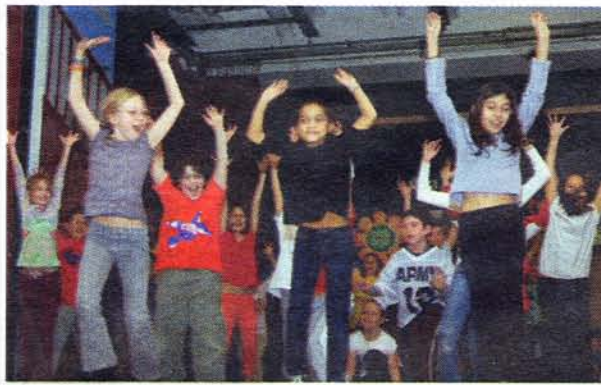


# Caribbean Life

February 11, 2009 • Caribbean Life • Brooklyn/Staten Island



PS 41: School children from PS 41 in Greenwich Village perform in National Dance Institute's mid-year performance.

## John Lennon remembered

Hundreds of public school children from National Dance Institute (NDI) presented high-spirited mid-year performances at PS/IS 111M, Mott Hall/IS 223, and PS 41 in Manhattan in December and January. The events introduced the NDI year-long John Lennon-inspired theme honoring the memory and impact of his life, music and legacy.

During the school year, young dancers worked on performances of original choreography set to Lennon's songs. This year in NDI programs, over 35,000 children and their families will discover and be transformed by Lennon's enduring music, artwork and humanitarian efforts.

The majority of PS/IS 111M students, many of whom are Hispanic, live in nearby Hell's Kitchen housing developments and neighborhood homeless shelters. Due to the determination of the school's administration to bring a dance program to PS/IS 111M, NDI has helped to inspire the students to reach for the stars. NDI's partnership with PS/IS 111M is funded solely by ING. This unique partnership has been recognized by The Arts and Business Council of New York with a 2008 Arts and Business Partnership Award.

Mott Hall/IS 223 has partnered with NDI for 24 years. Mott Hall specializes in math and science and continually ranks number one in New York City in math and reading scores. Mott Hall serves gifted District 6

students in fourth through eighth grade, who are some of NDI's strongest dancers and are quick and eager to learn. Several of Mott Hall's alumnus have continued on to study dance and made it part of their life beyond the NDI program.

In the heart of Greenwich Village, PS 41 attracts the children of professors from New York University and artists from the West Village. PS 41 fosters student creativity through its environment. The school's walls are used as a canvas for the entire community, even the principal, to share personal experiences through their writing. The NDI program offers PS 41's students another outlet to express their imagination through the art of dance.

Founded in 1976 by New York City Ballet principal dancer *Jacques d'Amboise*, NDI provides a comprehensive 32-week in-school program at each of its 30 partner schools in New York City and Jersey City.

The not-for-profit organization enrolls entire grades of children, making dance an integral part of the school curriculum, as important as literacy or math. Children gain the self-confidence and satisfaction that comes from real achievement, developing personal standards of excellence, a deep love of the arts, and the motivation to succeed in all aspects of their lives. NDI has been under the artistic leadership of Ellen Weinstein since 1995. For more information, please log on to [www.nationaldance.org](http://www.nationaldance.org).