

FELD BALLET TECH

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Ballet Tech's Spring Season is here!

Ballet Tech is pleased to announce the 2008 presentation of MANDANCE PROJECT and Kids Dance, which will take place April 9-20 at the Joyce Theater. This season will feature the premiere of four new ballets by Eliot Feld, as well as the United States debut of HORSE.

MANDANCE PROJECT will include two exhilarating programs this year. Program A will feature four ballets choreographed by Mr. Feld, including the premieres of *Undergo*, featuring long-time Feld dancer Wu-Kang Chen and the haunting vocals of Meredith Monk, and *Isis in Transit*, a solo for veteran Martha Graham dancer Fang-Yi Sheu to Steve Reich's *Violin Phase*. Program A will also include reprisals of *Backchat*, set to the music of Paul Lansky, and *Pursuing Odette*, danced by Ballet Tech School alumnae Ha-Chi Yu to music by Gustav Mahler. Program B will introduce the Taiwan-based dance group HORSE on its first tour to the United States. Led by Mr. Chen, HORSE will present *Velocity*, an evening-length work.



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Kids Dance, Ballet Tech's student performance troupe, will perform during four weekend matinees. In a program completely choreographed Mr. Feld, students will dance the crowd favorites *Meshugana Dance* and *Apple Pie* as well as the energetic premieres of *Quickstep* and *Dotty Polkas*. Forty-five students, ages 10 to 18, will participate. Showcasing the accomplishments of our young dancers, Kids Dance performances provide a great opportunity to introduce children to dance.

Join us for a performance! Please visit our website for more information on MANDANCE PROJECT or Kids Dance. To purchase tickets, please visit the Joyce Theater.

Opening Night Gala



On April 9, Ballet Tech will kick off its season with a special Opening Night Gala. The cocktail reception will begin at 6pm at the Ballet Tech studios and include an open class with children from the Ballet Tech School. The one-time-only Opening Night performance will feature the premieres of *Undergo*, *Isis in Transit*, *Dotty Polkas*, and *Quickstep*. Additionally, two critically acclaimed ballets - *Backchat* and *Pursuing Odette* - will return to the stage. All proceeds will benefit the Ballet Tech School. To purchase tickets to the Opening Night Gala, please call 212-777-7710, x316.

Ballet Tech Increases its Reach

In order to enroll approximately 800 students each year, including 650 part-time beginners and 150 full-time students, Ballet Tech conducts an extensive audition process. Working with a network of 400 public elementary schools across New York City, Ballet Tech auditions 25,000 public school children in grades 2-5 each year. For most participants, the audition represents their first introduction to dance. No experience is required. The auditions are designed to identify youngsters who possess the physical attributes suited to the demands of ballet and who demonstrate coordination, flexibility, and a desire to dance. Each year, Ballet Tech selects 800-1,000 students to participate in the Beginner program. Of those invited, approximately 650 students enroll.

We are pleased to report that we increased our reach this year. During the fall, Ballet Tech auditioned 16,785 children, up from 14,051 the previous fall. Auditions will continue in the spring and by the end of the year, we expect to have reached 30,000 children. In December, 778 students enrolled in Ballet Tech's eight-week Beginner program, up from 605 last year. At Ballet Tech's invitation, 429 returned at the end of February to complete a subsequent eight-week course. Next year, 40-50 of these young dancers will continue their training as full-time students at the New York City Public School for Dance.

Fall Student Demonstration

On November 29, Ballet Tech welcomed friends and supporters to a special, open class that demonstrated the progression of training from beginner to advanced levels. The youngest students demonstrated the most basic steps at the barre - plies and tendus - while the oldest students performed advanced combinations across the floor. 45 students in grades 4-12 participated. The event concluded with a preview of *Dotty Polkas*, one of Eliot Feld's new ballets that will premiere during Ballet Tech's Opening Night Gala on April 9.

To view footage of the demonstration, please visit Ballet Tech's MySpace page at www.myspace.com/balletech (you are not required to have an account to view our page). For more information on *Dotty Polkas* and Kids Dance, please visit www.balletech.org.

Superheroes for the Environment



As part of Ballet Tech's commitment to provide students with an integrated arts and academic education, all 4-8 grade students enrolled full-time at the Ballet Tech School participate in weekly visual arts classes. Led by teaching artist Katie Yamasaki, art projects are planned to build upon academic lessons in the humanities, math and science.

This February, seventh grade students combined what they learned about local and global environmental problems with their visual arts skills and a lot of creativity to invent "Superheroes for the Environment."

Working independently, each student first selected an environmental issue and then created a superhero to fight for that cause. Students drew life-size bodies for their heroes on paper and created papier mâché heads. In addition, to illustrate the superheroes' powers and abilities, students drew comic books featuring their heroes in action.

In the spirit of collaborative learning, 7th graders presented their artwork and comic books to Ballet Tech's 4th graders, who served as judges. "Superheroes for the Environment" will be on display later in the year during the annual Ballet Tech Art Show.

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@balletech.org or (212) 777-7710 x316

Want to Know More about Ballet Tech?

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

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