TRENTON EDUCATION DANCE INSTITUTE PRESENTS

TEDI’S 33rd ANNUAL EVENT

Field of Dreams

ENTER GATE

THURSDAY MAY 12 2022

“Field of Dreams” directed by Kayla James and John Williams featuring the TEDI dancers from the Trenton Public School district featuring live music by Grace Little & GLB.

Check out the performance at https://vimeo.com/718854250
A Message from Richard Bilotti, TEDI President

Everyone involved in TEDI believes that the arts can change children’s lives. We’ve watched generations of students from Trenton struggle and rejoice through the discipline, the challenges and the joy of dance.

TEDI was founded on the pedagogical principals of the National Dance Institute, created by the legendary ballet dancer and choreographer Jacques D’Amboise. In his autobiography, I Was a Dancer, he writes:

“Who am I? I’m a man; an American, a father, a teacher, but most of all, I am a person who knows how the arts can change lives, because they transformed mine.”

No one can say it better.

Thank you to all the dancers, teachers, administrators, TEDI staff, volunteers and donors who have made this program possible for thousands of Trenton students over the past 33 years. And thank you to Kayla James, our TEDI Artistic Director, and to John Williams, our Music Director, who provides live music. Both are dedicated to bringing out the best in TEDI students.

Richard Bilotti
TEDI President
Message from TEDI Artistic Director Kayla James

We are back! For the first time since 2019, I am pleased to have you joining us at our LIVE 33rd Annual Event of the Year – “Field of Dreams” at the Trenton Thunder Stadium. At the start of the school year, we weren’t exactly sure what to expect given the new environment of the pandemic. Even while masked, we experienced smiles and laughter. It is amazing to be surrounded by passionate students, fantastic live music, and good vibes all around.

I am so very proud of our 5th grade students. From day one, they have put in 100% effort into learning all the steps, music challenges, and working their hardest to accomplish their own personal best. For the first in program history, I am thrilled to introduce our 4th Grade Students! They participated in a ten-week residency and have truly blown us away with their talent. And not to forget, our small, but mighty, Celebration Team Students! They are the perfect example of what we hope every TEDI student will be. Overall, our TEDI dancers are strong, driven, and remind us to have fun in everything we do.

These events are not possible without a grand-slam team! Thank you to our amazing leaders and teachers at Parker Elementary School. Your kindness and excitement towards TEDI shows through your student’s interest. Thank you to Grace Little & GLB for the amazing music you will all hear tonight! Thank you to the CHS Staff, TEDI Board, and our volunteers. Thank you to our community for keeping this program so near and dear to our hearts. And lastly, thank YOU for supporting our TEDI dancers and encouraging dance to be a part of their lives. After all, life is better when you DANCE!

“Dance is your pulse, your heartbeat, your breathing. It’s the rhythm of your life. It’s the expression, in time and movement, of happiness, joy, sadness and envy.”

-Jacques D’Amboise

“I hope the 4th graders get...”
OUR TEDi STUDENTS WORKING HARD REMOTELY

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Kati and Steve Chupa
“Dance is the hidden language of the soul”
-Martha Graham

Renee and Michael Eckstut

“I lost a few pounds from dancing it’s like a workout”
Reflection

It started around a table in 1989. National Dance Institute (NDI) had just wrapped up its 13th successful year of helping children achieve their dreams, and The Times publisher Richard Bilotti was inspired. Richard invited NDI founder principal dancer with the New York City Ballet Jacques d’Amboise to meet with him and a group of city and school district leaders in Trenton to discuss the possibility of a Residency program for Trenton youth. Joining Richard and Jacques at the table were Michael Newhouse, General Manager of The Times; Ed Meara, Executive Director of the Mercer County Chamber of Commerce; Carol Belt, Art Resource Specialist for Trenton Schools on behalf of Superintendent Crosby Copeland; and a representative of the Mayor’s office. Jacques captivated the room with stories of NDI’s successes and examples of the arts’ unique ability to engage children and motivate them toward excellence. His words sparked a passion and vision that would go on to change the lives of thousands of Trenton children.

Two fifth grade classes were selected to pioneer the NDI residency program in Trenton; one from Franklin School and one from Grant School. Superintendent Copeland, Assistant Superintendent Pat Maffei, Executive Directors Nicholas Burke and Julie Dixon Thomas, worked with school principals, educators, parents, and community volunteers to bring the Trenton’s first NDI Residency to life. For two weeks, students rehearsed in the auditorium of the Board of Education building, learning first hand from NDI experts Jacques d’Amboise, Ellen Weinstein, Kay Gayner, and Jerry Korman. The initial Trenton residency culminated in a spirited performance of “Fat City,” with students giving 13 performances on the Trenton Central High auditorium stage. The program was such a tremendous success that plans for the following year’s Residency began to unfold as soon as the show ended.

The years that followed took the Residency and its vibrant curriculum to new schools in Trenton, helping hundreds of children develop self-esteem, discipline, and an appreciation for hard work. In 1992, the NDI Residency program had grown to become Trenton Education Dance Institute, affectionately referred to as TEDI. TEDI is a non-profit 501(c)(3) dedicated to teaching the art and life skills of dance to students in Trenton Public Schools. The TEDI Artistic Team selects each year’s theme with careful consideration of curricular connections and ties to the NJ State Standards and District Ends Policies. Students keep written journals translating movement, feelings and emotions to words.

“I like TEDI because I love to dance and it inspires me to want to dance more”
Reflection

TEDI President Richard Bilotti, Vice President Dot Albert, Secretary Carol Belt, and Treasurer Nicholas Burke assembled a Board of Trustees to ensure the program flourished, and the board has been heavily involved ever since. Funding resources expanded to include not only the initial sponsors The Times and Trenton Public Schools, but also foundations, corporations and individual donors as buzz around TEDI grew. Under the guidance of Dufftin Garcia, TEDI’s Artistic Director (2002-2013), the program grew from its initial week-long residencies to a full year, in-school program for all 5th grade students enrolled in TEDI schools. After completing the core TEDI program, selected 5th–7th grade students can attend advanced Saturday classes as members of SWAT (Scholarship for the Willing, Achieving and Talented) Team, and 6th–10th graders can audition for the TEDI Celebration Team, both conceptualized by Mr. Garcia.

In 2011, TEDI joined with The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey (CHSofNJ). With the help of CHSofNJ Director of School-Based programs Dolores Ijames-Bryant, and CHSofNJ Administrator of School-Based programs Louise McCants Shabazz, the two separate organizational cultures have blended seamlessly into one cohesive unit. TEDI’s artistic team maintains an open dialogue with teachers and parents, and whenever possible, incorporates other areas of study such as math, geography, or science into TEDI classes to reinforce educational concepts. The dream of expanding TEDI beyond Trenton into more areas currently served by CHSofNJ remains a goal that the agency continues to work toward.

The Trustees and staff of TEDI and CHSofNJ thank you for your support throughout the years, and for helping the children of this groundbreaking program develop the skills and confidence to achieve their dreams. Whether you have shown your support through charitable donations or attending a performance, you have given our TEDI students a priceless gift. After all, in the words of Earvin “Magic” Johnson, “All that kids need is a little help, a little hope and somebody who believes in them.”

“I am less shy”
TEDI EOY 2022
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Congratulations, TEDI dancers and those who helped guarantee the Field of Dreams! Cheers to dreaming, believing, and sharing your greatness!

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To our caring and dedicated VOLUNTEERS and CHS STAFF who always give their precious time to helping The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey! You are the reason a child smiles. You made such a difference at our TEDI Event of the Year performance, making sure everything ran smoothly. Thank You!

Your strong commitment to our children and their families is matched by your enthusiasm and passion for our mission of saving children’s lives and building healthy families. We are forever grateful for your support.
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Thank you TEDl for inspiring, energizing and teaching the children of Trenton.

Richard Bilotti and Katherine Hatton

“I liked Changing into Costumes”
“Be strong, be fearless, be beautiful. And believe that anything is possible when you have the right people there to support you.”

-Misty Copeland
Principal Dancer, American Ballet Theatre

I would like to thank all of the students and those involved in making our TEDi program as special for the families as it is to us.

Crystal Moore

“I wish I had TEDi every year”
TEDI PERFORMERS

“Dance to the beat of your angel’s wings”

SeQuoya Bacon-Jones

Beloved Daughter, Sister, Student, and Friend

2012-2022

DEDICATED TO OUR SPECIAL ANGEL
Two years ago this spring, we lost an integral member of The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey family; Carol F. Belt. Carol was an arts advocate and a true leader in arts education who fought her entire life to keep the arts alive in our public schools.

Carol loved dance and the visual arts, so she followed her passions to the Rhode Island School of Design. Her love for the arts and her understanding of their impact on education and development motivated her desire to keep the arts alive for future generations. After graduation, Carol became an art teacher at Junior 3 School in Trenton. She excelled as an educator, and went on to co-ordinate the art department for the Trenton public school district. There, she created an arts curriculum able to encourage a lifelong appreciation for the arts in many of her students and colleagues. Carol was awarded the prestigious Kennedy Center Honor for her work in keeping the arts alive in schools.

Of her many achievements, Carol was most proud of her work in helping to establish and maintain the Trenton Educational Dance Institute, affectionately known as TEDI. TEDI based on the principles of the renowned National Dance Institute (NDI), supported dance and programming for thousands of Trenton public school students for more than 25 years. In 2011, TEDI joined with CHSoNJ, thus beginning our wonderful partnership with this truly remarkable woman and friend.

Throughout her life, Carol has served as a Board member for a number of agencies committed to advancing arts in education, including the NJ State Council for the Arts, Young Audiences of NJ, Trenton Education Dance Institute, and The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey. Even when it seemed impossible that one person could give any more of herself, Carol always managed to find more for the children touched by these programs. Her loss is one that is felt by many. We are honored to share Carol’s beautiful memory with you this evening, and we thank her for all that she has done for the at-risk youth we serve.
Dear Loyal TEDI Supporters

THANK YOU
for the lives you touch
we appreciate you
SO MUCH

BY THE WAY
I’M WEARING
THE SMILE
YOU GAVE ME!

~Pam Cipriano

“Now that I love dance,
I want TEDI next year too”
Dear Friends,

Nine years ago, the Children’s Home Society of New Jersey first met Richard Bilotti and Carol Belt (who, sadly, is no longer with us), who were passionate about the Trenton Education Dance Institute (TEDI). They asked CHSofNJ to give TEDI an institutional home and welcome the program into CHSofNJ’s array of services in youth development. As supporters of the TEDI mission to develop skills through the medium of the arts, we at CHSofNJ said a resounding YES, and we are working toward certification by the National Dance Institute (NDI, founded by Jacques D’Amboise). Research conducted during the past eight years confirms that the TEDI experience has enhanced the lives of 300 Trenton participants a year, and we are proud that former participants’ children and grandchildren are joining our ranks. In this year of the COVID pandemic, TEDI is still dancing remotely over Zoom and giving more than 100 students a chance to grow in self-esteem and learn how to work as a team.

Our TEDI children acquire discipline by attending weekly classes and additional sessions to perfect their choreographed dance routines, as you will see when you watch our TEDI video, which this year replaces our annual end-of-year performance. Practice, practice, practice, even when something is hard at first, is a critical life lesson that leads to mastery and success as well as a love for the art of dance. The classroom participation and journaling exercises that TEDI students do all year, supervised by their teacher, also provide skills in writing, learning vocabulary, and learning to express their feelings and thoughts, another life skill necessary for success.

Following the rules in a TEDI class is wonderful preparation for discipline in school, in the workplace and in life. TEDI provides all of these life skills through its engaging, meaningful NDI dance curriculum in yearlong classes. The results you will view in the video celebrate these accomplishments. You will see the joy in our dancers’ faces as they perform. On our website are TEDI videos where you can hear their dreams and hopes and what they aspire to be when they grow up.* Thank you for caring enough to support TEDI and help us fund this life-enhancing program.

Please visit our program page to find out more about our program. www.chsofnj.org/trenton-education-dance-institute-tedi/

President and CEO

[“TEDI helped me be confident in myself”]
This project is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.