

history

2015

The 2015 NDI Annual Gala honors longtime supporter of NDI and co-founder of NDI-NM, **Valerie Diker**, as well as TeenVogue editor-in-chief **Amy Astley**.

NDI's 2015 Event of the Year, ***This Land is Our Land: The Power of American Song***, is conceived and directed by NDI Artistic Director Ellen Weinstein and is the culmination of a year-long study of American Roots Music.

2014

The 2014 NDI Annual Gala honors longtime supporters and friends of NDI, **Barbara and Donald Tober**, as well as renowned chef **Marcus Samuelsson**.

NDI's 2014 Event of the Year, ***Under One Sky: NDI Dances China***, is conceived and directed by NDI Master Teaching Artist Kay Gayner and features children from Shanghai, China.

Celebrities, supporters, friends and family gather at the NDI Center for **JD'EIGHTY**, an evening of performance and celebration honoring Founder **Jacques d'Amboise's 80th Birthday**.

2013

NDI opens the doors of the NDI Center to the general public for the first annual **Open House** celebration.

NDI dancers in New York and Shanghai perform together utilizing the NDI Center's **TelePresence technology** for the first time.

The 2013 NDI Annual Gala honors longtime board member and friend, **Robert D. Krinsky** along with star of stage and screen - and parent of an NDI alum - **Mandy Patinkin**.

NDI's 2013 Event of the Year, ***The Big Easy: NDI Celebrates New Orleans***, is conceived and directed by NDI Master Teaching Artist Mary Kennedy.

Five **NDI dancers** travel to Shanghai, China to perform in a nationally televised event celebrating the **60th**

Anniversary of the China Welfare Institute Children's Palace.

2012

B.D. Wong emcees a **Star Party Benefit** at the NDI Center, featuring performances by Broadway luminaries including **Victoria Clark, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Jessica Molaskey** and others.

NDI's 2012 Event of the Year, ***Inner Visions: A Celebration of Stevie Wonder***, is conceived and directed by NDI Master Teaching Artist Bianca Johnson.

2011

Mayor Michael Bloomberg and other prominent officials cut the ribbon to NDI's new home, the **National Dance Institute Center for Learning & the Arts**, on West 147th Street in Harlem.

A delegation travels to **China** to conduct **NDI Teacher Training Workshops** in partnership with the Shanghai Welfare Children's Palace.

The 2011 Event of the Year: ***A Sense of Wonder: Science & the Arts Play Together***, conceived by Jacques d'Amboise and Kay Gayner, features **Dr. Robert Benezra** as *The Narrator*.

2010

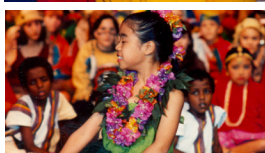
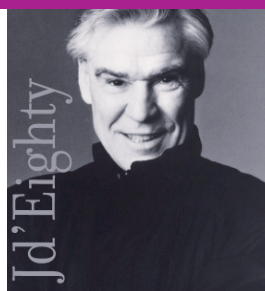
NDI purchases an 18,000-square-foot space in Harlem that will serve as the organization's permanent home.

NDI participates in an exchange with the **Shanghai Children's Palace**. An NDI delegation travels to China to create a new work with choreographer **Dou Dou Huang** entitled "The Red Thread." Children and artists from Shanghai attend the **2010 Irene Diamond Summer Institute**.

The 2010 Event of the Year: ***The Storyteller***, conceived and directed by Jacques d'Amboise and Ellen Weinstein, features **Isaiah Sheffer, Allegra Kent, Terese Capucilli** and **Frank Wood**.

2009

The **2009 Event of the Year:**



Imagine: A Celebration of John Lennon, directed by Ellen Weinstein, is the culmination of a year-long study of the life and legacy of John Lennon.

NDI re-launches a program with **The Filomen M. D'Agostino Greenberg Music School at Lighthouse International** for dancers who are blind or visually impaired.

2008

The **2008 Event of the Year: *Volando a México***, directed by NDI Master Teacher Dr. Jenny Seham, is the culmination of a year-long study of Mexico. 11 children from **ConArte** in Mexico City participate in the Event.

2007

The Celebration Team performs in the **2007 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade**.

NDI hosts **children from Bali** at the 2007 Irene Diamond Summer Institute.

Founder Jacques d'Amboise is inducted into the **Academy of Arts & Sciences**.

The **2007 Event of the Year: *An African Village: Postcards from Potou***, directed by Ellen Weinstein, is inspired by the work of economist Jeffrey Sachs and his goal to end extreme poverty worldwide. Thousands of New York City public school children raise more than \$25,000 in pennies, nickels and dimes for the village of Potou, Senegal.

2006

NDI senior staff travel to the village of **Potou, Senegal** at the invitation of economist Jeffrey Sachs.

NDI Master Teacher Kay Gayner directs the **2006 Event of the Year: *A Midsummer Night's Dream***.

NDI Master Teacher Jenny Seham trains artists with **ConArte in Mexico City** to launch an NDI-inspired program, **Aprender con Danza**.

NDI teaching artist Mary Kennedy and NDI dancer Jamal Wyse travel to **Bali** as part of a

cultural exchange.

2005

The **2005 Event of the Year: *It's All Relative*** is directed by Associate Artistic Director Tracy Straus and celebrates the life and genius of Albert Einstein.

2004

NDI's Tiny Tots are re-named the **First Team**, in memory of long-time supporter and Board Member Joanna First.

20 NDI dancers and alumni go to **Shanghai, China** for a month-long residency.

The **2004 Event of the Year: *My Place*** is directed by Jacques d'Amboise.

2003

NDI is awarded **The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities' Coming Up Taller Award** by Laura Bush.

The **2003 Event of the Year: *Never Doubt Imagination*** is directed by Associate Artistic Director Tracy Straus.

2002

NDI dancers perform in the first annual **September Concert**, establishing a long term connection with this worldwide tribute remembering those lost on September 11, 2001.

The **2002 Event of the Year: *The Spirit of New York*** is directed by Ellen Weinstein.

2001

"**Look Who's Dancin' Now,**" the follow-up to the Academy Award-winning "He Makes Me Feel Like Dancin'" airs on PBS.

The **2001 Event of the Year: *Romeo and Juliet*** features music and lyrics by Jacques d'Amboise and Music Director Jerome Korman. The Event is dedicated to the memory of Raphael de Rothschild.

2000

NDI dancers and alumni gather for the first annual **Dance-A-Thon** fundraiser.

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The **2000 Event of the Year: 20th Century American Song: Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness** is directed by Lori Klinger.

1999

Jacques d'Amboise, with his son George, hikes the **Appalachian Trail**, raising money for NDI and teaching dance along the way.

The **1999 Event of the Year: Step by Step by Ellington** is conceived and directed by Ellen Weinstein.

1998

Jacques d'Amboise is awarded the **National Medal of Arts** by President Clinton.

NDI's **Teacher Training program** is established.

The **1998 Event of the Year: City, City**, directed by Ellen Weinstein, takes place for the first time at LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts.

1997

Jacques d'Amboise and Duffin Garcia travel to **Tel Aviv** and the West Bank for an international residency.

The **1997 Event of the Year: Dancing up a Story** takes place at The Delacorte Theater.

1996

President Clinton and the First Lady invite NDI children to perform in the Rose Garden at the **White House** for the Greek State Dinner.

The **1996 Event of the Year: This Joint is Jumpin'** is directed by Ellen Weinstein.

1995

Jacques d'Amboise is awarded the **Kennedy Center Honors**, the same year Ellen Weinstein is named Artistic Director.

The **1995 Event of the Year: Fat City** takes place for the first time in Central Park at the The Delacorte Theater.

26 NDI dancers perform at the **50th Anniversary of the United Nations** in Geneva, Switzerland, underwritten by the Japanese company Felissimo.

1994

Children from the earth's geological extremes take part in the **1994 Event of the Year: Rosebud's Song**.

The Irene Diamond Fund establishes ongoing, multi-year support for **NDI's Summer Institute**.

1993

Phil Donahue invites NDI children to perform with him for his 25th anniversary television show.

NDI returns to Madison Square Garden with the **1993 Event of the Year: Amerimusic II**.

1992

The **1992 Event of the Year: Amerimusic**, directed by Ellen Weinstein, celebrates the widely varied cultures of the Americas during the past 500 years and features original music by David Amram.

1991

June 3, 1991 is declared **"National Dance Institute Day"** by New York City Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani.

More than 1,500 children, including dancers from Madras, India, perform for two weeks at **Brooklyn Academy of Music** in the **1991 Event of the Year: Chakra** starring Malika Sarabai.

1989

NDI's **Adopt-A-School program** is launched.

An NDI associate program, **Trenton Educational Dance Institute**, is founded.

The **1989 Event of the Year: Meilleurs Amis** features scenery and sets by Red Grooms.

1988

The **NDI Alumni Association** is founded.

NDI partners with **Very Special Arts** to create a dance program for children who are blind or visually impaired.

Jacques d'Amboise directs the **1988 Event of the Year: A Day in the Life of Coney Island** with the North Bondi Lifesaving Team from Australia as guests.

1987

A Celebration of Literature unites important American writers, composers, visual artists, and choreographers to create short, theatrical ballets for children. **"We Real Cool"** is created



from the poem by Gwendolyn Brooks, and is filmed in a vacant lot in New York City's Lower East side, with a backdrop mural designed by Red Grooms.

The **1987 Event of the Year: A Celtic Tale** takes place at Madison Square Garden and features a moveable sculpture by Helena Blumenfeld.

1986

NDI does its first **cultural exchange with China**, and 56 children from China come to NYC to perform with 1,500 NDI dancers in the **1986 Event of the Year: China Dig**.

1985

1,500 children perform in the **1985 Event of the Year: Andrew Jackson and the Battle of New Orleans**, which stars Donlin Foreman and Ann Reinking.

NDI holds a school-wide residency at **P.S. 29 in Brooklyn** and premieres the work **The Shooting of Dan McGrew**, featuring original music by Galt McDermott and underwritten by Joseph Papp.

1984

"He Makes Me Feel Like Dancin'" wins Best Documentary category at the **56th Annual Academy Awards**. NDI dancers perform in Hollywood.

The **1984 Event of the Year: The Knack**, with scenery by Red Grooms, features Richard Kiley and Chloris Leachman.

1983

The **1983 Event of the Year: The Three Musketeers**, inspired by the Alexandre Dumas adventure story, features over 1,000 children at Madison Square Garden's Felt Forum.

1982

During the **1982 Event of the Year: Fat City**, Christopher d'Amboise, Judy Collins, Patricia McBride, Mary Tyler Moore, John Schuck, Janet Eilber, Kevin Kline and The NYPD Dancing Police join 1,000 NDI children on stage at Madison Square Garden's Felt Forum. The Event is filmed as part of the documentary **"He Makes Me Feel Like Dancin'."**

1981

Nancy Reagan invites Jacques d'Amboise and a group of

hearing and hearing-impaired NDI children to the **White House** at holiday time for a demonstration of NDI teaching methods.

Over 1,000 children perform in the **1981 Event of the Year: Texas Duke**. Jacques d'Amboise writes, choreographs, and directs this spoof of a border town incident in a saloon on the Rio Grande. **New York City Police** perform with New York City Ballet dancers to a song written by Balanchine.

1980

The **1980 Event of the Year: Big Mama** features 800 NDI dancers and is co-hosted by Judy Collins and Tony Randall.

1979

Christopher d'Amboise, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Judy Collins, and Patricia McBride join 400 boys and girls for the **1979 Event of the Year** at Madison Square Garden's Felt Forum.

1978

The **1978 Event of the Year: Dance Space** takes place at New York State Theater, and 100 dancing boys participate.

1977

The first annual NDI **Event of the Year: Dance on a May Day** takes place at New York State Theater, between the matinee and evening performances. 30 boys participate.

1976

NDI is founded by New York City Ballet principal dancer Jacques d'Amboise.