

# FIELD **BALLETTECH**

## *Ballet Tech Quarterly*

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### **Students Attend ABT's Young People's Ballet Workshop**

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Ballet Tech's 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders attended American Ballet Theatre's Young People's Ballet Workshop. Accompanied by ballet teachers and academic staff, all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students traveled to the Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Center for an hour-long lecture/demonstration. ABT company members performed excerpts of this season's featured ballets while ABT's artistic staff provided narration and contextual information for the young audience members. The opportunity for our students to see live dance is fundamental to heightening their awareness of the potential outcome of their dance training. By witnessing dance performances, each student develops a more concrete grasp of what their hard work, dedication and concentration can bring. Participation in the workshop was made possible by American Ballet Theatre's generous offer of 100 complimentary tickets.

*The Ballet Tech School has enrolled 15,578 students to date!*

### **Cultural Exchange between Ballet Tech and Cuba**



Painting and Photo by Katie Yamasaki

Ballet Tech's visual arts teacher Katie Yamasaki recently traveled to Cuba to present an exhibition of her work. As an active muralist and teaching artist, Ms. Yamasaki was able to incorporate her trip into a successful cultural exchange program for Ballet Tech students. Students created 'postcards' from their lives in New York which Ms. Yamasaki used to create the body of work for her exhibition. Once on display in Cuba, students there viewed the paintings and then created their own return 'postcards' which were brought back and shared with Ballet Tech students. They will inspire an additional set of paintings.

## **Transitions in the Development Office**

Ballet Tech is pleased to announce the addition of Jessica Banks to our staff. Jessica will be taking over for Shannon Sheridan as the Director of Development. After seven years at Ballet Tech and with the birth of her second child quickly approaching, Shannon has decided to take time off to spend with her family. Our gratitude for Shannon's presence and hard work is enormous and she will be greatly missed. Jessica joins us with a strong dance background and more than ten years' experience working with non-profits, including the Freer and Sackler Galleries at the Smithsonian Institution and New York City Ballet. Best wishes, Shannon and welcome on board, Jessica!

**PLEASE VISIT US ONLINE AT BALLETTech'S NEWLY LAUNCHED  
MYSpace PAGE: [WWW.MYSpace.COM/BALLETTech](http://WWW.MYSpace.COM/BALLETTech)**

## **Ballet Tech Receives Funding from the State**

On behalf of everyone at Ballet Tech, we would like to thank Senator Jose Serrano, Senator Thomas Duane and Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell for securing budget funding for the Ballet Tech School during Fiscal Year 2008. We would also like to thank the New York State Council on the Arts for providing funding for the School for the 29<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. We are thrilled to receive this recognition from New York State!

# **Upcoming Events:**

## **After-School Program End-of-Year Event**

On Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 5pm, Ballet Tech (in conjunction with Oasis Children's Services) will present the annual After-School Program End-of-Year Event. The After-School program guarantees a safe haven for students while their parents are at work and includes lessons in literacy, drama, and music along with providing homework time and a snack. This end-of-year event will feature our students performing to the music of Nat King Cole, Elvis Presley and The Beatles, among others. An assortment of desserts will be served and proceeds from the event will benefit Heifer International and SAVE DARFUR.

## **Student Art Show**

Ballet Tech's Spring 2007 Student Art Show will take place on Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 pm. The Art Show is an annual display of our students' artistic talents in visual arts, dance and music. This year the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will perform musical selections on their recorders while other students, selected through an audition, will perform dances they then learned in weekly repertory classes.

### Ballet Tech Graduation

Graduation for the 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders will take place at 10 am on June 26<sup>th</sup> and will feature an awards ceremony and student performances. Congratulations to all of our graduates and good luck to our seniors!

### Summer Program

Ballet Tech's 2007 Summer Program will take place from July 9<sup>th</sup> through August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The summer program is a four-week, tuition-free session that serves as an extension of the traditional school year. The majority of Ballet Tech's students in grades 4-12 attend the program (approximately 150 students), which consists of ballet and theater dance classes. The program is an opportunity for our students to maintain their ballet technique over the summer and to focus on dance without the added pressures of the academic school year. This July marks the twentieth anniversary of the Summer Program.

### Alumni Program

Ballet Tech is developing an alumni program to keep in contact with graduates and former students. We are currently reaching out to past students of the school to gather current contact and career information. If you would like to submit information about a Ballet Tech alum, please contact us at [newsletter@ballettech.org](mailto:newsletter@ballettech.org) or (212) 777-7710 x316

### 2007-2008 Open Auditions

In addition to auditions held in public schools, Ballet Tech holds open auditions at 890 Broadway. For more information please call (212) 777-7710, ext. 300 or visit <http://www.ballettech.org/auditiondates.html>.

### Want to Know More about Ballet Tech?

For more information about Ballet Tech, please call (212) 777-7710 or visit <http://www.ballettech.org>.

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