

BETWEEN SHOWS GET TOGETHER AT SARDI'S NYC

I was asked to write a short piece for Career Transition For Dancers on the subject of what inspires me, and I thought about what that meant. For me it is a moment when talent, hard work and artistry are so powerful that all my emotions seem to converge in a single unexplainable feeling of such joy that it brings tears to my eyes.

Those inspiring things for me can be as varied as seeing a painting by Jackson Pollock or Joan Mitchell, hearing the voice of Audra MacDonald, seeing a ballet by George Balanchine, reading a poem by Maya Angelou or seeing a great actor

commit to a role with every inch of their being. Great art and artists will always inspire, but I realize that inspiration also comes to me from my own community of co-workers, friends and peers. True, Broadway (yes, those are my people) is filled with artists, but I am always amazed and inspired by their diverse talent and how they are able to channel that talent into new areas.

I am never more reminded of this as we prepare for the Between Shows Get Together at Sardi's dinner underwritten by the Shubert Foundation each year. I have been honored to be one of the hosts the last few years and to serve as a member of the Program Development Committee. As we planned for this year, we were thinking of people

to help us host the event. I was so proud to hear suggestions from my co-workers and friends of people like Jerry Mitchell, Mary MacLeod, Mary Ann Lamb, Sergio Trujillo, Casey Nicholaw and Joanne Hunter, who have channeled their artistry into new areas of creativity and work, many of whom are still performing. They have expanded their dancing talent into choreography, directing, stage managing, and teaching. They are wonderful examples of success for the Sardi's event each year.



L to R: Joann Hunter, Dancer-client and Program Development committee member; Judine Somerville, National Advisory Committee; Mercedes Ellington, Dancer-client, Board of Directors' Member; and Mary MacLeod.

(Photo: JeremyDavisphotony.com)

This year I was unable to attend, but I got an email from Chad Seib. He and David Baum are both dancers in the Broadway show *MARY POPPINS*. Together they started a website design company called Sight Line Web Design. They are actually designing my new website, but he emailed to tell me about how wonderful and inspiring this year's Sardi's event was for him. His wife, the dancer Sae La Chin, spoke about her company SayBayBee, and he was so proud of her. While working on Broadway she started a company that helps parents prepare and plan for their new baby. This reminded me that his partner David Baum's fiancée, Leslie Goddard, also a Broadway dancer, has started her own photography company. These are four talented Broadway artists who have expanded their artistry into new and inspiring areas. As a volunteer Board of Directors member, that brought a tear to my eye.

- Caitlin Carter

Board of Directors' Member | Producer | Dancer | Actress