

May 2008

Vol 1, Issue 6

Greetings from the Artistic Director



Greetings! It is May and the NDI office is a beehive of activity as we kick off our **Event of the Year** Season. Every corner of space is being used - brightly colored t-shirts are being counted and boxed, lighting equipment tested and

scenery pulled out of storage and stretched out on the floor. NDI teaching artists are moving desks in order to have space to try out last minute choreographic ideas and Mexican music fills the hallways. It is exhilarating!

During the next 6 weeks, over 35,000 children and their families will be celebrating the music, dance, history and culture of Mexico in performances at NDI partner schools throughout the city. The season will culminate with **Volando á México**, an original musical directed by Jenny Seham and starring over 200 children from NDI's SWAT and Celebration Teams. This years' theme was inspired by our "sister" program, **Aprender con Danza** seeded by NDI and flourishing in Mexico City, Mexico.

NDI teaching artists continue to spread the magic of NDI far and wide. Last week alone, Kay Gayner was in North Carolina directing an event for NDI affiliate, **Arts in Action**; Tracy Straus was in Colorado completing a three week residency for **Celebrate the Beat**; and Christine Hall, Emily Meisner, and Tim Ribner were working with **Worldwide Orphans Foundation** in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

And right here in NYC, we are pushing boundaries with a pilot program for over-aged, under-credited high school students - young adults who have one last chance to earn their high school diploma.

These are but a few examples of how NDI encourages the discovery of culture, excellence and the arts among children around the globe and around the corner.



Please save the date, and come and share in our exploration of the music and dance of Mexico, June 21-23. We look forward to seeing you there!

Yours sincerely,

Ellen Weinstein
Artistic Director

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Save These Dates!

NDI at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival
Wednesday, July 30, 2008

NDI at Catskill Mountain Foundation
Saturday, August 2, 2008

NDI at Symphony Space
Saturday, November 1, 2008

NDI Alumni: Yasmin Jones ('93)



The Landmark on 71st and Broadway by Yasmin Jones ('93)

Here is an idea for a future NDI Event of the Year: *A Tribute to the 71st Street McDonald's*. I know I am not alone in my nostalgia about that Big Mac of a fast food refuge that nearly every Saturday served as the Russian Tea Room of NDI's dancers...It was there that Cel Team member and former school mate Jermaine Jones finally mustered up the courage to ask me to be his girlfriend. [Read more from Yasmin](#)

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NDI's 2008 Event of the Year: Volando á México



**Volando
á México**

Directed by Jenny Senam

Sat, June 21, 3pm & 6pm;
Sun, June 22, 3pm;
Mon, June 23, 6:30pm

LaGuardia High School Concert Hall
65th Street and Amsterdam, NYC

Tickets: \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door



Join 200 of NDI's Advanced Team dancers on a journey to Mexico. **NDI's 2008 Event of the Year: Volando á México** tells the story of two Mexican-American children living in New York City who fly to Mexico for the first time. [Read more](#)



Photos: Angel Gardner, Aileen Barry, Cutty McGill

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