

Since then, much has changed. Work is increasingly scarce, as the number of dancers in search of opportunities continues to grow, the cost of living has increased and in the current economic climate there is no time to waste when a dancer makes a career transition.

It is not surprising, then, that Career Transition For Dancers, which we once thought was a sympathetic outreach for old dancers, has now become a vital resource for a dancer's hope and survival. The organization defined the issues surrounding transition, validated our fears and motivated us to seek help.



Karen Giombetti

Their message resounded deep within the dance community and created an awareness of a concern that we all needed to express.

On April 8, 2010, I was asked to speak at the organization's "Stepping Into Hope And Change" conference. I knew firsthand the struggles of transitioning from dance, having spent years silently mourning the loss of my identity from dancer to motherhood. When I finally made the decision to seek help, the organization provided resources, financial aid and counseling. Encouraged to re-examine the seemingly mundane everyday tasks that I had been performing, such as running a household, negotiating budgets, and throwing parties, I had discovered a talent for event planning and entertaining. I am currently an Independent Creative Director for Special Events.

The organization led me to understand that the list of remarkable skills that defined me as a dancer continues to define me today.

While it may seem inconceivable to measure the thrill of our dance careers against any future opportunities, it is also true that this emotion can empower us. Career Transition For Dancers allowed me to see transition as less about mourning the loss of my ability to dance and more about a celebration of that gift. Today I acknowledge that the dancer inside me continues to define my purpose. She gives me the power to express myself and the confidence to seek new and different thrills as I build my business and move forward with my life.

Mail Call

Letters from our clients

Lia Johnson

In August of 2009 I was accepted to the prestigious TischAsia School of the Arts where I began the first of my three years of study to attain a Masters of Fine Arts in film directing and production from New York University.

In addition to funding, the scholarship provided me the opportunity to be mentored by some of the world's greatest living filmmakers. Already I have received tutelage from many greats including Oscar-nominated writer/director Kenneth Lonergan, award-winning writer/director Todd Solondz, and the school's Artistic Director, Oscar-winner writer/director Oliver Stone, among others.

I am honored to have received this scholarship. In researching the scholarship program's benefactor, Caroline Newhouse, I found deep inspiration in her role as both an artist of many talents, and a philanthropic supporter. Indeed her recognition of the immeasurable beauty and inspiration of dancers, as artists, and also as people with deeply personal and moving stories, is a fascination I share with her as I direct my films. Furthermore, I admire that she took her own success and passed it on to others who need and deserve it, so that they too can be successful.

Already this dedicated support has borne fruit. As a direct result of this scholarship, I was able to create a film of excellent quality as part of my course work for my MFA. What began as an assignment became a beautifully photographed, light-hearted short film that was invited to screen as part of the International Tres Court Film Festival. At the festival, the film won the award for the Most Original short film. I am deeply inspired, and know that Career Transition For Dancers, and the Caroline Newhouse Scholarship Fund, have been one of the exceptional resources to make this possible.

Sincerely,
Lia Johnson

Scot Willingham

In 2005 I was awarded an educational grant through your organization. I have now finished my Masters degree in Motor Learning awarded February 10, 2010 from Teachers College, Columbia University. This letter extends and communicates my gratitude and thanks for your support in obtaining this valuable degree and challenging education. I will be forever grateful for your assistance and your trust in my ability to achieve this milestone.

Thank you for your generosity and support,
Scot Willingham

Nicole Corral

Your generosity has jump started me into a new career path that I am extremely excited about. The organization has been an excellent resource for me as a dancer transitioning into a new professional direction and I hope it continues to help many other dancers for years to come. I truly hope there will come a day that I can give back the same generosity that has been offered to me by Career Transition For Dancers.

With gratitude,
Nicole R. Corral

Deborah Lohse

The decision to go back to school was full of fear and excitement and to have the generous support of Career Transition For Dancers as I take this risk in expanding my creative talents, means the world to me. Your gift of this scholarship and the encouragement from the counseling staff at the organization has put me on a steady path of renewed personal and professional growth.

Thank you for continuing to support dancers and offer assistance, at this tricky time of transition, when feelings of bittersweet sadness of honoring a dance career and joyous hope and excitement of humbling new challenges mix. Thank you for believing that my talents, offered to and learned within the dance community, are worthy of acknowledgment and that you support my leap into a new beginning.

Thank you,
Deborah Lohse