

FELD BALLET TECH

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Ballet Tech's 2004 Season: MANDANCE PROJECT

After a break due to financial necessity in 2003, Ballet Tech Foundation Inc. was thrilled to once again present the works of Eliot Feld in MANDANCE PROJECT. The three-week season at the Joyce Theater included the premieres of 12 ballets. Audiences and critics received the new repertoire with delight. According to *The New York Times* dance critic, Anna Kisselgoff, "Whatever Eliot Feld is eating for breakfast these days, it more than works." An abbreviated company of six dancers executed several new works created especially for them. New York City Ballet's Damian Woetzel and Sean Suozzi were flanked by former Ballet Tech company members Wu-Kang Chen, Jason Jordan, Nickemil Concepcion and Patricia Tuthill (the latter three being Ballet Tech School alumni). When asked if he felt limited by the use of a smaller ensemble, Mr. Feld offered a musical analogy to Sylviane Gold of *The New York Times*, "It's not an accident that when composers really wanted to plumb the depths of invention in music, they went to the string quartet. Because you weren't dealing with 15 or 30 strings and four French horns, you were dealing with four extraordinary players for whom you needn't make a single compromise. Can you make big orchestral sounds with a string quartet? No. But nor can you make the kind of refined musical inventions for a symphony orchestra that you can for a string quartet."

Kids Dance Premieres Patootie

Ballet Tech's fall 2004 season also offered two Kids Dance matinees featuring the premiere of *Patootie*. Kids Dance is comprised of students from the New York City Public School for Dance, a unique partnership between the Ballet Tech School and the New York City Department of Education. This pre-professional group directly involves Ballet Tech students in the excitement and work that are part of the life of a professional dancer. Kids Dance also performed with MANDANCE PROJECT at Ballet Tech's 2004 Gala to benefit their school. Currently, Ballet Tech students are thrilled to be learning *A Stair Dance* from MANDANCE PROJECT.



Jeremy Summerville rehearsing *Apple Pie* with Kids Dance.
Photo: Joel Englander

Open Rehearsal

The Development Department hosted an Open Rehearsal of MANDANCE PROJECT for the Friends of Ballet Tech (donors who have shown consistent support for the foundation). The rehearsal was held on Tuesday, October 26th from 2:00 to 4:00 at the Joyce Theater. Directed by Eliot Feld, Wu-Kang Chen worked through *Limbs*, Ballet Tech alumni Jason Jordan and Patricia Tuthill prepared *This Dying is Killing Me*, fellow alumnus Nickemil Concepcion joined Chen and Ballet Tech School student Jeremy Summerville to review *Curious Air*, and finally, Damian Woetzel of New York City Ballet ran through his solo *Gyorgy*. Each of these ballets premiered that evening in program B of MANDANCE PROJECT.

2004 Gala Celebrates Students of Ballet Tech



Eliot Feld, Bob Goldberg and Sally Waxman at the Gala
Photo: Joel Englander

On Thursday, October 28th, Ballet Tech hosted a Gala to benefit the students of the Ballet Tech School. Turnout for the event, held at the Ballet Tech School studios, was tremendous with 125 Ballet Tech supporters enjoying hors d'oeuvres by Jean Georges while they mingled and observed Kids Dance students participating in an open class. Champagne Veuve Clicquot generously donated libations adding another note of elegance to the celebration. At 7:30pm patrons were escorted in yellow school buses to the Joyce Theater where they enjoyed the Gala performance featuring the premier of *Patootie*, Eliot Feld's most recent Kids Dance repertory. Other works performed were *Backchat*, *Hoodoo Zephyr*, *Curious Air*, *Jawbone*, and *A Stair Dance*, all from the MANDANCE PROJECT season. The night ended with an apropos curtain call including Eliot Feld, the students of Kids Dance, and the MANDANCE dancers who are predominantly products of the Ballet Tech School.



Board Member Arlene Cooper
Photo: Joel Englander



Board Members Yvette Neier and Lorraine Cooper
Photo: Joel Englander

SCHOOL NEWS

Integrated Arts Education

The students of Ballet Tech's New York City Public School for Dance, who gain tuition-free dance training and their academic curriculum in one comprehensive program, also benefit from classes in other art disciplines. Katie Yamasaki teaches visual arts to grades 4-8 and new this year, a music course has been added to the school with Susan Friedlander offering recorder classes to all of our 4th and 5th graders. Yamasaki and Friedlander collaborate with the academic faculty to offer an integrated education. This exposure to music and art offers Ballet Tech students complimentary courses to their dance experience, additional outlets for self expression and, on the whole, a more comprehensive education.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Eliot Feld commissioned by The Juilliard School

Eliot Feld was commissioned to choreograph a ballet for the centennial celebration of The Juilliard School. The season-long celebration to be held in 2005-06 features works in dance, music, and drama. Mr. Feld was commissioned to choreograph *Drumming*, a ballet set to Steve Reich's 1971 composition of the same name. *Drumming* is a large-scale work; the piece is 60-minutes long and includes the entire Juilliard Dance Division – approximately 80 dancers. The Juilliard Percussion Ensemble will perform the score live. The world-premiere of *Drumming* will be on September 28, 2005, and will be followed by four consecutive performances (through October 2, 2005) at the Juilliard Theater. This is Mr. Feld's first collaboration with Juilliard. In 1991, Juilliard awarded Mr. Feld with an Honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts.

Ballet Tech School Open Auditions:

November 13, 2004

February 5, 2005

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

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Welcome New Staff Members

Ballet Tech welcomes four new staff members: Karen Waltuch, Audition Coordinator; Victoria Gershik, Transportation Coordinator; James Porter, Program Coordinator and Tara Glazier, Dance Faculty.

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