

FULFILLING MY DREAMS IN THE WEST

As a three year old I knew that dance was going to be my life. My love only expanded as I begged for lessons, doing everything I could to earn my way, from working in a candy factory at 14 to winning scholarships. All my curiosity and schooling were dedicated to dance, following its history and performers as my inspiration. Seeing my first *Giselle* with Nora Kaye and Alicia Alonzo, I cried on cue at *The Red Shoes* – cinching my devotion. I was hooked!

So with a one-way ticket from Chicago to New York, I began

my journey through Ballet Russe, studying with such legendary teachers as Anatole Vilzak (Anna Pavlova's partner), Leon Danielian, Perry Brunson and Ballet Theatre's William Dollar. I was impelled into a professional career

in dance, ballet and on Broadway with Richard Rodgers, Jack Cole, Ethel Merman, Gemze DeLappe, Onna White, George Abbott, finally moving to L.A. and directing and choreographing for movies, TV, commercials, and music videos.

However, the time finally came when, because of circumstances and injuries, my career after 40 years in dance was over – an overwhelming reality filled with feelings of loss and shame. After wondering what I'd do to support my child and myself, I saw a small ad in Backstage

Financially Supporting Dancer-Clients



L to R: Board of Directors' President, Cynthia G. Fischer, Esq & Founding Director & Grants Administrator, Ann Barry (Photo: Jerry Ruotolo)

In a time when resources are so scarce, Career Transition For Dancers would be doing only half its job of supporting dancers' career transition endeavors if we did not provide financial assistance to those who need it to further their transition process.

The organization has a strong history of supporting higher education and degree programs and providing expert advice and funding for new business enterprises. We realize that these two services can be defining conduits for helping dancers to pursue and fulfill their dreams. I see this program as being the means by which dreams are

transformed into realistic attainable goals. Once a dancer is clear as to the next step they want to take, this program helps them move toward a viable plan of action.

To that end, since 1985 Career Transition For Dancers has awarded over 4.1 million dollars in scholarship and grant awards. Yes Virginia, there can be a life after dance and we're here to help make it possible.

- Ann Barry

Founding Director | Grants Administrator