

# FELD BALLET TECH

## *Ballet Tech Quarterly*

May 2004

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### *Happenings:*

#### Graduation

On June 24, 2004 58 students will participate in graduation ceremonies: 42 moving up from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade, 12 moving up from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade and four graduating seniors. The ceremonies will be held at Ballet Tech and will include a luncheon for family members. Graduating seniors are: Sade Council, Vanessa Kiely, Remington McLeod and Irene Zouroudis. We are very proud of all of our students and their accomplishments!

#### Summer Session

Ballet Tech will offer a 4-week tuition-free summer session for full-time students enrolled in the school. They will continue their dance training, taking 3-5 ballet technique classes per week. Older children, in grades 8-12, will also try their feet at different dance forms including theatre dance, modern and character. Younger children, in grades 4-7, will participate in a literacy component, which will serve as a continuum to their academic classes.

#### *MANDANCE PROJECT and KIDS DANCE*

October 18 – November 7, 2004 (16 performances)

Ballet Tech Foundation, Inc. will return to the Joyce Theater in the fall 2004 to present *MANDANCE PROJECT*, which was renamed since the last issue of the *Ballet Tech Quarterly* (formerly *In the Company of Men.*) This season features at least eight premieres choreographed by Eliot Feld, performed by six extraordinary dancers: Sean Suozzi and Damian Woetzel of the New York City Ballet, and four dancers from the Ballet Tech Company, Nickemil Concepcion, Jason Jordan, Patricia Tuthill (alumni of the Ballet Tech School) and Wu-Kang Chen.

During the fall season, KIDS DANCE will have three performances, two Saturday matinees and one free school-time performance for public school students. KIDS DANCE provides aspiring young dancers with unique opportunities to perform on a professional stage and introduces them to the work of a professional dancer. Students rehearse 1-2 hours per day, five days per week. Repertoire will include *Meshugana Dance* and *Apple Pie*, choreographed by Eliot Feld, among others. Performance experience provides valuable exposure working in costumes and make-up, and helps students develop artistry and stage presence, two important criteria for a successful dancer.

### *In The Press:*

#### *Featured in Time Out New York Kids*

*Time Out New York Kids* featured The Ballet Tech School as a “school of leaps” in their March 24, 2004 online edition. The article featured information about the school’s successes and announced audition information for “kids who’d like to become PSD [Public School for Dance] students and learn Feld’s distinctly New York style of ballet.”

### *Amazon.com*

Do you purchase items through amazon.com? Amazon.com offers a percentage donation to Ballet Tech Foundation, Inc. for every item purchased by clicking to Amazon.com through our Ballet Tech website. Your web browser remembers your origination site as you shop and check out. All you need to do is click on the Amazon.com link on www.ballettech.org or any of the music links on our repertoire pages, to begin shopping. Bookmarking this page is an easy way to donate through Amazon every time you shop.

## Alumni Speaker:

The students of Ballet Tech were treated to an alumni guest speaker on March 23, 2004. Clyde Archer auditioned and enrolled in the Ballet Tech School at age 8, graduated from *The Juilliard School* and is currently dancing with *Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater*. He has also danced with *Nacho Duato's Compañia Nacional de Danza*, *The Ballet Tech Company* and received a 1997 Presidential Scholar Award. Mr. Archer spoke to the students about his experiences dancing with professional companies in the U.S. and abroad. A video was shown from the Ballet Tech Archives of Mr. Archer performing with *The Ballet Tech Company*.

Following are quotes from the thank-you letters the students sent to Mr. Archer:

“...You showed me that if you work hard enough, you can go anywhere. I hope that one day I could go to Madrid, Spain and work in a company...”-Christina Linehan

“...To me, you are like a role model to all the kids at Ballet Tech because now that we see what you have become because of starting out at Ballet Tech. You are an inspiration to me and all the others in this school.”-Imani Oliver

“...The things that I learned from you are: what you really want to do you always try and most of the time you always achieve your goal, you inspired me to do better in modern because you showed me how to really move, and last but not least you showed me that ballet and modern aren't the only good types of dancing because there are African and Jazz and many more dances that are good to try...”-Robin Sims

## Featured Donor:

Ballet Tech would like to thank Ms. Kathleen Peratis for a very generous donation given through the Pomegranate Foundation. In her own words, this is why Ms. Peratis feels that Ballet Tech is an important part of our community:

*“Every human being needs to feel that his or her life matters, that there is some meaning to it all, that life is more than day to day struggle. If we are lucky, we find one thing that wakes us up, that makes us feel connected to something that matters. For some, that one thing is art, and the thing Ballet Tech does is give lots of kids who happen to have talent--who knew?--the chance to make that connection and to be in the company of people who are on fire with the love of what they do. One of those people is Christine Sarry, my cousin and best friend, who has taught me that this is true.”*

Kathleen Peratis is a civil rights and feminist activist. She has practiced employment discrimination law in New York and California for over thirty years. After graduating from USC law school in 1969, she joined the Los Angeles firm O'Melveny and Myers. In 1974, she succeeded Ruth Bader Ginsburg as the director of the Women's Rights Division of the American Civil Liberties Union in New York. She has been in private practice since she left the ACLU in 1979 and is currently Of Counsel to the New York law firm Outten & Golden LLP. She has written, spoken and taught on employment discrimination, women's rights, Judaism, and human rights matters. She is a member or former member of the board of directors of Human Rights Watch, the New Israel Fund, the New York Civil Liberties Union, Congregation B'nai Jeshurun and other organizations. She is a regular columnist for the Forward, a weekly newspaper of Jewish affairs. Ballet Tech is extremely lucky to have a friend in Ms. Peratis.

## Ballet Tech Students Attend Performances:

Sixty of the Ballet Tech School's middle and high school students attended performances by the Paul Taylor Dance Company on February 13 and 14, 2004. The students prepared for the performances by watching *Paul Taylor: Dancemaker*, a documentary about the choreographer, in their Dance History classes. Students also attended a performance by *Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre* at Lincoln Center on April 21, 2004 where they were also given a tour of the theatre. Other upcoming performances include "Mask, Comedy & Improvisation" and "A Fiesta of Flamenco: Ole" at Lincoln Center in May, as well as trips to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Ellis Island in June.

## Statistics:

Total Number of students auditioned since 1978: 514,636

Total Number of students enrolled since 1978: 12,555

Total students auditioned this year: 26,242

Percentage of Female Students: 52%

Percentage of Male students: 48%

Students who go to college after graduation: 80%

## Upcoming Events:

May15-June 19, 2004	Select students attend Saturday classes & rehearsals
May 19, 2004	Students attend "Mask, Comedy & Improvisation"
May 27, 2004	Students attend "A Fiesta of Flamenco: Ole"
June 10, 2004	Students tour the Metropolitan Museum of Art
June 21, 2004	Students tour Ellis Island
June 24, 2004	Graduation
June 25, 2004	Students last day of school
July 5-30, 2004	Summer Session
October 18 – November 7, 2004	MANDANCE PROJECT performances at the Joyce Theater

## Open Audition:

Saturday June 5, 2004

For more information on open auditions please visit  
<http://www.ballettech.org/auditiondates.html> or call (212) 777-7710.

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