

# Caribbean Life

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## Youths perform at September Concert Dance

On Sept. 11, 30 young persons from the National Dance Institute (NDI) performed at the plaza at Rockefeller Center as part of The September Concert.

The performance, hosted by Tishman Speyer, featured dancers, ages eight to 15, as part of the seventh annual celebration of peace and shared humanity.

The creative force behind this day of music is Haruko Smith, who saw an opportunity to transform the pain and anguish of Sept. 11, 2001, into a day of music to celebrate our universal humanity.

Haruko was on hand to introduce the dancers who performed favorites from NDI's repertoire, including "When the Saints Go Marchin' In" and "Appalachian Clog."

The dancers also premiered a new work titled, "Let it Be," choreographed by Bianca Johnson, and performed by a young NDI singer, in tribute to the theme song for the 2008 September Concert.

During a break in the performance, NDI Teaching Artist Mary Kennedy led the dancers, as well as members of the audience, in an energetic dance class, demonstrating NDI's unique teaching methodology.

The September Concert Foundation, which began as a grassroots effort in New York City on Sept. 11 in 2002, has since grown into an event of global proportion.

In 2007, the September Concert Foundation organized more than 200 concerts with more than 3,400 performers.

In addition to 119 concerts held in New York, 42 U.S. cities hosted concerts, as did 39 international cities, such as Rome, Paris, Beijing, Tokyo, Johannesburg and Casablanca.

### About the National Dance Institute

National Dance Institute is a not-for-profit organization founded in the belief that the arts



From left, Kate Ladera from Manhattan, Alexandra Barrow from Brooklyn, Juliette Altman and Anjette Rostock, both from Manhattan, Leresa Gripper from Brooklyn, Eliza Mitnick from Manhattan, Tony Scott from the Bronx, Emma Cantor from Manhattan, and Kevin Moy from Chinatown performed at the plaza at Rockefeller Center as part of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual September Concert.

have a unique power to engage children and motivate them towards excellence.

Children gain the self-confidence and satisfaction that comes from real achievement, developing personal standards of excel-

lence, a deep love of the arts, and the motivation to succeed in all aspects of their lives.

More than two million children have participated in NDI programs. NDI was founded in 1976 by the New York City

Ballet's principal dancer Jacques d'Amboise, and since 1995 has been under the artistic leadership of Ellen Weinstein.

For more information, please log on to [www.nationaldance.org](http://www.nationaldance.org).