

You were instrumental in helping me envision and grow into a new, post-dance life. –Catherine Oppenheimer

To have one-on-one attention focused on you and your priorities is an absolutely priceless resource.

–Hans Kriefall I've never thought of myself as very employable except as a dancer or teacher and now my whole viewpoint has changed.

–Michelle Seymour You make it so much easier to go out into the world and take risks. –Alicia Graf This isn't

only for former dancers or dancers in crisis; it's a must for all dancers.

–Sandra Brown You helped me find opportunities that I would not have imagined otherwise. –Jonah Bokaer

Our 25th Anniversary Silver Jubilee is but one reason to recall a 1982 conference led by Edward Weston of Actors' Equity Association, Richard LeBlond of the San Francisco Ballet and Chaired by Agnes de Mille.

By Cynthia Fischer, President

The purpose of the conference was to recognize and discuss the trauma facing professional dancers both during and at the end of their careers, and to identify how best to assist them into rewarding new professions that would make use of their unique backgrounds, talents, and skills. The conference was attended by such dance luminaries as Lucia Chase, Rebekah Harkness, Robert Joffrey, Nora Kaye, Jerome Robbins, Herbert Ross, Donald Saddler, Marge Champion, Edward Villella and Gwen Verdon.

As a result of this meeting, Career Transition For Dancers was founded in 1985 by the four performing arts unions: Actors' Equity Association, American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, American Guild of Musical Artists and Screen Actors Guild. The organization was originally administered by the Actors' Fund and at the helm, was Ann Barry, our first Executive Director and President.



Cynthia Fischer

Career Transition For Dancers is the only arts-service organization in the United States dedicated solely to the enrichment of dancers' post-performing years, and recognizes that dancers possess the assets and growth potential that employers seek and entrepreneurial ventures demand. For the past twenty-five years the organization has offered, entirely free of charge, services empowering dancers from all disciplines: dancers from companies or downtown/freelance dancers; dancers in musical theatre, Las Vegas shows, and industrials; and dancers in the television and film industries. Our services are available throughout a dancer's dance life from students to professionals sidelined by injury or retirement.

We have grown to be national with offices in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago. Serving the entire United States, we have dancer-clients in forty-seven (47) states thus far with just three to go! We are unique in our dedication solely to helping dancers move on to satisfying second careers.

Our core services, scholarships and counseling, have grown to include "Career Conversation" seminars, support and entrepreneurial groups, and national and local outreach programs which bring our services to dance communities throughout the US. The National Career Network provides mentoring, CareerLine allows dancers to obtain counseling services by telephone from wherever they are, and our website, careertransition.org, launched in 2008, provided 91,000 dancers with services in its first year alone.

This is our twenty-fifth anniversary year and we are so very proud that since 1985, Career Transition For Dancers has awarded millions of dollars in scholarships for education, entrepreneurial endeavors and certification programs, and provided 46,000 hours of career counseling. The needs of the dancers continue to increase and in 2009 alone we awarded \$428,000 in scholarships. The exceptional accomplishments of the organization's dancer-clients reflect the diversity of the dance community at large and the wealth of talent among its members. They have successfully transitioned into new careers in an amazing range of professions: everything from advertising and architecture to violin restoration and zoology. Their career choices are primarily non-dance related, requiring commitment to starting afresh and moving on in a creative and determined way.

Our efforts have been generously supported by our donors and friends.

Caroline Newhouse's \$1 million endowment grant allows us to maintain the Caroline & Theodore Newhouse Center For Dancers in New York City. The Sono Osato Program for Graduate Studies was generously endowed with \$1.35 million by Sono Osato. Endowments for scholarships have been made by foundations in the names of Clarence Y. Palitz, Rudolf Nureyev, Carmen Diana Barth, Agnes de Mille, Violet Blumenfeld, Lillian Sayers and Vivian Milstein.

Career Transition For Dancers is indebted to the vision of the participants in that 1982 conference who recognized the unique challenges faced by dancers and the vital need for an organization like ours. We owe our existence to the foresight of the unions who took that vision and made it a reality. We will honor them at our 25th Anniversary Silver Jubilee on November 8th.

As a result of that vision and support, for twenty-five years the organization has enriched the lives of countless dancers who have spent their lives bringing beauty and magic to ours.

International transition organizations Leadership meeting in New York City

Career Transition For Dancers hosted a conference of the International Organization of the Transition of Professional Dancers (IOTPD), representing transition centers in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, The Netherlands, Switzerland, South Korea and Poland, on June 4th and 5th. The organization addressed the use of the internet and its positive effects on their respective dance communities, as well as current trends relating to regional programs and services.