

At the Dinner

by *Ann Van Ness*

CTFD Boardmember & Auction Chair

A Treat.

I love Dance and I love Dancers. They are a vital piece to the art and entertainment world. As a Board Member of Career Transition For Dancers, I am honored to volunteer my time and resources every year at our annual gala to these wonderfully disciplined artists. Yet, this year's magic was more than phenomenal, it was a Thriller! On Oct. 31, 2155 friends, colleagues, loved ones and all people passionate about dance gathered at the New York City Center for a one-of-a-kind performance; A Halloween Thriller presented by Rolex Watch USA.

As we watched dancers from around the country volunteer their time and talent; I couldn't help but be proud to support an organization that supports these dancers. I was left wanting more performances as the show came to an end, but I knew there was a second important element to the evening; the dinner and auction. I was overjoyed to see how much fun everyone was having. But I was focused, the dinner and auction was as important to the health of Career Transition For Dancers as the performance. Raising support that evening ensured we kept the doors open at CTFD, and continued to provide scholarships, grants, career counseling and support program nationally.

I was blown away the décor of the Grand Ballroom at the Hilton Hotel envisioned by Dinner Chair, Janice Becker. The beautifully Gothic theme complete with dripping candles and a rolling fog brought to life the spirit of Halloween of all of our guests. Looking at the room, I knew we were in for a fun-filled night

As our auctioneer opened the bidding to 752 dinner guests for a Thanksgiving Brunch with Times Square views of the parade, I felt butterflies. It was very important that the auction did well. Every dollar raised provided more for our programs. What a special way to give back and a wonderful showing of support! By the end of the evening, we raised an additional \$119,000.

But none of this would be possible without the hard-working 26th Anniversary co-Chairs, Michele Herbert, Anka K. Palitz, Stewart Wicht, the Gala Chairs, Honorary Chairs, Gala Leadership Committee members, Artistic Chair, Ann Marie DeAngelo, Dinner Chair, Janice Becker, Journal Chair, Craig Dix, and the 2011 Honorees, Victor Elmaleh, Nigel Lythgoe, Nancy MacMillan, and Michele Riggi. Thank You. This was the best Halloween ever!

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More Treats than Tricks: CTFD's Halloween Gala Fundraiser

by *Natasha Johnson, Esq*

Dancer & Volunteer

On a night traditionally filled with horror and gore, the red-carpet interviewer for Career Transitions for Dancers' (CTFD) annual fundraising gala, I and others were treated to an evening of glitz and glamour. CTFD's efforts to support dancers at any stage of their careers- pre or post dance- were highlighted by a multi-genre dance showcase at New York City's City Center. I was lucky enough to snap a photo with the evening's hostess, none other than the preeminent Chita Rivera.

The evening continued with a five-star dinner celebrating the efforts of notaries like Nigel Lythgoe (who I got another photo op with), a dance floor abound, and the most creative costumes this side north of the annual Village Halloween Parade.

As one of CTFD's newest fans and one of the hundreds of guests, I was noticeably awestruck and inspired. The combination of seeing some of the industry's' up and coming talent share the stage with some of dance's hottest acts and industry legendaries, including Judith Jamison, would make even those with two left feet full turn and recognize the importance of dance and the value and stability that CTFD offers to the dance community nationwide. Bravo CTFD!