

FIELD **BALLETTECH**

Ballet Tech Quarterly

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Introduction

We are pleased to present Ballet Tech's very first E-Newsletter, designed to keep our colleagues and supporters up to date on the latest Ballet Tech news. Articles will feature staff and policy changes, student achievements, events, and much more. Since this is a brand new publication, we welcome your input on the types of articles you are most interested in. Respond via email to: news@ballettech.org.

Bard Collaboration

Ballet Tech entered an exciting new partnership with Bard High School Early College (BHSEC) this Fall 2003. This collaboration presents Ballet Tech high school students (grades 9-12) with new opportunities and challenges. Ballet Tech high school students attend academic classes on Bard's campus while maintaining their ballet regimen at Ballet Tech. Students report to BHSEC at 525 East Houston in the morning for academics, and are transported by a van service to Ballet Tech in the afternoon for ballet classes.

Bard College, like Ballet Tech, partners with the New York City Department of Education to operate BHSEC, a specialized program for excelling students. Bard's program offers our students an exceptional, rigorous academic education as well as a larger student body with whom to interact. This program also offers small class sizes to ensure no student falls behind.

Featured Statistic

Enrollment: Last year, Ballet Tech enrolled 135 students in grades 4-12. This Fall, enrollment increased by 16% - 160 students are enrolled in grades 4-12.

New School Administrative Director, Deborah Nitzberg

Welcome Deborah Nitzberg, our new School Administrative Director. Deborah Nitzberg joins us this year, bringing over 15 years of experience in arts education to Ballet Tech. Since July of 2000, Ms. Nitzberg served as the Director of JCC Metro West Center for the Arts in West Orange, NJ, managing all arts programming. Prior to her work at the JCC, she spent five years as Artistic/Education Director for City Lights Youth Theatre. Ms. Nitzberg also directed numerous theatrical productions across the country and was recognized by the American Alliance for Theatre & Education as the 1998 Youth Theatre Director of the Year, and by the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People. She received her M.F.A. in Directing at Ohio University, and her B.A. in Drama at Bard College.

Faculty Directors: Christine Sarry & Cherylyn Jones

Ballet Tech responded to the expansion of the School with two new Faculty Directors for 2003/04. Just as the students have a principal in their academic classes, they need an advisor or counselor for their dance classes. The Faculty Directors will provide direction and career development related to dance. The school has grown over the past years significantly and it is imperative that the students receive individual guidance through these crucial years. The students are evaluated at pivotal times in their training: the end of 5th grade before entering middle school, the end of 8th grade before entering high school, and during their junior and senior years. The faculty directors closely monitor the students' achievements and communicate with teachers on progress and advisement of students. They not only serve as advisors, but also as ballet teachers and authority figures.

Christine Sarry: Faculty Director, Upper School

Ms. Sarry was a founding member and leading dancer in Eliot Feld's original company, American Ballet Company and the later, Eliot Feld Ballet. Her performing career spanned nearly 25 years, including Feld's companies, Joffrey Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, and numerous guest appearances. She trained under Valerie Silver and Carmelita Marracci in California and Barbra Fallis and Richard Thomas in New York City. A long-time faculty member of The Ballet Tech School, Ms. Sarry assumed this new position in June 2003.

Cherylyn Jones: Faculty Director, Lower School

Ms. Jones has 20 years of experience in the performing arts as a dancer, teacher, and administrator. She was a principal dancer with Eliot Feld Ballet, Twyla Tharp Dance, The Daring Project and appeared on Broadway in *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Jerome Robbins' Broadway*. Beyond the stage and film, Ms. Jones has worked in various capacities of the theater and has taught dance in New York and New Jersey for the last three years. Ms. Jones rejoined Ballet Tech in this newly created position in July 2003.

Open House Luncheon for Institutions

This past July Ballet Tech held an open house for potential Corporate and Institutional sponsors. During the open house, potential sponsors were encouraged to watch dance classes of varying abilities. Attendees enjoyed a casual lunch at Ballet Tech and an informal discussion with Mr. Feld. Guests were invited to ask questions about the program. The Luncheon was hosted by Karen Rosa of the Altman Foundation. The response was very positive and new relationships were cultivated.

Open Audition Dates for the Ballet Tech School, 2003/2004

Saturday, December 8, 2003

Saturday, February 7, 2004

Saturday, April 3, 2004

Saturday, June 5, 2004

To register for the audition, please call 212-777-7710 or check our website at www.ballettech.org/auditions.html for further information.

Upcoming Events

November 5, 2003: Open House for Individual Donors 1-3pm