

FIELD **BALLETTECH**

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Classes Open to Eager Audience

Monday, February 14th, began a week of open-classes for parents and guardians to see their children participate in the Ballet Tech beginners program. This winter 558 beginner Ballet Tech students came once a week to take ballet class. Ballet Tech makes arrangements for the 2nd and 3rd grade beginners to be picked up from their public schools and dropped off after joining us for an hour-long morning class. Friday's open class guests also included some donors - hosted by the development department. The overall response was positive and enthusiastic. Visitors were impressed with how much the children had learned during the seven week session.

Ballet Tech Bestowed with Pointe Shoes

The Ballet Tech School was the fortunate recipient of 486 pairs of pointe shoes valued at \$29,160. This unexpected gift was from the non-profit organization "Curtain Call" founded by 17 year old Elizabeth Epstein. Elizabeth started "Curtain Call" as a community service project at her high-school in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Passionate about dance, Elizabeth wanted to help other young dancers who may not easily afford the expenses of dancewear and costumes. Using her classmates as an initial pool, her success quickly surpassed her goal and soon there were leotards and tights filling up her family's garage. "Curtain Call's" first major recipient was the local Boys and Girls Club, which used the goods for a musical production.

When she received a plethora of pointe shoes last summer, Elizabeth knew she had to find dancers who were advanced enough to use them. One of Elizabeth's New York relatives knew about Ballet Tech and told her about the school. In January of 2005, Ballet Tech happily accepted the pointe shoes as well as additional dance shoes. We are grateful for Elizabeth's hard work and impressed with her initiative. Thank you "Curtain Call!"

Celebrating Ballet Tech!

Commemorative gifts are a great way to donate to Ballet Tech. Recently, two donors, Arlene C. Cooper (Board Member) and Linda Keller, used their birthdays as a way to generate income for Ballet Tech. The generosity of their friends resulted in gifts totaling more than \$2,600 for the Ballet Tech School.

For more information on commemorative gifts and donating to Ballet Tech, visit our website at <http://www.ballettech.org/contribute.html>

Ballet Tech Offers an Integrated Arts Education

Ballet Tech students benefit not only from an intensive dance education, offering them inspiration and discipline, but an integrated approach to other core subjects. Teachers in visual art, science, and humanities are collaborating to create a comprehensive learning environment for Ballet Tech students. When asked about this integrated teaching strategy, Katie Yamasaki, visual arts teaching artist, is clear about the benefits for students, "Approaching every lesson in a very holistic way makes the lessons more meaningful and more memorable." Below are some activities highlighting their experiences.



Shontae Ferguson and her bear in Central Park.

In October, the eighth grade art class visited Central Park to place animals which they painted in art class into natural habitats, studied in science class. A discussion on westward expansion, studied in humanities, was also linked to the event.

In December, the eighth grade class invited parents and teachers to a presentation of poems and lamps they created. Their work reflected combined lessons in science on electric circuits, a language study on Haiku, and a study in art on Isamu Noguchi, a Japanese sculptor.



Adrian Drayton and Taneah Ahamad present their artwork.



7th graders with Katie Yamasaki at the Whitney Museum of American Art.

In November, seventh graders studied the Harlem Renaissance in their humanities and art classes. The unit was emphasized with a visit to the Whitney Museum of American Art to see the Romare Bearden exhibit.

Second Annual Student Art Show

This year's Art Open House will be held in May at the Ballet Tech School. The Open House will begin at 5:00PM and will be followed by a PTA meeting. Student's visual artwork will be featured throughout the open house. There will be performances by the 4th and 5th grade recorder classes as well as dance presentations. *A Stair Dance*, which was created for *MANDANCE PROJECT* – Ballet Tech's most recent presentation at the Joyce Theater, will be presented by members of Kids Dance, Ballet Tech's pre-professional dance group. These students are excited to be learning this piece, which they recently saw performed by Ballet Tech alumni and other professional dancers.

Major Renovations for School

Ballet Tech recently embarked on a capital campaign to raise funds for improvements to the School facilities. Plans include expanding dressing-rooms, rest-rooms, and administrative offices to meet the school's current needs. Also, to improve safety and supervision, there are plans to open up the stairwells connecting the 7th and 8th floors.

In its inaugural year, enrollment at the Ballet Tech School was 100 students. In the 2003/04 school-year, 823 students were enrolled. This capital initiative seeks to accommodate Ballet Tech's current student body and staff by expanding and improving the physical space of the school. The project will have long-term impact on the efficacy of the Ballet Tech School.

The cost of the project is approximately \$1 million. The LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust awarded Ballet Tech a leadership gift of \$350,000 to help launch the campaign. Ballet Tech Board Members have donated \$80,000 towards the campaign. We are encouraged by these initial contributions and are working hard to raise the additional funds needed to complete the project.

If you would like to make a donation to the renovation project please contact the development department at 212.777.7710 or ksibbing@ballettech.org. Or visit our website for further information on contributing to Ballet Tech.

Ballet Tech School Open Auditions:

March 19, 2005

May 7, 2005

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

amazon.com

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