



NETWORK NEWS Winter 2008



From Pierre:

It never ceases to amaze me how well this program works, even when I am not around. This of course is thanks to all of you Teaching Artists and Coordinators. I was in Philadelphia on December 15th for their 'first' Colors of the Rainbow Team Match. The theatre they had it in was packed....approximately 1200 parents, teachers and supporters. And, I have just come back from Toronto....there again....their first Team Match (January 12th), the [Palais Royale](#) was jam packed, unbelievable. I can honestly say to you, 'kids are kids are kids'. They all looked the same....multi nationalities and colors; thus the name Colors of the Rainbow. I was so, so proud and as usual while emceeing I could hardly keep it together. Congratulations, Jane and Joyce in Philly and congratulations Ilsa....I had a wonderful time in your two cities. I look forward to visits to our other sites as the time goes by.

General News:

Geneva, Switzerland: Pierre will be a guest lecturer at the annual conference for the Geneva based [Foundation for Research and Training in Patient Education](#) in March. He will also teach a group of Geneva children for conference participants.

National Teaching Artist Training: we are planning to have at least two national trainings this summer. The dates are July 15-18 and July 22-25. A maximum of 30 Teaching Artist candidates will be included in each training. The training sites are yet to be decided, depending on from where TA candidates come. Our options at this time are Fort Worth, Fort Myers, Denver, LA and New York City. We'll keep you posted.

Training DVDs: [Lance Kaplan](#), a New York videographer, has completed a 6 DVD set of Pierre's 32 hour training. The footage was shot during the October 2007 National Training at the American Ballroom Theater studio. These Training DVDs are intended for the sole use of the 150+ Teaching Artists as they work to precisely implement the *Dulaine Method*.

Research: [Dr. Larry Nelson](#) has been invited by the [National Dance Association](#) to present a session at the Best Practices Forum: Dance Education Today. Dr.

Nelson's topic will cover the research results from the Dancing Classrooms North Texas Pilot Program. This forum will be part of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance ([AAHPERD](#)) 2008 Conference. For a copy of Dr. Nelson's paper (*An Evaluation of Dancing Classrooms North Texas Expansion Pilot Program*) email John Ross: jross@dancingclassrooms.com

Dr. Nelson has begun a new project in Fort Worth titled *Dancing Classrooms North Texas Impact on Physical Activity and Fitness Research*. Focused on the childhood obesity epidemic, Dr. Nelson will be utilizing state-of-the-art wireless heart-rate monitors and fitness assessment technology to individually and objectively measure Dancing Classrooms impact on fitness and overall contribution to daily physical activity with the physiological accuracy of an electrocardiogram.

One of the three research objectives will be to compare and contrast the total physical activity contribution of Dancing Classrooms to other physical education curriculums previously measured by the moderate to vigorous physical activity range in the research literature.

If you have questions for Dr. Nelson: lnelson@uta.edu



Site Updates:

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| City: New York City | Organization: American Ballroom Theater: | http://www.dancingclassrooms.com |
| Program began: 1994 | Contact person: Pierre Dulaine: | pdulaine@dancingclassrooms.com |

With nearly 60 schools competing, it was an exciting Fall round of team matches in New York City. Traveling out to the boroughs (we had 2 Quarter finals in Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx; Semi finals in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx; and the Semester Final in Manhattan) is an adventure (especially in holiday traffic).

were so very proud! The children conducted themselves as beautiful ladies and handsome gentlemen and, although there were tears over losses, we have learned to always finish with a parent's Merengue and the Cha Cha slide, which reminds them how much fun they've had dancing. Win or lose, they have gone on a wonderful journey—and it really is only the beginning!

But, making the matches accessible to children's families makes it more than worthwhile. Parents and grandparents, teachers and principals, siblings, friends and relatives

Our Grand Final will be June 21, 2008 at the [World Financial Center](#).

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| City: Omaha, Nebraska | Organization: The ARTery: | http://www.arteryomaha.org |
| Program began: 1/14/06 | Contact person: Marian Fey: | mfey@arteryomaha.org |

Our spring season started last week (January 7) and so far so good.

Next Friday we are starting our parent classes and we have 16 people signed up!

Our Saturday Scholarship classes are going really, really well. I was so impressed with how these kids from all over Omaha just partnered up and started dancing together. I told them Saturday that they must be "college students" since they are taking class at a college! They liked that.

Our fall semi-finals are January 23. Spring semis are April 21 with the finals on May 12.

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| City: Fort Worth/Dallas, Texas | Organization: Tarrant County Youth Collaboration: | http://www.dancingclassroomsnorthtexas.com |
| Program began: 9/9/06 | Contact person: Tacia Torres: | taciatorres@tcyc4kids.org |

Six [Dallas ISD](#) and ten [Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD](#) elementary schools participated in separate Dancing Classrooms North Texas Colors of the Rainbow Semi-Final events (December 3 & 7). The Gold Medal teams will move onto the Colors of the Rainbow Finals on May 15.

Gold Medal teams from DISD: Martin Luther King, David Burnet, and Barbara Jordan elementary schools.

Gold Medal teams from HEB ISD: Shady Brook, Hurst Hills, and River Trails elementary schools.

[More photos](#) from HEB ISD semi-finals.



HEB ISD semi-final photo shot by Judy Ramos



City: Newark, New Jersey **Organization:** New Jersey Performing Arts Center: <http://www.njpac.org>
Program began: 11/1/06 **Contact person:** Ambrose Liu: aliu@njpac.org

This year, NJPAC is slated to conduct eight ballroom residencies in schools throughout New Jersey. The schools are located in Jersey City, Newark, Union City and Plainfield. NJPAC completed a successful ballroom residency in December at the Jose Marti Middle School in

Union City. The teaching artist Danielle Thompson did an admirable job working with a group of students with special needs. The final open house-lecture demonstration saw the young ladies and gentlemen find confidence in themselves to present to their schoolmates who were enthusiastically cheering them on.

City: Toronto, Canada **Organization:** Join the Dance: <http://www.jointhedance.com/home.php>
Program began: 1/7/07 **Contact person:** Ilsa Abraham: danceforlife1@rogers.com

Join the Dance had their Winter Gala at the beautiful [Palais Royale](#) on January 12 (with Pierre as emcee). A [newspaper article](#) about the event.

on. The sheer look of joy on the children's faces as they performed was absolutely heartwarming. I think our family and friends were more excited than the children. It was one of the most uplifting days we have spent in a long time.

From a parent: *My son participated in the Gala at Palais Royale on Saturday, and his school won a gold ribbon and the opportunity to perform again in July. I cannot tell you how thrilled and in awe I was to see such a high level of respect and teamwork between the children and their contagious excitement at cheering their classmates*

Our program is also offering a modified Dancing Classrooms™ program as a special pilot initiative at the Heydon Park Secondary School for young women with learning & mild intellectual disabilities.

City: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania **Organization:** Arts in Schools Collaborative (Dancing Classrooms Philly): <http://www.dancingclassroomspilly.org>
Program began: 9/1/07 **Contact persons:** Jane Brooks & Joyce Burd: info@dancingclassroomspilly.org



Dancing Classrooms Philly launched its program in a total of 14 public, charter and Catholic schools, reaching almost 800 fifth grade students.

As Pierre noted above, the Philly program had a wonderful Colors of the Rainbow Team Match on December 15. Over 1,200 parents, teachers, and children were in attendance.

A [newspaper article](#) about the event.
 An [audio slide show](#) from another newspaper.

City: Fort Myers, Florida **Organization:** [Miromar Development Corporation](#) & [The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools](#)
Program began: 1/8/08 **Contact persons:** Marvilla Marzan: marvillous@comcast.net
 Cindy Lee Overton: cindylee@cloproductions.com

Started their program in 5 elementary schools on January 8. From Cindy Lee Overton: *On the first lesson I got through all the material but believe me there was some kind of resistance to TOUCHING. But we did it. I*

the frame position. Ladies and gentlemen this is going to be a part of your class for the next 10 weeks. So I have a deal - if you will take your frame position quickly today I will teach a really fun dance at the end with - no touching. Can we do that?" YES was their reply



went home exhausted thinking these children will never show up for the next lesson. Today on the way in a teacher met me and said "they loved the lesson," I was so happy and relieved. Then the class arrived IN ESCORT position - gorgeous I almost sat down and cried. We did the shake warm up then I did a little something different - I asked everyone to sit and I sat on the floor and said "you did a great job last time we met and I know some of you aren't quite comfortable with

and today they went right into frame - crispy wings and all. They did the entire Merengue in Frame, learned the Foxtrot A & B step and danced it to the music. The stomp was a big hit and they left in Escort position SMILING!!!! all the way back to class!

A [news article](#) about the program start-up. Pierre will emcee their first Colors of the Rainbow Team Match on April 5th at the [International Design Center](#).

City: Suffolk County, New York **Organization:** CoDanceCo
Program began: 1/29/08 **Contact person:** Nancy Duncan: NMoog@optonline.net

In October 2008 CoDanceCo and American Ballroom Theater launched a two-year initiative to establish Dancing Classrooms on Long Island. Made possible in large part by a grant from the **Dana Foundation**, the initiative will support two cycles of training, the implementation of Dancing Classrooms over two school years, and an evaluation process.

Classrooms residency in Lynbrook School District in Nassau County followed by residencies in three school districts in Suffolk County. The teaching artists are looking forward to implementing the magic of Dancing Classrooms and to sharing our stories with you in the summer!

During fall 2008 Pierre, accompanied by ABrT's Senior Teaching Artist Victoria Malvagno (and a native of Long Island) trained and certified 10 teaching artists. Beginning January 25th CoDanceCo will conduct its first Dancing

In February ABrT's Director of Education AnaMaria Correa will conduct two classroom management sessions with CoDanceCo's teaching artists. We had the pleasure of getting to know AnaMaria during our training sessions with Pierre and know we will gain a great deal from her expertise.

Future & Potential Sites:

As you review the future and potential sites listed below, if you know of individuals, school officials, corporations, foundations, etc. in those communities that you believe might be interested in helping *Dancing Classrooms* come to that community, please email that information to John Ross: jross@dancingclassrooms.com

Future sites: cities that have an individual and/or organization that is seriously committed to bringing Dancing Classrooms to their community by January 2009.

City:

Information:

Arizona, Phoenix: The [Arizona Commission on the Arts](#) is hosting a community meeting on February 20. Pierre and John Ross will make a presentation to 30-40 community leaders. Heather Schlichting, a Phoenix dancer, has been our local leader. Likely start date of January 2009.

California, Los Angeles: [Danny Ponickly](#), a former ABrT Teaching Artists (one of the featured TAs in Mad Hot Ballroom), is forming a new non-profit called Ballroom Madness and is planning to start Dancing Classrooms in September 2008.

California, Santa Barbara: Trudie Olsen, a local dancer who has worked with [Do Something](#) (a Santa Barbara non-profit), is heading up the effort in Santa Barbara. The goal is to get the program on-line in September 2008.



Colorado, Denver: [Lisza Gulyas](#), a multi-talented entrepreneur, is setting up a new non-profit for Dancing Classrooms. The goal is to get the program started in September 2008.

Florida, Tallahassee: [The Council on Arts & Culture for Tallahassee & Leon County](#) is taking the lead. The COCA staff hosted a community meeting on December 11. John Ross made a presentation to representatives from the school district, local dance instructors and the head of the Education Foundation. The program will probably start in January 2009; however, could be September 2008.

Georgia, Atlanta: Judy Zwick (participated in the National Teaching Artist training in October 2007) is exploring creating a new non-profit or partnering with an existing Atlanta non-profit to bring Dancing Classrooms to the community. Program most likely will start in January 2009.

Ohio, Cleveland: Jo Jo Graham, a Teaching Artist at American Ballroom Theater, is attempting to get Dancing Classrooms started in her home-town of Cleveland. The program is targeting January 2009 to start.

Texas, Austin: [Ballet Austin](#) is evaluating bringing Dancing Classrooms to their community. John Ross will meet with organization leadership on January 29. Early local leadership has been provided by Heidi Melz and Ricardo Moncada. Likely program start-date is January 2009.

Texas, Waco: Carlos Roque (also participated in the National Teaching Artist training in October 2007) is starting a new non-profit to bring Dancing Classrooms to Waco by September 2008. Carlos is an Iraq war veteran who has a real passion for bringing the program to the children in Central Texas. John Ross will meet with Carlos' new Board and facilitate a community meeting on January 29.

Potential sites: cities that have an individual and/or organization that have expressed serious interest in bringing Dancing Classrooms to their community.

Australia, Sydney
California, San Diego
England, London

Florida, Miami
Illinois, Chicago
Massachusetts, Boston

Minnesota, Minneapolis
Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh
Switzerland, Geneva

DVD Links:

Mad Hot Ballroom:

<http://paramountvantage.com/madhot>



\$7.45 per copy (free shipping)

<http://search.deepdiscount.com/search?w=Mad%20Hot%20Ballroom>



Take the Lead:

<http://www.taketheleadmovie.com>

\$8.63 per copy (free shipping)

<http://search.deepdiscount.com/search?w=Take%20the%20Lead&>