

# ELIOT FELD BALLET TECH

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### In This Issue

**Boys at Ballet Tech**

**City Ballet Dancers Perform for BT**

**Donor Profile: Robert & Joan Arnow**

**Upcoming Event with Eliot Feld & Cynthia Gregory**

While this week's record-breaking temperatures beckoned New Yorkers outside, 250 aspiring young dancers have been hard at work inside Ballet Tech's studios as they endeavor to point their toes a little further, bend a little deeper, and jump a little higher. Keep reading to learn more about what's going on at Ballet Tech and some of our exciting upcoming events.

### Boys at Ballet Tech



While in America ballet has traditionally been considered a female art, more boys are coming to Ballet Tech every year to receive tuition-free ballet training. In fact, they often make up the majority: this year, 59% of the 399 students enrolled in the Beginners Program were male, as well as 41% of full-time students at the Ballet Tech School.

Why does the Ballet Tech School have more boys than other ballet schools? "It's because we don't wait for children to come to us. We work very hard to send out teams to as many public schools as possible to identify ballet potential and recruit those children" answers Christine Sarry, Director of Faculty, Upper School. Each year, Ballet Tech holds auditions at 200 public elementary schools across New York City. The auditions are treated like school assemblies, and all students in grades 2-5 participate. Through this process, thousands of boys who had never before contemplated classical ballet receive an introduction. "By the time they have completed the Beginners Program, it's easy for students to see that male dancers are an integral part of Ballet Tech," Ms. Sarry says. "They see that there is no stigma here, and they stay because they have discovered their love for dancing."

## City Ballet Dancers Perform for BT Students



In the fall, students had the unique privilege of getting to see live dance at the Ballet Tech School: two members of New York City Ballet, Kaitlyn Gilliland and Ask la Cour (pictured), came to 890 Broadway to dance for the students. Kaitlyn and Ask performed the pas de

deux from *Swan Lake*, Act II and the duet from *Agon*. As the dancers took their bows, the children cheered and clapped enthusiastically, and two proud students presented the pair with roses. Later on, fifth grade students shared their impressions. Nicholas, who especially liked *Swan Lake*, said, "it inspired me to dance better." Amy found the performance "very beautiful. The music and the movement were exciting." Katherine said she "loved the lifts and the splits in *Agon*." And Mamadou exclaimed that he felt moved watching the dancers: "I never saw anything like it before. It made me want to work harder."

A few weeks later, the students got another opportunity to see a special performance in the Ballet Tech studios. Aszure & Artists, Aszure Barton's professional dance company, who had been using the studios for rehearsal, presented an informal in-studio performance of Barton's piece *Busk* for the children.

## Student Corner

### *Révérance*

A poem by Imani, Grade 5

The last exercise  
Of class I can't  
Wait until it  
Comes. I make sure  
I do it perfect  
Because I love  
It. It may be  
Hard to get  
Right but I know  
I can't wait until  
The end of class for  
*Révérance*.

## Donor Profile: Joan and Robert Arnow

Joan and Robert Arnow are visionaries. In their twenty years as donors to Ballet Tech, the Arnows have been dedicated to our success, generously supporting all of our programs.

Through their gifts to Kids Dance and the Ballet Tech School, Joan and Robert Arnow have been instrumental in allowing us to maintain our city-wide reach. They have also donated to the Ballet Tech Company, paving the way for new, innovative ballets by Eliot Feld. Further, when the Ballet Tech facilities needed an upgrade, the Arnows swiftly took on this cause, too, and supported the renovation of our dance studios.

This year, the Arnows made a capstone contribution of \$100,000 to support the Ballet Tech School. By helping to secure the School's future, this leadership gift will benefit many generations of dancers to come.



## Words on Dance Presents:

### Eliot Feld in Conversation With Cynthia Gregory



Monday, April 26 At 7 PM  
Paley Center for Media  
25 West 52 St.  
Admission: \$25, \$15 for  
members of the Paley Center  
Reservations: 212-621-6600



Join Words on Dance for its first live NYC event, during which Eliot Feld will be interviewed by Cynthia Gregory, American prima ballerina and longtime former principal with American Ballet Theatre. The evening promises to be a fascinating exchange between two great artists and personalities of the ballet world and will also include performance clips never before seen in public.

## Save the Date!

### Ballet Tech Gala Monday, May 24, 2010

Invitations will be mailed this month. For more information call Emma Matthieson at (212) 777-7710 x316. All proceeds from the gala benefit the tuition-free Ballet Tech School.