



Rolex at Sardi's: Hosted by **Allen Brill**, President & CEO of Rolex Watch USA.  
Photo: Jerry Ruotolo

## 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.

**Our History 1989 Career Conversations, a series of group counseling seminars, is created to address specific issues relating to career transition.**

## 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.



**Karen Giombetti**

Their message resounded deep within the dance community and created an awareness of a concern that we all needed to express.

On April 8, 2010, I was asked to speak at the organization's "Stepping Into Hope And Change" conference. I knew firsthand the struggles of transitioning from dance, having spent years silently mourning the loss of my identity from dancer to motherhood. When I finally made the decision to seek help, the organization provided resources, financial aid and counseling. Encouraged to re-examine the seemingly mundane everyday tasks that I had been performing, such as running a household, negotiating budgets, and throwing parties, I had discovered a talent for event planning and entertaining. I am currently an Independent Creative Director for Special Events.

**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.

## 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.

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 bittersweet 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**