You were instrumental in helping me envision and grow into a new, post-dance life. –Catherine Oppenheimer

To have one-on-one attention focused on you and your priorities is an absolutely priceless resource. –Hans Kriefall

I’ve never thought of myself as very employable except as a dancer or teacher and now my whole viewpoint has changed. –Michelle Seymour

You make it so much easier to go out into the world and take risks. –Alicia Graf

This isn’t only for former dancers or dancers in crisis; it’s a must for all dancers. –Sandra Brown

You helped me find opportunities that I would not have imagined otherwise. –Jonah Bokaer
Our 25th Anniversary Silver Jubilee is but one reason to recall a 1982 conference led by Edward Weston of Actors’ Equity Association, Richard LeBlond of the San Francisco Ballet and Chaired by Agnes de Mille.

By Cynthia Fischer, President

The purpose of the conference was to recognize and discuss the trauma facing professional dancers both during and at the end of their careers, and to identify how best to assist them into rewarding new professions that would make use of their unique backgrounds, talents, and skills. The conference was attended by such dance luminaries as Lucia Chase, Rebekah Harkness, Robert Joffrey, Nora Kaye, Jerome Robbins, Herbert Ross, Donald Saddler, Marge Champion, Edward Villella and Gwen Verdon.

As a result of this meeting, Career Transition For Dancers was founded in 1985 by the four performing arts unions: Actors’ Equity Association, American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, American Guild of Musical Artists and Screen Actors Guild. The organization was originally administered by the Actors’ Fund and at the helm, was Ann Barry, our first Executive Director and President.

Career Transition For Dancers is the only arts-service organization in the United States dedicated solely to the enrichment of dancers’ post-performing years, and recognizes that dancers possess the assets and growth potential that employers seek and entrepreneurial ventures demand. For the past twenty-five years the organization has offered, entirely free of charge, services empowering dancers from all disciplines: dancers from companies or downtown/freelance dancers; dancers in musical theatre, Las Vegas shows, and industrials; and dancers in the television and film industries. Our services are available throughout a dancer’s dance life from students to professionals sidelined by injury or retirement.

We have grown to be national with offices in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago. Serving the entire United States, we have dancer-clients in forty-seven (47) states thus far with just three to go! We are unique in our dedication solely to helping dancers move on to satisfying second careers.

Our core services, scholarships and counseling, have grown to include “Career Conversation” seminars, support and entrepreneurial groups, and national and local outreach programs which bring our services to dance communities throughout the US. The National Career Network provides mentoring, CareerLine allows dancers to obtain counseling services by telephone from wherever they are, and our website, careertransition.org, launched in 2008, provided 91,000 dancers with services in its first year alone.

This is our twenty-fifth anniversary year and we are so very proud that since 1985, Career Transition For Dancers has awarded millions of dollars in scholarships for education, entrepreneurial endeavors and certification programs, and provided 46,000 hours of career counseling. The needs of the dancers continue to increase and in 2009 alone we awarded $428,000 in scholarships. The exceptional accomplishments of the organization’s dancer-clients reflect the diversity of the dance community at large and the wealth of talent among its members. They have successfully transitioned into new careers in an amazing range of professions: everything from advertising and architecture to violin restoration and zoology. Their career choices are primarily non-dance related, requiring commitment to starting afresh and moving on in a creative and determined way.

Our efforts have been generously supported by our donors and friends.

Caroline Newhouse’s $1 million endowment grant allows us to maintain the Caroline & Theodore Newhouse Center For Dancers in New York City. The Sono Osato Program for Graduate Studies was generously endowed with $1.35 million by Sono Osato. Endowments for scholarships have been made by foundations in the names of Clarence Y. Palitz, Rudolf Nureyev, Carmen Diana Barth, Agnes de Mille, Violet Blumenfeld, Lillian Sayers and Vivian Milstein.

Career Transition For Dancers is indebted to the vision of the participants in that 1982 conference who recognized the unique challenges faced by dancers and the vital need for an organization like ours. We owe our existence to the foresight of the unions who took that vision and made it a reality. We will honor them at our 25th Anniversary Silver Jubilee on November 8th.

As a result of that vision and support, for twenty-five years the organization has enriched the lives of countless dancers who have spent their lives bringing beauty and magic to ours.

International transition organizations Leadership meeting in New York City

Career Transition For Dancers hosted a conference of the International Organization of the Transition of Professional Dancers (IOTPD), representing transition centers in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, The Netherlands, Switzerland, South Korea and Poland, on June 4th and 5th. The organization addressed the use of the internet and its positive effects on their respective dance communities, as well as current trends relating to regional programs and services.
The average retirement age for a dancer is 29. Career Transition For Dancers is the launching pad for the next 70 years of life! —Chita Rivera

How do you document success? Is it how many tickets your theater sells? How many people visited your museum? Maybe even how many hits your website gets? For Career Transition For Dancers, it is how in demand our services are.

By Anka K. Palitz, Vice President

Since I joined the board 12 years ago, the organization’s active clients have increased by almost 320%, from 1,100 to over 4,600. The number of weekly career counseling hours increased by 40% and the grants we award each year increased by 260%. I am proud of these accomplishments, but am aware that a greater demand for services requires an even greater demand for funds.

What we are doing now

The recession has effected many nonprofit organizations in New York City and Career Transition For Dancers has not been excluded. To ensure no dancer is turned away, my colleagues and I on the board have pledged not to reduce any of our program related expenses, which has led to deficit budgets in 2008 and 2009. To help us meet this increased demand, renowned dancer Sono Osato has presented us with a one to one challenge grant of $250,000 in 2010. The grant is intended to enhance our educational scholarship program and ensure that our general fund ends the year with a balanced budget. Our donors have been receptive to this challenge, having already donated $100,000, knowing that their gifts will be worth double if we meet the goal. But we still have $150,000 more to raise, which combined with our other fundraising efforts can truly become a challenge.

What we have done

Fifteen years ago when I chaired the organization’s first fundraising gala, we raised $59,000 and felt like heroes, but knew we could do more. Last year, we raised $560,000, but still felt like there was more to be done. As a fundraising chair, I have been part of many successful fundraising projects, like Winter Heat created by Janice Becker and Fe Saracino Fendi that recently raised almost $59,000, or the Palm Beach Fashion Awards, created by myself and sought-after fashion designer Alfred Fiandaca that raised over $65,000 in its first year alone. Through these efforts we have developed new relationships with donors and raised vital funds, while having a great time in the process.
What we need to do

Every year the number of grants we award increases. In the past five years alone, grant awards have increased by 95%. Being committed to education, I have personally donated over $60,000 to create educational scholarships, which has helped over 30 dancers pursue careers in medicine and law, to name a few. Last year we held a special scholarship campaign to meet the budgetary needs of this program and this year we must raise double to ensure no dancer is denied access to this resource. Again, thanks to the help of Sono Osato, if we raise $150,000 she will match it, essentially doubling the funds for this campaign. For our 25th Anniversary Silver Jubilee, I will be joined by Allen Brill, Michele Herbert and Nicole Sexton as Anniversary Chairs with a goal to raise $1.1 million for counseling and scholarships. As Career Transition For Dancers sets the stage for success for dancers nationwide, so do our fundraising efforts, which is why we hope you can continue to support us as we continue to connect dancers to their future successes.

Executive Director’s Message Starting the future in the present

By Alexander J. Dubé

Mahatma Gandhi said, “The future is what we will do in the present.” Having recently completed a strategic planning process, the organization will implement a plan to achieve stability and sustainability for the organization’s future. Our goal is to ensure the growth of our vital programs and services while addressing the ever-growing needs of our dancer-clients for the next 25 years.

How will we accomplish this? My colleagues Cynthia Fischer and Anka Palitz have eloquently addressed this question in their messages. However, I would like to add that since we are the only service organization of its kind in the USA that addresses the needs of dancers, we are truly unique in the dance community. Not only do we partner with and complement the mission of each and every dance company, we are the ‘safety net’ for all dancers who will face the inevitability of transition.

We are blessed that so many individual patrons, corporations and foundations have identified Career Transition For Dancers as a beneficiary of their funds. Without such support we would not exist. The words “thank you” can never be said enough for allowing us the rare and special privilege to serve dancers. We are thankful for our past, grateful for our present, and extremely hopeful for our future thanks to all of you.

Dancers live to wake people up, to make them really live. Career Transition For Dancers exists to help dancers really live. –Ann Reinking

Transition Tales

Karen Giombetti

Twenty-five years ago, I was sitting at my dressing table preparing for the matinee performance of “The Mystery of Edwin Drood” when the stage manager called the dancers into a meeting. A representative from Actors’ Equity had come to introduce us to the newly formed Career Transition For Dancers program.

“Career transition for dancers?” we thought, amused—we had just been moaning about our aches and pains, getting older, and wondering how long we could go on doing 8 shows a week. We then heard the question we all feared: “So, have any of you thought about what you will do when you can’t dance anymore?” Well, who really thought about those things 25 years ago? After all, we lived in the moment because the moment was so completely fulfilling. Only the walls of our dressing rooms knew the angst we felt when considering a future devoid of the joy and fulfillment of dance.
Since then, much has changed. Work is increasingly scarce, as the number of dancers in search of opportunities continues to grow, the cost of living has increased and in the current economic climate there is no time to waste when a dancer makes a career transition.

It is not surprising, then, that Career Transition For Dancers, which we once thought was a sympathetic outreach for old dancers, has now become a vital resource for a dancer’s hope and survival. The organization defined the issues surrounding transition, validated our fears and motivated us to seek help.

The organization led me to understand that the list of remarkable skills that defined me as a dancer continues to define me today.

While it may seem inconceivable to measure the thrill of our dance careers against any future opportunities, it is also true that this emotion can empower us. Career Transition For Dancers allowed me to see transition as less about mourning the loss of my ability to dance and more about a celebration of that gift. Today I acknowledge that the dancer inside me continues to define my purpose. She gives me the power to express myself and the confidence to seek new and different thrills as I build my business and move forward with my life.

I am honored to have received this scholarship. In researching the scholarship program’s benefactor, Caroline Newhouse, I found deep inspiration in her role as both an artist of many talents, and a philanthropic supporter. Indeed her recognition of the immeasurable beauty and inspiration of dancers, as artists, and also as people with deeply personal and moving stories, is a fascination I share with her as I direct my films. Furthermore, I admire that she took her own success and passed it on to others who need and deserve it, so that they too can be successful.

Already this dedicated support has borne fruit. As a direct result of this scholarship, I was able to create a film of excellent quality as part of my course work for my MFA. What began as an assignment became a beautifully photographed, light-hearted short film that was invited to screen as part of the International Tres Court Film Festival. At the festival, the film won the award for the Most Original short film. I am deeply inspired, and know that Career Transition For Dancers, and the Caroline Newhouse Scholarship Fund, have been one of the exceptional resources to make this possible.

Sincerely,
Lia Johnson

**Scot Willingham**

In 2005 I was awarded an educational grant through your organization. I have now finished my Masters degree in Motor Learning awarded February 10, 2010 from Teachers College, Columbia University. This letter extends and communicates my gratitude and thanks for your support in obtaining this valuable degree and challenging education. I will be forever grateful for your assistance and your trust in my ability to achieve this milestone.

Thank you for your generosity and support,
Scot Willingham

**Nicole Corral**

Your generosity has jump started me into a new career path that I am extremely excited about. The organization has been an excellent resource for me as a dancer transitioning into a new professional direction and I hope it continues to help many other dancers for years to come. I truly hope there will come a day that I can give back the same generosity that has been offered to me by Career Transition For Dancers.

With gratitude,
Nicole R. Corral

**Deborah Lohse**

The decision to go back to school was full of fear and excitement and to have the generous support of Career Transition For Dancers as I take this risk in expanding my creative talents, means the world to me. Your gift of this scholarship and the encouragement from the counseling staff at the organization has put me on a steady path of renewed personal and professional growth.

Thank you for continuing to support dancers and offer assistance, at this tricky time of transition, when feelings of bitter-sweet sadness of honoring a dance career and joyous hope and excitement of humbling new challenges mix. Thank you for believing that my talents, offered to and learned within the dance community, are worthy of acknowledgment and that you support my leap into a new beginning.

Thank you,
Deborah Lohse

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Mail Call

**Letters from our clients**

**Lia Johnson**

In August of 2009 I was accepted to the prestigious TischAsia School of the Arts where I began the first of my three years of study to attain a Masters of Fine Arts in film directing and production from New York University.

In addition to funding, the scholarship provided me the opportunity to be mentored by some of the world’s greatest living filmmakers. Already I have received tutelage from many greats including Oscar-nominated writer/director Kenneth Lonergan, award-winning writer/director Todd Solondz, and the school’s Artistic Director, Oscar-winner writer/director Oliver Stone, among others.
Happenings

Schedule of events

Career Conversations In New York City

- Sep 13  Financing your education
- Oct 18  Exploring medical professions
- Dec 13  Annual holiday networking party
- Dec 15  Teaching careers
- Jan 19  Pursuing a master’s degree
- Jan 31  Getting / completing your bachelor’s degree

Career Conversations In Los Angeles

- Jan 25  Personality types and your career
- Feb 25  PR & marketing in the 21st century
- Mar 22  Opportunities in Education

National Outreach Project In your city

- Sep 10-11  Cleveland, OH
- Sep 24-26  Las Vegas, NV
- Nov 12-13  New Orleans, LA
- TBD  Charleston, SC

Keep up to date with our many seminars and events by visiting the Schedule of events at careertransition.org.

Our History 1995  With funding from Screen Actors Guild–Producers Industry Advancement & Cooperative Fund, the organization opens a Los Angeles Office to help dancers on the west coast.

Our History 2000  The organization hits the $1 million mark in the total amount of scholarships and grants awarded to dancers.

Our History 2005  Sono Osato donates $250,000 to create a scholarship fund for dancers who wish to pursue graduate degrees. Sono further expands the fund to $1.35 million.

I’m so committed to this organization and their work to redirect these worthy dancers into new professions.

–Sono Osato

When we must stop dancing, we never know. But thanks to Career Transition For Dancers, we are in control of what happens next.

–Mikhail Baryshnikov

Photo: Patrick McMullan

Video Conversations

Recently added

Make this year count! Get a certification or degree in under a year.

From Stepping into hope and change, learn about specific training programs and certifications that can be obtained in less than a year.

Welcome and keynote address with Alexander J. Dubé & James Fayette

From Stepping into hope and change, Opening remarks, “Good fit” careers and the The Party Group Activity to explore individual interests.

Wrap-up and next steps with Rosalynde LeBlanc

From Stepping into hope and change, Rosalynde LeBlanc, formerly with with Bil T. Jones / Amie Zane Dance Company and the White Oak Dance Project, discusses her career transition the strategy she used to become an adjunct professor at Long Island University.

What opportunities are out there? A look at hot career areas....

From Stepping into hope and change, learn how to take the experience and skills you already have and get into an industry that is in high demand.
I've got my passion! Now, how do I use it?
From Stepping into hope and change, put the pieces together to create a picture for attracting your “good fit” career.

Putting your best self forward: Networking, marketing and entrepreneurial techniques
From Stepping into hope and change, are you thinking of starting a small business or non-profit organization? Learn how to market yourself and get your foot in the door faster.

Plenary speaker Karen Giombetti
From Stepping into hope and change, Karen Giombetti talks about her transition from Broadway dancer to successful event planner.

Embracing your transition
Explore the emotional side of change with special guest David J. Diamond.

Health and fitness careers 2010
Hear inside information about pilates, fitness, yoga, wellness teacher training and other career paths.

Getting / completing your degree 2010
Going back to school? Get tips on how to finish your bachelor’s degree, learn about special degree programs for performing artists, and get ideas about new careers to study.

Cool social networking for career development
Find out how to use Facebook, Twitter & LinkedIn to promote your career.

View Video Career Conversations online at careertransition.org, and subscribe to our podcast with iTunes to have videos automatically download on your personal computer. Video Career Conversations are made possible by Rolex Watch USA.

Social media
Join the dialogue online

The organization recently setup a LinkedIn profile to post program updates, publish blogs and connect dancers. Follow us on Twitter for the latest updates, stay current with us by joining our Facebook page, or view stories of our dancer-clients on our YouTube channel.

Our History 2009
The National Career Network is created to connect dancers with professionals who wish to offer knowledge, experience and time toward their career development.

Our Supporters
Thank you for your commitment
Since 1985, donors like you have helped tens of thousands of dancers reach their potential. Funding for services such as career counseling, scholarships and career resources have helped provide the tools dancers need to define their career possibilities and develop rewarding post-performance careers. Donations from direct mail appeals, grants and our annual gala have enabled the organization to help dancers across the country in record numbers. Last year we provided nearly 950 dancers with 1,500 hours of free individual counseling and $428,000 in educational grants—not to mention the thousands of others we help through local and national outreach and our career resources website at careertransition.org.

Every contribution toward our mission makes a difference. $5, $10 or $50 may not seem like a lot from one person—but when combined with contributions from 1,900 donors, it’s nearly 70% of our annual budget of $1.3 million.

Furthermore, our one to one challenge grant will literally double the value of your gift. As the recession continues to adversely affect the dance community, more dancers than ever are looking to us for help to find work that supplements their current income or enables them to establish new careers altogether. Support from donors like you helps us meet these needs and help dancers establish worthwhile career paths. Please return the enclosed mailing envelope so you can help us continue these services for another 25 years.

MovingOn Summer 2010 7
Career Transition For Dancers

The Caroline & Theodore Newhouse Center for Dancers

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(1910-2003)
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The organization does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sexual orientation, national origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded and made available to its clients. The organization does not admit eligible current, former, and future professional dancers of any race, color, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origin to all of its programs, scholarship awards and other organizational programs.

Career Transition For Dancers

Our offices
New York
The Caroline & Theodore Newhouse Center for Dancers
165 W 46 Street, Suite 701
New York, NY 10036

Our offices
Los Angeles
5757 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 455
Los Angeles, CA 90036

Our offices
Chicago
Career Transition For Dancers at Hubbard Street
1147 W Jackson Blvd
Chicago, IL 60607

Mailing list
If you would like to provide feedback or have your name added to our mailing list, email info@careertransition.org

MovingOn has been generously underwritten by Screen Actors’ Guild–Producers Industry Advancement and Cooperative Fund

Special thanks to NYSCA for its support

The National Outreach Projects for 2013 are underwritten, in part, by the Bossak-Helbron Charitable Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts

Career Transition For Dancers admits eligible current, former, and future professional dancers of any race, color, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origin to all of its programs, scholarship awards and other organizational programs.

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CAREER TRANSITION FOR DANCERS
25th ANNIVERSARY SILVER JUBILEE
A STAR-STUDED RETROSPECTIVE

Monday, November 8, 2010 • 7:00 PM

Hosted by
Angela Lansbury

with appearances by

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For more stars and surprises for this one-night-only event, visit careertransition.org

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Career Transition For Dancers
The Caroline & Theodore Newhouse Center for Dancers
165 W 46 Street, Suite 701
New York, NY 10036

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