

About NDI

"They say you can see the universe in a flower. In one hour, teaching a jig to a motley crew of students of all ages, Jacques d'Amboise lays bare the essence of all good education: discipline, effort, beauty, struggle, joy. In the process, he opens up a universe of possibilities for all who participate and reveals why an education in the arts must be the birthright of every human being."

– Howard Gardner, Director, Harvard University Graduate School of Education, Project Zero



National Dance Institute (NDI) was founded in the belief that the arts have a unique power to engage children and motivate them toward excellence. Since it was founded in 1976 by New York City Ballet principal dancer Jacques d'Amboise, NDI has impacted the lives of over 2 million children. Under the artistic direction of Ellen Weinstein and a staff of professional dancer/choreographers and musician/composers, NDI strives to reach every child, transcending barriers of language, culture, and physical challenges. Not one child pays a penny for these programs.

- Each year, NDI reaches over 35,000 New York City public elementary school students and their communities through classes, residencies and performances.
- All NDI programs are offered to children free of charge.
- Through classes led by professional teaching artists, we provide a full-year program for 4,000 children in our 30 partner schools.
- NDI works with mainstream, bilingual, and special education classes.
- The majority of NDI dancers come from low-income communities.
- Through our Advanced Scholarship Programs, exceptionally motivated children may extend their NDI experience up to the age of 15.
- Approximately 38% of NDI children identify as Hispanic or Latino; 24% as Asian; 16% as African American; and 22% as Caucasian.

IN-SCHOOL PROGRAM

NDI conducts a year-long program for children to explore the process by which movement put to music becomes dance. Our classes involve an entire grade, and take place during the school day, placing the arts on an equal standing with math, science, and social studies. Children learn to work together, develop personal standards of excellence, and cultivate a belief in themselves that supports their success in school and in life.

ADVANCED PROGRAMS

SWAT Team (Scholarships for the Willing, Achieving and Talented)

Dancers selected from the In-School program receive advanced dance instruction each Saturday and through after-school programs. The program culminates in NDI's Event of the Year, a large scale performance featuring the SWAT and Celebration Team dancers.

Celebration Team

Children who demonstrate an extraordinary commitment throughout their NDI training are invited to join this advanced performance troupe, and may continue with their NDI experience up to the age of 15. These dancers perform in a variety of venues year-round, which have included Symphony Space; Lincoln Center; Juilliard; City Center; the Kennedy Center; the White House; the Academy Awards; and Symphony Space. They have danced internationally in Geneva, Switzerland; Venice, Italy; Israel; and Shanghai, China.

Irene Diamond Summer Institute

The Irene Diamond Summer Institute is a month-long dance academy. The rigorous program includes a full schedule of classes in ballet, jazz, tap, ethnic dance, music, and theatre with special guest artists who introduce the children to a range of artistic experiences. Each year, 100 full scholarships are awarded.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

NDI offers intensive Teaching Artist Training workshops in NDI's award-winning pedagogy several times a year, serving educators, dancers, and musicians in New York City, across the USA, and around the world.



Photos: Eduardo Patino for NDI

About NDI cont'd



FINANCIALS

National Dance Institute has an annual operating budget of over \$3.5 million. Currently, NDI has broad individual donor support and receives 35% of its funding through Foundations. Contributors of \$50,000 and more include Arison Arts Foundation, The Balm Foundation, Irene Diamond Fund, The Heckscher Foundation for Children, Henry and Lucy Moses Fund, Inc., The Pinkerton Foundation, Blanchette Hooker Rockefeller Fund, The Shubert Foundation, The Starr Foundation, and The Winston Foundation.

Corporate sponsors include Con Edison, Corcoran Real Estate, ING, MetLife Foundation, JPMorgan Foundation, and The New York Times Company Foundation.

AWARDS

Jacques d'Amboise was recently inducted into the American Acadamey of Arts and Sciences. Mr. d'Amboise and NDI have been recognized with many prestigious awards, including: the MacArthur Genius Award; The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities' Coming Up Taller Award; The National Medal of Arts; The James Keller Youth Award – The Christophers; The Town Hall "Friend of the Arts" Award; The Producer's Circle Award for Public Service; The New York City Mayor's Award for Arts & Culture; The Arison Award of the National Foundation for Advancement of the Arts; The Heinz Award; *People Magazine's* People First Honoree; The Kennedy Center Honors; The Paul Robeson Award for Excellence in the Field of Humanities; and The Governor's Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Art and Culture of New York State. The film featuring NDI's early days, "He Makes Me Feel Like Dancin'," won the Academy Award for best documentary in 1984, six Emmy Awards, the Peabody Award, the Golden Cine Award and the National Education Association Award for the Advancement of Learning Through Broadcasting.



RECENT PRESS

NDI has been featured on CBS's "The Early Show," "Teen Kids News," NBC's "Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade," WNBC's "Macy's Parade Balloon Bash," WNET/THIRTEEN's "New York Voices," NY1's "One on 1 with Budd Mishkin," Fox 5's "Good Day New York," "CBS Saturday Morning," and "CBS Sunday Morning." Print coverage includes *Time Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *People Magazine*, *Dance Magazine*, *Dance Teacher Magazine*, *New York Daily News*, *El Diariol/La Prensa*, *The Hartford Courant*, as well as placements in over 30 NYC community newspapers and magazines.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NDI's Board of Directors includes representatives from The Segal Company and the Fresh Air Fund, as well as members from major law firms and investment banks. **See full Board list with affiliations.**

VOLUNTEER BENEFITS

Employees of corporations and foundations, as well as individuals, have the opportunity to create a personal connection with NDI children through visits to schools or dance classes. Other volunteer opportunities include hospitality and special events.



Partner Schools

School	Address	Partner since
PS 1 M	8 Henry St. (Catherine St.) New York, NY 10038	1985
PS 2 M	122 Henry St. (Rutgers & Pike) New York, NY 10002	1985
PS 20	166 Essex St. (Houston & Stanton) New York, NY 10002	2009
PS 33 M	281 Ninth Ave. (27th St.) New York, NY 10001	2006
PS 40 M	319 E. 19th St. (1st & 2nd Aves.) New York, NY 10003	1979-1988 returned 2005
PS 41 M	116 W. 11th St. (6th Ave.) New York, NY 10011	2006
PS 105 X	725 Brady Ave. (Cruger Ave.) Bronx, NY 10462	2003
PS 110	285 Delancey St. (Cannon St.) New York, NY 10002	2009
PS/IS 111 M	440 W. 53rd St. (9th & 10th Aves.) New York, NY 10019	2004
PS 124 M	40 Division St. (under Manhattan Bridge) New York, NY 10002	1985
PS 126 M	80 Catherine St. (Monroe & Cherry St.) New York, NY 10038	2000
PS 130 M	143 Baxter St. (Hester & Grand St.) New York, NY 10013	1985
PS 161 X	628 Tilton Ave. (151st & 152nd) Bronx, NY 10455	2000
PS 163 M	163 W. 97th St. (Columbus & Amst. Aves.) New York, NY 10019	2005



Partner Schools cont'd

School	Address	Partner since
PS 183 M	419 E. 66th St. (1st & York Aves.) New York, NY 10021	1992
PS 184 M/ Shuang Wen Academy	327 Cherry St. (Clinton) New York, NY 10002	2007
PS 189 M	2580 Amsterdam Ave. (189th St.) New York, NY 10040	1984
PS 199 M	270 W. 70th St. (Amst. & West End Aves.) New York, NY 10023	1997
IS 223/Mott Hall M	71 Convent Ave. (131st St.) New York, NY 10027	1984
PS 234 M	292 Greenwich St. (W. Broadway) New York, NY 10007	2007
PS 235 K	525 Lenox Rd. (39th & 40th) Brooklyn, NY 11203	1998
PS 290/Manhattan New School	311 E. 82nd St. (1st & 2nd Aves.) New York, NY 10028	1996
Hunter College Elementary School	71 E. 94th St. (Park & Madison Aves.) New York, NY 10128	1981-1985 returned 1997
PS 859/Special Music School of America	129 W. 67th St. (Amsterdam & Broadway) New York, NY 10023	2006
DREAM Charter School (NYC Charter School)	232 E. 103rd St. (2nd & 3rd Aves.) New York, NY 10029	2008
St. Patrick/Assumption All Saints School	509 Bramhall Ave. (Grand) Jersey City, NJ 07304	1980
Lighthouse International (For blind and visually impaired)	111 East 59th St. (Lexington & Park Aves.) New York, NY 10022	1989-2004 returned 2008
East Harlem School at Exodus House	340 E. 104th St. (1st & 2nd Aves.) New York, NY 10029	2007





Board of Directors

Officers 2009 - 2010

Chair

John Fullerton

Founder, Level 3 Capital Advisors, LLC

2003

Co Vice-Chairs

Ketty Pucci-Sisti Maisonrouge

President
Luxury Education Foundation

1991

Kathy Mele

Educator

2006

Helen Stambler Neuberger

Arts Administrator
Artist

2004

Susan Newhouse

Community Volunteer

1976

Secretary

Richard DeScherer

Partner
Willkie, Farr & Gallagher

1988

Treasurer

Robert D. Krinsky

Chairman
The Segal Company

1985

Founder

Jacques d'Amboise

Founder
National Dance Institute

1976

Artistic Director

Ellen Weinstein

Artistic Director
National Dance Institute

1996

Directors

Christopher d'Amboise

Director/ Choreographer

2006

Lauren B. Cramer

Senior Associate
McLaughlin & Stern, LLP

2007

Valerie T. Diker

Founding Chairman of NDI-New Mexico

1996

Robert I. Freedman

Senior Partner
Cowan, DeBaets, Abrahams & Sheppard LLP

1996



Board of Directors cont'd

Directors (cont'd)	Affiliation	Joined NDI
Lauri Levitt Friedland	Director Norman and Rosita Winston Foundation	1997
Dufftin Garcia	Teacher/ Choreographer/ Alumnus National Dance Institute	2006
Barbara Handler	Community Volunteer	1984
Ed Hynes	Financial Advisor	1996
Jenny Morgenthau	Executive Director Fresh Air Fund	1987
Jacynth Paterson Orridge	Community Volunteer	1991
Arnold S. Penner	Private Real Estate Investor	1988
Nili de Rothschild	Community Volunteer	1984
Andrew Shiva, Ph.D.	Forensic Psychologist	1992
Linda Singer	Founder Singer Travel Associates	2008
Eva-Maria Tausig	President Nantucket Musical Arts Society	1983
Judy Weston	Community Volunteer	2000
Christopher J. Williams	President and CEO The Williams Capital Group, L.P.	1999





Ellen Weinstein
Artistic Director

Ellen Weinstein began teaching and choreographing for National Dance Institute in 1985 and was named Artistic Director in 1995. Through NDI, her work has been performed at venues as varied as Carnegie Hall, the Delacorte Theater in Central Park, Brooklyn Academy of Music, and with the New York Philharmonic at Lincoln Center. Her choreography, "Wade in the Water," was featured at the White House at a state dinner hosted by President and Mrs. Clinton. As an artistic consultant to NDI's national outreach programs, Ms. Weinstein has set works and directed residencies in major cities across the country. She traveled to Moscow as a consultant for NDI's artistic exchange with the Soviet Union and also worked with children in Madras, India. Prior to joining NDI, she danced professionally with the Savannah Ballet, the Garden State Ballet and several contemporary dance companies. Ms. Weinstein

served as adjunct professor in process pedagogy at the State University of New York at New Paltz. She received a BFA in Dance from SUNY Purchase.

Leslee Asch
Executive Director



Leslee Asch joined the National Dance Institute (NDI) as Executive Director in May 2004. Following an extensive search, the Executive Committee of the NDI Board of Directors selected Leslee by a unanimous vote. Leslee's skills and interests are a wonderful match with NDI's needs and dreams. Prior to joining NDI, Leslee ran her own consulting firm helping clients with program development and evaluation, strategic planning and implementation, and market analysis. Her work focused on arts, education and community development. Her client list included Anna Deavere Smith Works, Young Audiences/ New York, The New Jersey Performing Arts Center and Disney World. Before that, she spent twenty years at Jim Henson Productions (the creator of the Muppets) where she was the Exhibitions Director of the Jim Henson Company and Executive Director of the Jim Henson Foundation. For over ten years she was the Producing Director of the Henson International Festival of Puppet Theater, the prestigious Obie and Drama Desk award-winning festival. Leslee holds an M.S. in Nonprofit Management and a Certificate in Organizational Development from the Milano Graduate School of Management and Urban Policy of New School University.

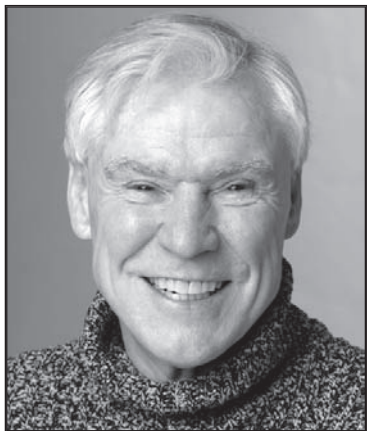


Tracy Straus
Associate Artistic Director

Tracy Straus has been a member of National Dance Institute's artistic staff for 12 years. In her role as Master Teacher/Choreographer, she has directed residencies for children across America. In 2000, she founded "Celebrate The Beat", a Colorado-based affiliate of NDI which she continues to direct. She is also Co-Founder of the California Dance Institute. Her experience as an arts educator includes joining The After School Corporation, started by international philanthropist George Soros to bring high quality after-school programs into the public school system. As an arts consultant, Ms. Straus has worked to develop multicultural arts programs for schools in the five boroughs of New York City and has also trained dance instructors. Ms. Straus began her performing career at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. An actress as well as a dancer, she trained at The Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London and performed in various

off-Broadway venues. Her recent work has included choreographing for the television show "America's Next Top Model" for CBS. She holds a Master's Degree from Bank Street College of Education in early childhood education, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Michigan in dance and literature. She has taught as an adjunct dance professor at New York University and the State University of New York at New Paltz.

Jacques d'Amboise *Founder*



Recognized as one of the finest classical dancers of our time, Jacques d'Amboise now leads the field of arts education with a model program that exposes thousands of school children to the magic and discipline of dance. In 1976, while still a principal dancer with New York City Ballet, Mr. d'Amboise founded National Dance Institute in the belief that the arts have a unique power to engage and motivate individuals towards excellence.

His contributions in arts education have earned him numerous awards and honors including: The Dutch Treat Club Gold Medal for Lifetime Achievement; The American Academy of Arts & Sciences Membership (2007); The Children's Champion Award, *Child Magazine* (2007); The Mayor's Award for Arts & Culture (2004); Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at St. Joseph College (2003); The James Keller Youth Award, The Christophers (2002); The Arison Award (2002); People First Honoree, *People Magazine* (2002); Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at Franklin Pierce College (2002); The Heinz Award (2001); Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts at the University of the South (2001); Town Hall Friend of the Arts Award (2000); Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts at the Juilliard School (2000); The *Dance Magazine* Award (1999); The National Medal

of Arts (1998); NCEA St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award (1996); The Kennedy Center Honors (1995); The National Caring Award, The Caring Institute (1995); The Museum of the City of New York - \$24 Award; The Award for Distinguished Service to the Arts from the American Academy of Arts and Letters (1993); a 1990 MacArthur Fellowship; The Capezio Award (1990); The First Annual Producers Circle Award for public service (1989); The Paul Robeson Award for excellence in the field of the humanities (1988); The Governor's Award for outstanding contributions to the arts and culture of New York State (1986); Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts - Boston College (1986); Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts - Monmouth University (1984); Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts - Bates College (1978); Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts - Saint Peter's College (1978); Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts - College of New Rochelle (1976); and The Nancy Hank Fellowship - Duke University. Mr. d'Amboise is also an Honorary Big Brother.

He Makes Me Feel Like Dancin', a 1984 PBS documentary film about his work with NDI, won an Academy Award, six Emmy Awards, the Peabody Award, the Golden Cine Award, and the National Education Association Award for the advancement of learning through broadcasting. He has also served as a full professor and Dean of Dance for two years at SUNY Purchase, and for eleven years as visiting professor at the College of Creative Studies, University of California at Santa Barbara.

Mr. d'Amboise began his ballet training with Madam Seda in Washington Heights, New York. Within a year, at the age of 8, he continued his studies at the School of American Ballet with George Balanchine, Anatola Oboukhoff and Pierre Vladimiroff. At age 12 he performed with Ballet Society, the immediate predecessor to New York City Ballet. Three years later, barely 15, he joined New York City Ballet and the following year made his European debut at London's Covent Garden. As Balanchine's protégé, Mr. d'Amboise had more works choreographed specifically for him by The Ballet Master than any other dancer, including the ballets: *Stars and Stripes*, *Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux*, *Episodes*, *Figures in the Carpet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Jewels*, *Raymonda Variations*, *Meditation*, and *Brahms-Schoenberg Quartet*. Mr. d'Amboise is most remembered for his portrayal of what critics called "the definitive Apollo." As a choreographer, Mr. d'Amboise's credits include almost twenty works commissioned for the New York City Ballet.

Mr. d'Amboise has written and directed for theater, film, and television, including the musicals *Roberta*, *Lady in the Dark*, *Peter Pan*, *Thurber Carnival*, *The Shooting of Dan McGrew* with Galt McDermott, and the films *Event of the Year* and *Fifth Position*.

As a performer, Mr. d'Amboise has appeared on Broadway in the musical *Shin Bone Alley*, the precursor production to the musical *Cats*. He has appeared in films including *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *Carousel*, *The Best Things In Life Are Free*, *Watching Ballet*, the movie version of Balanchine's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Offbeat*.

In 1983, Mr. d'Amboise co-authored *Teaching the Magic of Dance* with Hope Cooke, featuring photographs by Carolyn George. Mr. d'Amboise is currently at work on a memoir to be published by Alfred A. Knopf. His wife, the late Carolyn George, was a dancer, teacher, choreographer, and photographer. Together, they had four children—George, Christopher, and twin daughters Charlotte and Catherine.

Mr. d'Amboise's work in dance education has taken him all over the world—from the extremes of Yakutsk, Siberia, to the Danakil Desert in Ethiopia, from 13,000 feet below sea level at the Dead Sea to the mountains of Nepal, and from the dryness of the Atacama Desert in Chile to rainforests on the island of Kauai in the Hawaiian Chain. Over the last 30 years, NDI programs in New York City and its affiliates, both nationally and internationally, have reached and influenced over 2 million children.

"The arts open your heart and mind to possibilities that are limitless. They are pathways that touch upon our brains and emotions and bring sustenance to imagination. Human beings' greatest form of communication, they walk in tandem with science and play, and best describe what it is to be human."

-Jacques d'Amboise

History Timeline

2009

The **2009 Event of the Year: *Imagine: A Celebration of John Lennon***, directed by Ellen Weinstein, is the culmination of a year-long study of the life and legacy of John Lennon.

NDI launches a new partnership with the **DREAM Charter School in East Harlem**, a public charter school focused on health and fitness.

NDI re-launches a program with **The Filomen M. D'Agostino Greenberg Music School at Lighthouse International** for dancers who are blind or visually impaired.

2008

The **2008 Event of the Year: *Volando a México***, directed by NDI Master Teacher Dr. Jenny Seham, is the culmination of a year-long study of Mexico by the children of NDI. 11 children from **ConArte in Mexico City** participate in the Event.

2007

The **2007 Event of the Year: *An African Village: Postcards from Potou***, directed by Ellen Weinstein, is inspired by the work of economist Jeffrey Sachs and his goal to end extreme poverty worldwide. Thousands of New York City public school children raise more than \$25,000 in pennies, nickels and dimes for the village of Potou, Senegal.

The Celebration Team performs in the **2007 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade**.

NDI hosts **children from Bali, Indonesia** at the 2007 Irene Diamond Summer Institute.

Founder Jacques d'Amboise is inducted into the **Academy of Arts & Sciences**.

2006

NDI senior staff travel to the village of **Potou, Senegal** at the invitation of economist Jeffrey Sachs.

NDI Master Teacher Kay Gayner directs the **2006 Event of the Year: *A Midsummer Night's Dream***.

NDI Master Teacher Jenny Seham works with **ConArte in Mexico City** to launch an NDI-inspired program, *Aprender con Danza*.

NDI teaching artist Mary Kennedy and NDI dancer Jamal Wyse travel to **Bali, Indonesia** as part of a cultural exchange.

2005

The **2005 Event of the Year: *It's All Relative*** is directed by Associate Artistic Director Tracy Straus and celebrates the life and genius of Albert Einstein.

2004

NDI'S Tiny Tots are re-named the **First Team**, in memory of long-time supporter and Board Member Joanna First.

20 NDI dancers and alumni go to **Shanghai, China** for a month-long residency.

The **2004 Event of the Year: *My Place*** is directed by Jacques d'Amboise.

2003

NDI is awarded **The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities' Coming Up Taller Award** by Laura Bush.

The **2003 Event of the Year: *Never Doubt Imagination*** is directed by Associate Artistic Director Tracy Straus.



2002

NDI dancers perform in **The September Concert**, a citywide tribute remembering those lost on September 11, 2001.

The **2002 Event of the Year: *The Spirit of New York*** is directed by Ellen Weinstein.

2001

Look Who's Dancin' Now, the follow-up to the Academy Award-winning "He Makes Me Feel Like Dancin'" airs on PBS.

The **2001 Event of the Year: *Romeo and Juliet*** features music and lyrics by Jacques d'Amboise and Music Director Jerome Korman. The Event is dedicated to the memory of Raphael de Rothschild.

2000

NDI dancers and alumni gather for the first annual **Dance-A-Thon** fundraiser.

The **2000 Event of the Year: *20th Century American Song: Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness*** is directed by Lori Klinger.

1999

Jacques d'Amboise, with his son George, hikes the **Appalachian Trail**, raising money for NDI and teaching dance along the way.

The **1999 Event of the Year: *Step by Step by Ellington*** is conceived and directed by Ellen Weinstein.

1998

Jacques d'Amboise is awarded the **National Medal of Arts** by President Clinton.

NDI's **Teacher Training program** is established. The **1998 Event of the Year: *City, City***, directed by Ellen Weinstein, takes place for the first time at LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts.

1997

Jacques d'Amboise and Duffin Garcia travel to **Tel Aviv** and the West Bank for an international residency.

The **1997 Event of the Year: *Dancing up a Story*** takes place at The Delacorte Theater.

1996

President Clinton and the First Lady invite NDI children to perform in the Rose Garden at the **White House** for the Greek State Dinner.

The **1996 Event of the Year: *This Joint is Jumpin'*** is directed by Ellen Weinstein.

1995

Jacques d'Amboise is awarded the **Kennedy Center Honors**, the same year Ellen Weinstein is named Artistic Director.

The **1995 Event of the Year: *Fat City*** takes place for the first time in Central Park at the The Delacorte Theater.

26 NDI dancers perform at the **50th Anniversary of the United Nations** in Geneva, Switzerland, underwritten by the Japanese company Felissimo.

History Timeline cont'd

1994

Children from the earth's geographic extremes take part in the **1994 Event of the Year: Rosebud's Song**.

The Irene Diamond Fund underwrites **NDI's Summer Institute**.

1993

Phil Donahue invites NDI children to perform with him for his 25th anniversary television show.

NDI returns to Madison Square Garden with the **1993 Event of the Year: Amerimusic II**.

1992

The **1992 Event of the Year: Amerimusic**, directed by Ellen Weinstein, celebrates the widely varied cultures of the Americas during the past 500 years and features original music by David Amram.

1991

June 3, 1991 is declared **"National Dance Institute Day"** by New York City Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani.

More than 1,500 children, including dancers from Madras, India, perform for two weeks at **Brooklyn Academy of Music** in the **1991 Event of the Year: Chakra** starring Malika Sarabai.

1989

NDI's **Adopt-A-School program** is launched.

An NDI associate program, **Trenton Educational Dance Institute**, is founded.

The **1989 Event of the Year: Meilleurs Amis** features scenery and sets by Red Grooms.

1988

The **NDI Alumni Association** is founded.

NDI partners with **Very Special Arts** to create a dance program for children who are blind or visually impaired.

Jacques d'Amboise directs the **1988 Event of the Year: A Day in the Life of Coney Island** with the North Bondi Lifesaving Team from Australia as guests.

1987

A Celebration of Literature unites important American writers, composers, visual artists, and choreographers to create short, theatrical ballets for children. **"We Real Cool"** is created from the poem by Gwendolyn Brooks, and is filmed in a vacant lot in New York City's Lower East side, with a backdrop mural designed by Red Grooms.

The **1987 Event of the Year: A Celtic Tale** takes place at Madison Square Garden and features a moveable sculpture by Helena Blumenfeld.

1986

NDI does its first **cultural exchange with China**, and 56 children from China come to NYC to perform with 1,500 NDI dancers in the **1986 Event of the Year: China Dig**.



1985

1,500 children perform in the **1985 Event of the Year: Andrew Jackson and the Battle of New Orleans**, which stars Donlin Foreman and Ann Reinking.

NDI holds a school-wide residency at **P.S. 29 in Brooklyn** and premieres the work **The Shooting of Dan McGrew**, featuring original music by Galt McDermott and underwritten by Joseph Papp.

1984

"He Makes Me Feel Like Dancin'" wins Best Documentary category at the **56th Annual Academy Awards**. NDI dancers perform in Hollywood.

The **1984 Event of the Year: The Knack**, with scenery by Red Grooms, features Richard Kiley and Chloris Leachman.

1983

The **1983 Event of the Year: The Three Musketeers**, inspired by the Alexandre Dumas adventure story, features over 1,000 children at Madison Square Garden's Felt Forum.

1982

During the **1982 Event of the Year: Fat City**, Christopher d'Amboise, Judy Collins, Patricia McBride, Mary Tyler Moore, John Schuck, Janet Eilber, Kevin Kline and The NYPD Dancing Police join 1,000 NDI children on stage at Madison Square Garden's Felt Forum. The Event is filmed as part of the documentary **"He Makes Me Feel Like Dancin'."**

1981

Over 1000 children perform in the **1981 Event of the Year: Texas Duke**. Jacques d'Amboise writes, choreographs, and directs this spoof of a border town incident in a saloon on the Rio Grande. **New York City Police** perform with New York City Ballet dancers to a song written by Balanchine.

Nancy Reagan invites Jacques d'Amboise and both hearing and deaf NDI children to the **White House** at holiday time for a demonstration of NDI teaching methods.

1980

The **1980 Event of the Year: Big Mama** featuring 800 NDI dancers is co-hosted by Judy Collins and Tony Randall.

1979

Christopher d'Amboise, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Judy Collins, and Patricia McBride join 400 boys and girls for the **1979 Event of the Year** at Madison Square Garden's Felt Forum.

1978

The **1978 Event of the Year: Dance Space**, takes place at New York State Theater, and 100 dancing boys participate.

1977

The first annual NDI **Event of the Year: Dance on a May Day**, takes place at New York State Theater, between the matinee and evening performances. 30 boys participate.

1976

NDI is founded by New York City Ballet principal dancer Jacques d'Amboise.