

national dance  institute

Virtual
44TH ANNUAL

GALA

From the Heart



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WELCOME YOU TO THE

Virtual
44TH ANNUAL

GALA

From the Heart

HONORING

Judy & Josh Weston

HONORARY CHAIRS

Alec & Hilaria Baldwin

WITH APPEARANCES BY

**Alec Baldwin, Glenn Close, Charlotte d'Amboise,
Jacques d'Amboise, Jennifer Gambatese, Josh Groban,
Kathryn Grody, Dharon E. Jones, Judy Kuhn, Terrence Mann,
Brian Stokes Mitchell, Mandy Patinkin, Daniel Ulbricht, and
Tony & Katie Yazbeck**

WITH PERFORMANCES BY

The Children of National Dance Institute

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**in memoriam*

a message from our founder

The Hand

*Fists banned, weapons discarded.
Send out instead your hand,
In friendship opened.*

*The hand with love,
The hand that strokes and soothes,
The hand reaching out to you now.*

Please give me your hand.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacques" followed by a stylized flourish that includes a musical note and other decorative elements.

Jacques d'Amboise
Founder & President, National Dance Institute

a message from our board chair, executive director, and artistic director

Dear Friends,

Welcome to NDI's Virtual Annual Gala!

Forty-four years ago, Jacques d'Amboise had a dream – that learning in the arts would be part of every child's education. Today, National Dance Institute (NDI) is an extraordinary team of artists, teachers, administrators, patrons, and volunteers who share Jacques's dream and work tirelessly to make it a reality. This year, tens of thousands of children throughout New York City, across the United States, and around the world are experiencing the joy and life-changing power of learning and discovery through the arts.

Through the lens of an annual curricular theme, NDI's programs introduce students to new cultures and big ideas, instilling in them an abiding curiosity about the world and their place within it. They learn to work collaboratively, think creatively, and act with empathy.

While these are unprecedented times, we are not letting that stop us. If ever there were a moment to celebrate the transformative power of the arts, and of NDI, it is now!

During this pandemic, NDI has been masterful in pivoting to remote learning platforms, and delivering vital arts education programming to our children and communities. We have been developing new ways to connect meaningfully with our students while distanced, and are bringing NDI into the homes of thousands of children every week through ndiLIVE, our new interactive online dance series. And we are supporting our national network of Associates of National Dance Institute (ANDI), along with our global partners, through the NDI Collaborative for Teaching & Learning.

NDI is an essential, unstoppable, and humanizing force. The children are our future and our hope. Your support helps to nurture and sustain us. Thank you for your belief in NDI and for all that you do to keep us dancing.

With our deepest gratitude and hopes that you and your loved ones are healthy and safe,



Helen

Helen Stambler Neuberger
Chair, Board of Directors



Ellen

Ellen Weinstein
Artistic Director



Traci

Traci Lester
Executive Director

starchild appeal

Help our children reach for the stars! National Dance Institute's arts education programs transform the lives of thousands of New York City public school children and their families each year. With your support of our StarChild Program, we will be able to bring the magic and joy of the arts to even more children.



\$25,000 Adopt a School

NDI has partnerships with 44 schools throughout New York City. Your generosity will help bring our joyful and engaging arts and learning programs to a school community for a full year.



\$10,000 Adopt a Class

NDI currently reaches 250 classrooms in schools across Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, and the Bronx. Your support will make it possible for an entire class to experience the transformative power and collaborative spirit of the arts for a full year.



\$5,000 Make a DREAM Come True

At NDI, we believe that every child can dance. Your involvement will help children with disabilities to experience the thrill of the arts through dance, live music, and performance.



\$2,500 Keep the Music Playing

Live music is integral to all of NDI's arts education programs. Your donation will ensure that NDI musicians and their music fill not only our classrooms, but the lives of our young dancers as well.



\$1,000 Sponsor a Dancer

NDI is reaching more than 6,500 school children each week from all corners of New York City with our rigorous and participatory arts and learning programs. Your contribution will help ensure that each and every one of these dancers has **the opportunity to experience the joy and power of the arts in their lives.**

program

When The Saints Go Marching In

Choreography by Ellen Weinstein

Music: Traditional

Charlotte d'Amboise & Terrence Mann

Emcees

Remarks:

Alec Baldwin, Honorary Chair

Dancing In the Street

Choreography by Bianca Johnson

"Dancing in the Street": Music & Lyrics by Marvin Gaye,

William "Mickey" Stevenson, & Ivy Jo Hunter

"Get Ready": Music & Lyrics by William "Smokey" Robinson

Vocals by Gregory Stamper

Performed by the Children of NDI

Remarks:

Ellen Weinstein, Artistic Director

Jacques d'Amboise, Founder

The Colors Of My Life

Performed by **Glenn Close**

Music by Cy Coleman

Lyrics by Michael Stewart

New Words

Performed by **Brian Stokes Mitchell**

Music & Lyrics by Maury Yeston

Remarks:

Traci Lester, Executive Director

Remarks:

Jillian Mercado

Route 66

Choreography by Kay Gayner

Music & Lyrics by Bobby Trapp

Performed by the NDI DREAM Dancers

Presentation of the NDI Dream Maker Award

Judy & Josh Weston

Performances by NDI's Celebration Team are made possible
through the generous support of Judy & Josh Weston.

program

Rent Party

Choreography by Ellen Weinstein
Music: "This Joint is Jumpin" by Fats Waller
Lyrics by Andy Razaf & J.C. Johnson
Arrangement & Orchestration by Jerome Korman
Performed by the Children of NDI

Remarks:

Mandy Patinkin & Kathryn Grody

Appalachian Clog Dance

Choreography by Jay Ledford
Music: Tim Harrison

Remarks:

Bianca Johnson

Remarks & Performance:

Judy Kuhn

"Other Side of My World"
Choreography by Peter Gennaro
Music & Lyrics by Judy Collins
Arrangement by Jerome Korman
Performed by the Children of NDI

Remarks:

Josh Groban

Remarks:

Dharon E. Jones

Remarks & Performance:

Daniel Ulbricht

"Ain't No Sunshine"
Choreography by Larry Keigwin
Music & Lyrics by Bill Withers

Remarks:

Helen Stambler Neuberger, NDI Board Chair

I Could Have Danced All Night

Music by Frederick Loewe
Lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner
Arrangement by Jerome Korman
Rap Written and Performed by Dufftin Garcia
Performed by Charlotte d'Amboise, Jennifer Gambatese,
Terrence Mann, Tony Yazbeck, Katie Yazbeck,
and the NDI Family

about ndi

At **National Dance Institute** (NDI), we believe the arts have a unique power to engage all children and motivate them toward excellence.

Through our award-winning arts education programs, we strive to serve children of every background, ability, and socio-economic status—transcending systemic barriers and expanding opportunities for all children to become their best. Our professional teaching artists foster in students a love of dance and music, a curiosity about the world, and a desire to achieve. These dedicated teachers help our young dancers learn to work together as they develop persistence, empathy, and confidence that support their success in school and in life.

Since our founding in 1976 by New York City Ballet principal dancer Jacques d'Amboise, NDI has empowered the lives of more than 2 million children. NDI's core programs are offered to all children free of charge.

Inspiring Children through the Arts

NDI's programming is exuberant, joyful, and engaging—and unlike any other of its kind. Under the artistic direction of Ellen Weinstein, NDI has developed a unique, proven teaching methodology that uses dance and music to improve children's critical thinking, foster pride in achievement, develop their global perspective, and hone their social-emotional, communication, and collaboration skills.

NDI is continually building upon our mission to transform young lives through the arts with: an inclusive **In-School Program** in New York City public schools that ensures success for every student and currently serves more than 6,500 children each week; Advanced Programs for exceptionally motivated children to continue their NDI experience by joining our **SWAT Team** or **Celebration Team**, and by attending our **Irene Diamond Summer Institute**; the **NDI DREAM Project** (Dancers Realize Excellence through Arts and Movement), in which children with disabilities dance and perform in partnership with non-disabled peers; and public performances locally, nationally, and internationally.

NDI disseminates our acclaimed teaching method through the **NDI Collaborative for Teaching & Learning**, a professional development program for teaching artists, dance educators, musicians, and organizations worldwide. Every year, professional artists and educators from around the globe participate in our trainings and emerge from this transformative experience with an advanced set of teaching tools and a deepened understanding of the power of the arts in education.

Throughout our history, NDI has seeded programs both nationally and internationally. There are currently 12 **Associates of National Dance Institute (ANDI)** thriving in the United States that utilize NDI's pedagogy to serve over 30,000 children every year. Internationally, NDI has developed collaborations with arts and education organizations in both Shanghai, China and in Beirut, Lebanon through training in the NDI methodology. These **International Programs** serve more than 8,000 children annually.

In the fall of 2011, NDI opened the doors to our permanent home—the **National Dance Institute Center for Learning & the Arts** located at 217 West 147th Street in Harlem. The NDI Center is home to the Howard Gilman Performance Space, three dance studios, two art galleries, green rooms, and administrative offices. The NDI Center is used for after school classes, rehearsals, teaching artist training, performances, special events, and in service to the local Harlem community.

The NDI Center furthers our mission and expands our reach. It has become a beacon for children, teachers, and artists in New York City and worldwide. In keeping with the NDI tradition of collaboration, the NDI Center is also available to visiting artists and arts organizations.

When the public health emergency in March 2020 required that we close the NDI Center and suspend teaching in schools, NDI immediately moved our programming online—creating a robust and ever-growing library of dance and music resources to keep children dancing and learning in all of our partner schools. Through **ndiLIVE!**, our platform of joyful, participatory, and free online instruction, we are continuing to serve children and families worldwide with daily classes designed to uplift and inspire.

partner schools: 2019–2020

Manhattan

PS 1

partner since 1985
8 Henry Street

PS 2

partner since 1985
122 Henry Street

PS 6

partner since 2013
45 E 81st Street

PS 7

partner since 2013
160 E 120th Street

PS 20

partner since 2009
166 Essex Street

PS 33/Chelsea Prep

partner since 2006
281 Ninth Avenue

PS 40

partner 1979–1998;
2005–present
319 E 19th Street

PS 41

partner since 2006
116 W 11th Street

PS 77/Lower Lab School

partner since 2013
1700 Third Avenue

PS 87

partner since 2011
160 W 78th Street

PS 110

partner since 2009
285 Delancey Street

PS 123

partner since 2011
301 W 140th Street

PS 124

partner since 1985
40 Division Street

PS 126

partner since 2000–2010;
returned 2019
20 Catherine Street

PS 130

partner since 1985
143 Baxter Street

PS/MS 149 Sojourner Truth

partner since 2018
41 W 117th Street

PS 161

partner since 2011
499 W 133rd Street

PS 163

partner since 2005
163 W 97th Street

PS 183

partner since 1991
419 E 66th Street

PS 189

partner since 1984
2580 Amsterdam Avenue

PS 199

partner since 1997
270 W 70th Street

IS 223/Mott Hall

partner since 1984
71-111 Convent Avenue

PS 234

partner since 2007
292 Greenwich Street

PS 290/ Manhattan New School

partner since 1996
311 E 82nd Street

PS 397/Spruce Street School

partner since 2013
12 Spruce Street

PS 452

partner since 2010
100 W 77th Street

PS 859/Special Music School

partner since 2006
129 W 67th Street

The Filomen M. D'Agostino Greenberg Music School

partner 1989–2004;
2008–present
Housed at 92nd St. Y,
1395 Lexington Avenue

Girls Prep Lower East Side Elementary

partner since 2013
442 E Houston Street

Hunter College Elementary School

partner 1981–1984;
1997–present
71 E 94th Street

Speyer Legacy School

partner since 2011
925 Ninth Avenue

Bronx

Girls Prep Bronx Elementary

partner since 2013
681 Kelly Street

PS 51/Bronx New School

partner since 2015
695 E 182 Street

PS 105

partner since 2003
725 Brady Avenue

MS 302

partner since 2015
681 Kelly Street

Brooklyn

PS 10

partner since 2012
511 Seventh Avenue

PS 24

partner since 2019
427 38th Street

PS 147 | Isaac Remsen

partner since 2019
325 Bushwick Avenue

PS 169/Sunset Park School

partner since 2016
4305 Seventh Avenue

PS 235

partner since 1998
525 Lenox Road

PS 255

partner since 2014
1866 E 17th Street

Queens

PS 45

partner since 2012
126-128 150th Street

PS 92

partner since 2019
99-01 34th Avenue

Jersey City, NJ

Dr. Lena Edwards Academic Charter School

partner since 1980
509 Bramhall Avenue



ndi staff

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Artistic Director

Traci Lester
Executive Director

Artistic Staff

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Associate Artistic Director/
Co-Director of DREAM Project

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Music Director

Emily Meisner
Director of NDI Collaborative
for Teaching & Learning

Bianca Johnson
Rehearsal Director of
Advanced Programs

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Associate Music Director

Ly Bedaña
Music Associate

Tracy Straus
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Tribute Video in Honor of Judy Weston

Adam Joel, Corinne Chapman

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All of Us Films

Benjamin Ryan Nathan, Producer & Editor

Video recordings from NDI Event of the Year by Character Generators, Inc. (Mark Robison, *President*)

Video recordings from Jacques' Art Nest by Dancing Camera, Inc. (Nic Petry, *Founder & Executive Director*)

"I Could Have Danced All Night"

Yaniv Taubenhouse (*Video Editor*), Micha Gilad (*Audio Editor*), and Jerome Korman (*Arranger & Audio Editor*)

music performed by

Paul Adamy
Grisha Alexiev
Tony Allen
Willie Applewhite
Jack Bashkow
Yakir Ben-Hur
Steve Count
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Jason Fraticelli
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special thanks

to those whose generous participation helped to make this evening a success:

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Jennifer Gambatese
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All People Involved with *I Could Have Danced All Night*:

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Jack Bashkow
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Yakir Ben-Hur
Brooke Berescik-Johns
Lucia Bradford
Charlotte d'Amboise
Andrea Davey-Gislason
Jennifer Gambatese
Dufftin Garcia
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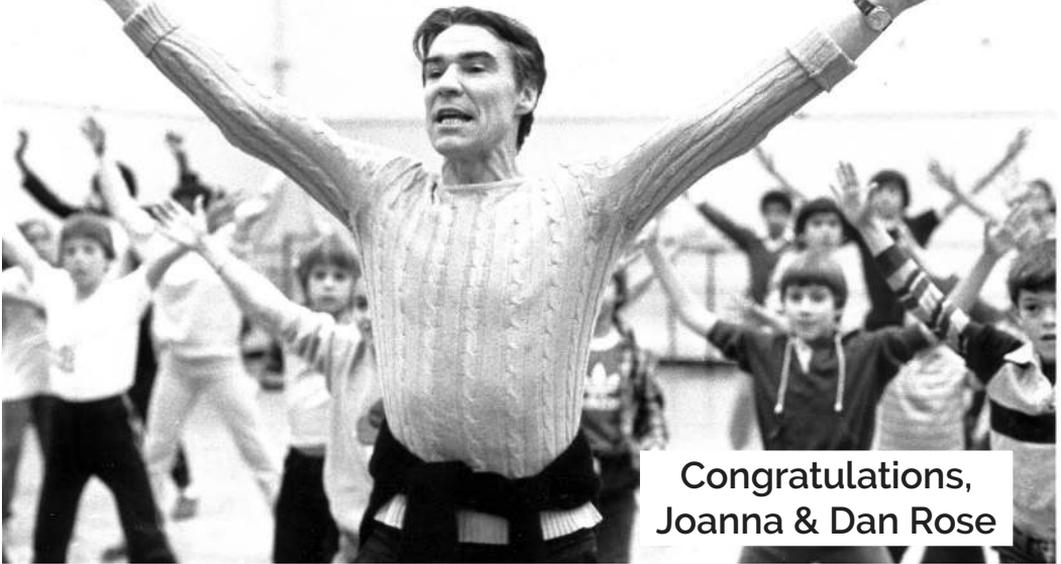
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