 2010 25th Silver Anniversary Jubilee.

At this star-studded event on—HOLD THE DATE—**Monday, November 8, 2010**, we will celebrate our past, present and future achievements, and dedicate this very important milestone to the more than 4,300 dancer-clients we have had the privilege to serve the past quarter century.

Our mission continues to enable dancers to define their career possibilities and develop the skills necessary to excel in a variety of disciplines.

From a very grateful organization, we thank our Board of Directors, underwriters, sponsors, patrons, staff, friends and volunteers for allowing us to not only achieve our mission, but to surpass it. The transition journey continues for all of us, and thank you for allowing Career Transition For Dancers to be a part of each of your journeys. Here's to the next 25 years!

Be sure to follow the gala on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com) to be the first to know about performers and presenters.

From top: **Acacia Schachte** and **Jason Kittelberger**, **John Selya** and **Nicole Graniero**, **Andrew Veyette** and **Ashley Boudier**  
 (Photos: Richard Termine)

