

Jacques d'Amboise
Founder

Ellen Weinstein
Artistic Director

Leslee Asch
Executive Director

Tracy Straus
Associate Artistic Director

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Greetings from the Artistic Director



Greetings and Happy Fall to all!

It is an exciting time at NDI as we begin a new season.

Each year we select a theme that is woven into weekly classes and becomes the inspiration for the development of fully realized theatrical events in each of our partner schools. Our **2008-09 theme is John Lennon** - his life and legacy. This year, over 35,000 children and their families will discover and be transformed by Lennon's enduring music, artwork and humanitarian efforts. On

November 1, we officially launched our Lennon theme with a performance at Symphony Space. The program featured a preview of two new works from the 2009 Event of the Year, "**Imagine**" and "**Let it Be.**" Yoko Ono sent a poem (on right) to our dancers and audience that was read from the stage - it was an auspicious and inspirational kick off to the year.

I am happy to announce we have re-established our program with **Lighthouse International**. Saturday morning classes for dancers who are blind or visually impaired are in full swing, and the parents, volunteers and Lighthouse staff all report that the young dancers are already accomplishing more than they ever dreamed possible.

NDI continues to spread its seeds internationally through a newly formed partnership with the **Worldwide Orphans Foundation** (WVO). Founded by Dr. Jane Aronson, WVO is dedicated to transforming the lives of orphaned children around the globe. This past year, five NDI teaching artists conducted workshops at orphanages and schools in Ethiopia. NDI's teaching methodology has proven to be extremely effective in engaging these children and our artists returned home inspired and enriched.

Many thanks for your continued support and belief in NDI.

With warmest regards,
Ellen Weinstein

Make Your Heart Dance

When you are feeling bad
Do one thing a day
To make your heart dance.
It could be a simple thing like
looking up at the sky.
If you can't manage even that
Do something for someone
To make their heart dance
It could be a simple thing like
giving a call.
Do this for a couple of months and
Your life will change in a big way
One day we'll all dance together.
Alright?
I Love You,
yoko

Volando a México DVD On Sale Now



NDI merchandise makes a great gift.
Visit the NDI Store at
www.nationaldance.org

See NDI on HBO!



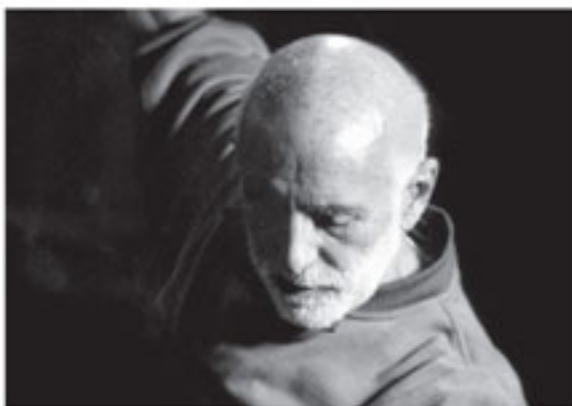
**"Jacques d'Amboise in China:
The Other Side of the World"**
Premiering on HBO,
Wednesday, December 3, 6:30 pm
and on HBO Family
Sunday, December 7, 9:00 pm
Visit www.nationaldance.org
for additional airtimes in December

Save These Dates

NDI's Annual Gala
Thursday, April 30, 2009
Nokia Theater

**2009 Event of the Year
Celebrating John Lennon**
June 20-22, 2009
LaGuardia HS Concert Hall

d'Amboise Family Remembers Jerome Robbins at Symphony Space



On **December 1**, NDI Founder **Jacques d'Amboise**, his son **Christopher d'Amboise**, daughter **Charlotte d'Amboise**, and son-in-law **Terrence Mann** will be joined by **Russ Tamblyn** at Symphony Space in "**Dancing for Jerry: Memories of Jerome Robbins.**" The evening will celebrate the life and work of Robbins through song, dance and reminiscences by the performers of their encounters over many years with the great choreographer. The event will benefit Symphony Space and National Dance Institute, and is being produced in association with the Jerome Robbins Foundation.
For more information, visit www.symphonyspace.org.

Celebration Team Dancers Perform in 2008 September Concert



30 National Dance Institute dancers, ages 8-15, gave a rousing performance in Rockefeller Plaza on **September 11**, as part of the annual **September Concert**, an annual global event dedicated to spreading the message of peace through music. Hosted by Tishman Speyer, the event drew large crowds to the plaza located in Midtown Manhattan.

Alumni News: Anthony Rue, II ('94) Dances with Madonna



As a 12-year-old NDI dancer, **Anthony Rue's** favorite role was leaping across the stage in "Free Rides of the Planet," part of NDI's 20th Anniversary Event of the Year: *Dancing Up A Story*. Today he is dancing backup for superstar **Madonna** as part of her sold-out "**STICKY & SWEET TOUR**." "I wouldn't be dancing at *all* if it wasn't for NDI," says Anthony. "I was able to learn so much in my early years with them, which has played a big part in me being able to dance as a pro for so long"



Photos: Eduardo Patino, Angel Gardner, Carolyn George