

# JAN GOLDSTOFF PUBLIC RELATIONS

400 Central Park West, Suite 3K, New York, NY 10025  
Tel (212) 666-9429 - Fax (212) 666-9433 - e-mail: minsgold@aol.com

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April 1, 2005

## **New York Celebrates National Dance Week - NYC April 22 – May 1, 2005**

*Free dance classes at top studios and access to performances, films, art exhibits, & workshops to participants with NDW-NYC Membership Card*

- RADIO CITY ROCKETTES® to give 6 Special Workshops – all 5 boroughs
- MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT C. VIRGINIA FIELDS to give Proclamations at City Hall to Radio City Rockettes®, Tendu Magazine's Tasha Norman, Charles Wright of Dance Space Center, & Tina Martinez, Artistic Director of Ballet Hispanico, April 27
- NDW-NYC LAUNCH PARTY AT SOHO DANCE April 22 to feature OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL GYMNAST DOMINIQUE DAWES
- US LATIN DANCE CHAMPIONS TONY MEREDITH & MELANIE LAPATIN, owners of Dance Time Square, to give mambo performance April 29, 10 PM

NATIONAL DANCE WEEK-NEW YORK CITY ([www.ndw-nyc.org](http://www.ndw-nyc.org)), part of the nationwide National Dance Week, will be a 10-Day Festival celebrating Dance and Movement in all 5 boroughs – Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Bronx, and Staten Island - from April 22 to May 1, 2005.

All New Yorkers who love to dance can register for their National Dance Week Membership Card at [www.ndw-nyc.org](http://www.ndw-nyc.org) (There is a \$50 registration fee for the card.) which will allow members to take free dance classes in some of the top dance studios in NYC, and attend dance performances, films, art exhibits and workshops, including six workshops by the famed Radio City Rockettes®. Members will also receive a "goody bag" when they pick up their card at Dance Space Center, which will serve as home base for membership card pickup and NDW-NYC information. Dance Space Center is at 451 Broadway (between Grand and Howard, one block south of Canal St.).

Tasha Norman, founder and publisher of Tendu Magazine which covers the health and wellness world in New York City, who is spearheading NATIONAL DANCE WEEK-NYC with the NDW-NYC steering committee, says, "For all those New Yorkers who ever wanted to try a dance class, experience different types of dance styles, dance every day, or just learn how to move or incorporate dance into a home exercise routine, NATIONAL DANCE WEEK-NYC will have something for everyone! It'll be in all five boroughs and the top dance studios and special performers like the Rockettes are participating. It's going to be a great thing for New York City."

A **highlight of the festival** will be six workshops by the famed **RADIO CITY ROCKETTES®**. One will take place at Radio City Music Hall and five at Ballys Total Fitness centers in all the boroughs. Students will learn jazz and kickline choreography from the Rockettes repertoire, and go through a mock audition and get a written evaluation from a Rockette. They can get a picture taken with their Rockette teacher, too.

Over 20 **Dance Studios**, offering everything from Ballet to Modern Dance, Jazz, Hip Hop, Salsa, Brazilian, Capoeira, Haitian, Cuban, African, bellydancing and more, will be opening their studios to NDW-NYC

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members for complimentary classes. The following studios are sponsoring studios offering access to all of their classes for free to NDW-NYC members:

- BALLET ARTS, Founded in 1937, one of the oldest continuously operating dance studios in New York City;
- DANCE SPACE CENTER, which nurtures and supports dance artists at all levels in all dance forms, and which recently announced the start of construction on its new \$3.8 million facility in Lower Manhattan, the first new cultural center there since 9/11.
- DANCE TIMES SQUARE, which is owned by world renowned U.S. Professional Latin American Dance Champions Tony Meredith and Melanie LaPatin, who coached and choreographed Vanessa Williams in *Dance With Me*, Pierce Brosnan and Rene Russo in *The Thomas Crown Affairs*, and who performed in *Shall We Dance* starring Jennifer Lopez and Richard Gere and in the recently released *Havana Nights*;
- DJONIBA DANCE AND DRUM CENTER, founded in 1993 by the acclaimed African Drummer and Dancer Djoniba Mouflet and devoted to African based dance as well as all kinds of ethnic dance;
- SOHO DANCE, one of New York's premiere studios specializing in the hottest social dances from salsa to swing, tango to latin ballroom. Soho Dance will host the NDW-NYC launch party on April 22.
- VALENTINA KOZLOVA'S DANCE CONSERVATORY OF NEW YORK, which teaches ballet techniques found at the Bolshoi where Ms. Kozlova was principal dancer before defecting to the U.S.A. in 1979; and
- YAMUNA, where innovative body therapist Yamuna Zake helps dancers unlock their body's maximum natural potential.

**Also Participating** are: Blade Dance Academy, Brian "Footwork" Green, Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance (BAAD), Dance Forum, Inc., Flamenco Latino, Isadora Duncan Foundation for Contemporary Dance, Martha Graham School, Peridance, Rod Rodgers Dance Company and Studios, Sandra Cameron Dance Center, The Trisha Brown Company and Dance Studios, White Wave Performance and Rehearsal Space, and The Works Studio.

**Performances** will be presented by:

- Arthur Avile's Typical Theatre,
- Bally's Dance Team - Extreme Overdrive,
- Dance Times Square, (a mambo performance by US LATIN DANCE CHAMPIONS TONY MEREDITH & MELANIE LAPATIN, April 29, 10 PM)
- Earl Mosley's Diversity of Dance Festival,
- Dancewave Kids Company (a unique dance troupe for teenagers who perform the works of world-renowned choreographers),
- Urban Ballet Theatre (whose storytelling uses choreography embracing indigenous, urban and classical forms), and others.
- Soho Dance Studio at NDW-NYC Launch Party April 22: Young Ambition Dance Company -- now a part of Soho Dance and including "6-year old dance phenom Jennifer Lopez", just featured in the Daily News -- and the Soho Dance Performers featuring Salsa, Cha Cha, Argentine Tango and Rumba.

**Film screenings**, coordinated by Dance Films Association, will include fascinating dance films, rarely seen:

- *"Walking Flower"* (2004) is a documentary on Chinese dance.
- *"Zu Mei Lee, Portrait of an Enchantress"* traces, through performance and interviews, the journey of a dancer from a poor childhood in China to success in New York City.
- *"When the Spirits Dance Mambo"* deals with the international impact of Afro Cuban religions.

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- *"Donald McKayle, HeartBeats of a DanceMaker"*, narrated by Della Reese and Harry Belafonte celebrates an extraordinarily talented dancer, choreographer, and teacher.
- *"Bomba"* documents how a Puerto Rican family works to keep the "bomba" dance form alive.

### SPECIAL EVENTS INCLUDE:

- **Dance Inspired Art Exhibitions:**
  - April 14 Through May 6 – Art Exhibit curated by Ademola Olugebefola, Manhattan Borough Presidents Gallery, Municipal Building South, 1 Centre St., (opening celebration April 14 co-sponsored by Harlem Arts Alliance)
  - April 29, 6-9 PM Dance Inspired Works by Ademola Olugebefola, Richard Barcliff, Trevor St. George and Preston Samules at ZZAJ Art Gallery; 124th Street and St. Nicholas Avenue, open to NDW-NYC members – wine and cheese reception
- **Fashion Show** presented by Capezio at their flagship store, 1650 Broadway at 51<sup>st</sup> St., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, to celebrate National Dance Week-NYC on Tuesday, April 26 at 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM. The show will include dance performances by SharQui-BellyDance, Bally Performance Team "Extreme Overdrive", and Dance Chelsea. *By invitation only.*
- **Launch Party** to kick off National Dance Week-NYC at **Soho Dance Studio**, 598 Broadway, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, on Friday, April 22 from 8 PM to 11 PM. **It will be by invitation only, but the press is invited.** Olympic Gold Medal Gymnast Dominique Dawes, who is now president of The Women's Sports Foundation will speak along with Tasha Norman, the New York City delegate for National Dance Week, and other celebrities and honored guests. There will be Latin Inspired dance performances by Young Ambition Dance Company -- now a part of Soho Dance and including "6-year old dance phenom Jennifer Lopez", just featured in the Daily News -- and the Soho Dance Performers featuring Salsa, Cha Cha, Argentine Tango and Rumba. Soho Dance Studio, which opened just a few months ago, has become one of New York City's top studios for Latin dance. It was founded by Rosann and Arthur Levy, who had sold their successful accounting firm and retired when they discovered something that would change their life – salsa dancing. Their Artistic Director and partner is professional dancer and choreographer Raul Santiago, who has danced in competitions, on television and in films all over the world.
- **Awards Ceremony: Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields** will give proclamations to the Radio City Rockettes®; Tasha Norman, publisher of Tendu Magazine; Charles Wright, founder/executive director of Dance Space Center; and Tina Martinez, Artistic Director of Ballet Hispanico. Wednesday, April 27 at City Hall from 6pm to 7:30pm. Reception follows at 7:30 PM in the Rotunda. The ceremony will be open to the public and include live performances by Creative Outlet Dance Company, a dynamic dance troupe from Brooklyn, and Songs of Faith, with dance choreography by Earl Mosley.

**National Dance Week**, sponsored by the United Dance Merchants of America, celebrates the contributions that dance makes to our culture, and seeks to spread the word that dance benefits the mind, body, and spirit. NDW encourages everyone to get involved in dance at any level and in any capacity, to help dance make a difference in every community. Up-to-date nationwide events and contact information can be found at [www.nationaldanceweek.org](http://www.nationaldanceweek.org).

**Sponsors of National Dance Week-NYC** are Tendu Magazine, Ballys Total Fitness, Capezio, Dance Space Center and Soho Dance.

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The Steering Committee for National Dance Week-NYC is made up of Tasha Norman, Charles Wright, David Bennett, Dave Ganulin, Rosann Levy, Ademola Olugebefola, Delva Haynes, Cassandra Meroe-Wimbs, and Deirdre Towers.

Schedules for events and further details can be found at the National Dance Week-New York City: [www.ndw-nyc.org](http://www.ndw-nyc.org)

The website for National Dance Week-National is: [www.nationaldanceweek.org](http://www.nationaldanceweek.org)

*Note: Participants in the City Hall Awards Presentation will be available for media interviews immediately following the presentation. For further information and telephone or in-person interviews with Tasha Norman, coordinator of National Dance Week-New York City, or members of the steering committee, contact:*

**Jan Goldstoff/David Minshall, JAN GOLDSTOFF PUBLIC RELATIONS**

[minsgold@aol.com](mailto:minsgold@aol.com), [dminshall@nyc.rr.com](mailto:dminshall@nyc.rr.com), (212) 666-9429,

Cell Numbers: 917/553 0547, 917/449 4054

**BELOW IS A SHORT PARAGRAPH FOR LISTINGS:**

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