



DENISE MCCLELLAN, BOB LYNCH, MAIDA WITHERS, PAUL JUERGENSEN (SPONSOR OF EVENT)

IS DC DANCING?

Recently released dance video spreads rhythm through the Capital for a good cause

by MANDY MCANALLY

Professional dancers, seasoned performers, instructors and lovers of the arts joined recently to celebrate the release of "D.C. Dances," an outreach program packaged as a DVD, to promote dance and the arts in D.C. Denise McClellan, founder of NewMoves, Inc., a not-for-profit dance, performing arts and educational organization bringing innovative projects to the public, produced the video. As a native of D.C., McClellan said her primary goal was to do a project that highlights local talent and gets people excited about dance in the city.

"If you grow up in Washington you spend your life around the Capital," McClellan said. "You have politics in you. I have always gone to the Hill and fought for funds for arts and for dance in D.C."

One current issue on McClellan's agenda is beefing up funding for arts education programs. In Washington it is a federal mandate that arts be part of the core curriculum in schools, which means that an art class is as important as a science and math class. However, there has consistently been a lack of funding for the arts, McClellan said. And dance, whether organized in schools or professional companies, often seems to suffer the worst when the arts suffer.

According to a survey done by the Dance/USA in 2003 in conjunction with the Meyer, Cafritz and Fannie Mae Foundations, chronic lack of finances was the single need most commonly cited by all respondents and interviews during the survey process. Of the 170 dance companies surveyed, 113 were

operating with no paid staff at all.

To rally support McClellan took to the streets with a George Washington University student film crew and made a five-minute music video complete with tourists, street vendors and D.C. residents, cameos from Congresswomen Eleanor Holmes Norton and Louise Slaughter, National Endowment for the Arts President Dana Gioia, Ron Reagan and Maida Withers, founder of Maida Withers Dance Construction.

The Capitol building, the Washington Monument and the more local crowd pleaser Ben's Chill Bowl are backdrops for Salsa, hip hop and ballet dancers.

McClellan said now that the video is released, the full-time outreach begins. She will be networking with fellow dancers to reach out to churches, schools and organizations and to implement dance programs. She also plans to distribute "D.C. Dances" to Representatives on the Hill, Cultural Tourism DC, media outlets and schools. Her two previous dance videos shot in Philadelphia and New York City are now shown in school libraries and film festival intermissions.

Robert Lynch, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts, said one of the big challenges today is reaching out to the community and finding ways to connect.

"It takes action. It takes advocacy. It takes personal commitment," Lynch said. "Dance programs are worth it. They are worth it in schools."

Lynch said involving citizens on a grassroots level through local arts councils, community organizations, churches, etc., is essential for promoting the arts today.

One of D.C. dance's greatest strengths, according to the survey, is the vast diversity of the city's dance community, in terms of culture, genre, level of achievement and structure.

"The club scene is very strong here," said Withers, who has been in the industry 40 years. "Dancers are picking up and sharing moves. I believe it inspires some choreographers."

Outside of the clubs, anyone can still tap into the diverse dance in the D.C., just on an organized level. There are Samba, Mambo, Belly Dancing, Salsa and Scottish country dancing lessons available. Swing dancing, which has become popular in D.C., is also frequently taught throughout the city. Through organizations like Washington Middle Eastern Dance Association (WMEDA), the dance enthusiast or even the curious can try a number of Middle Eastern dance classes and even experience the Ethnic Dance Festival February 6, 2005. Classes usually cost between \$10 and \$15 per class depending on the place. You can also reserve a number of sessions for a bulk rate.

There are various non-profit organizations, such as Joy of Motion Dance Center, DC Dance Collective, which offer adult and children's dance classes. DC Dance Collective in Washington offers dance hip hop, jazz, African, Middle Eastern, ballet, break dancing and tap classes.

The faculty of Dance Place/DC Wheel productions, a theater, school and community resource program has been recognized for its work in the community. Classes offered here vary from beginner, to workshops, to master level.

The Cultural Alliance of Great Washington is an organization that can provide anyone interested in arts activism. The Cultural Alliance is dedicated to sustaining and increasing regional leadership, appreciation, support and resources for arts and culture, and it has a list of local art councils, government officials, funders and many other art advocacy contents within the greater Washington area.

D.C. Dances is part of a perpetual national outreach movement and video program series called America Dances. America Dances is a grassroots dance and performance program series that travels across the nation presenting workshops and making presentations to diverse communities. Similar programs have taken place in New York and Pennsylvania and have been highly successful in bringing the arts into diverse communities and stimulating interest and support from the business community, politicians and key leaders in arts and entertainment.

For more information or to purchase the DVD (\$20), contact Ms. McClellan at newmovesny@aol.com or 212-316-9457 at the New Moves, Inc. office.

Hill
Rag
January 2005

OCTOBER 22, 2001

People

weekly



Start spreading the news: **William Baldwin** (center) had a heel of a time when he kicked up one (and then the other) to "New York, New York" at the New York Dances gala in—where else?—New York City. Aligned in support were members of New Moves, an educational and performing arts organization, and two of New York City's Bravest firefighters.

PHIL PENNANN/SPLASH

12 10/22/01 PEOPLE

Star**Tracks**



ROLL CALL

THE NEWSPAPER OF CAPITOL HILL SINCE 1955

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Around the Hill

HillTalk

Members Participate in 'D.C. Dances' Video

New Moves Inc. will present its new dance music video, "D.C. Dances," to Congressional Members and heads of arts and entertainment industries in a private screening at the Washington City Club at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday.

The five-minute video aims "to celebrate Washington's culture and tourism through dance and movement, and to promote dance and the performing arts," said Denise McClellan, founder of New Moves and the director and choreographer of the video.

Guests at the screening will include the co-chairs of the National Arts Caucus, Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-N.Y.) and Rep. Christopher Shays (R-Conn.), McClellan said. Slaughter and Shays also have cameos in the video, she said.

Slaughter is the narrative voice throughout the video, McClellan said. Shays talks about how his mother and father met in the arts.

McClellan said her goal is to "bring dance to the community."

"My biggest criticism of the arts community is that we're preaching to the choir," she said. "We need to create projects and take them to the community."

New Moves is a nonprofit dance, performing arts and educational organization that aims to bring innovative projects to the public. "D.C. Dances" is the organization's latest creative, educational and promotional outreach project.

The video includes footage from workshops, performances by local dance groups and people on the street "David Letterman-style," she said. The people in the video are cheering for D.C. and the arts, she said.

McClellan said she always releases the videos around the holidays. "Kids see the video at the holidays and take it home to show their families that they're in a music video," she said.

Joanna Stein

ROLL CALL

Monday, December 13, 2004

News and personalities in the Capitol community

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— Pennsylvania's "Newspaper of the Year" —

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LOCAL
& STATE

Dance featured in Harrisburg video program

From CDT staff reports

HARRISBURG — In celebration of the performing arts in Pennsylvania, New Moves Inc., in collaboration with the state House of Representatives Speaker's Office, is hosting a public reception and a dance/music video screening at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the East Wing of the Capitol.

Denise McClellan, a State College native, is the founder and artistic director of New Moves.

New Moves Inc., a non-profit dance and movement arts organization facilitated the workshops that are included in the video footage. The video itself was technically produced by four film majors at Penn State.

"Discovering the ever-growing support for the arts, plus the increased understanding of the vital role they play in our history, culture, development and educational process, thrills me," McClellan said.

The screening and reception are open to the public.

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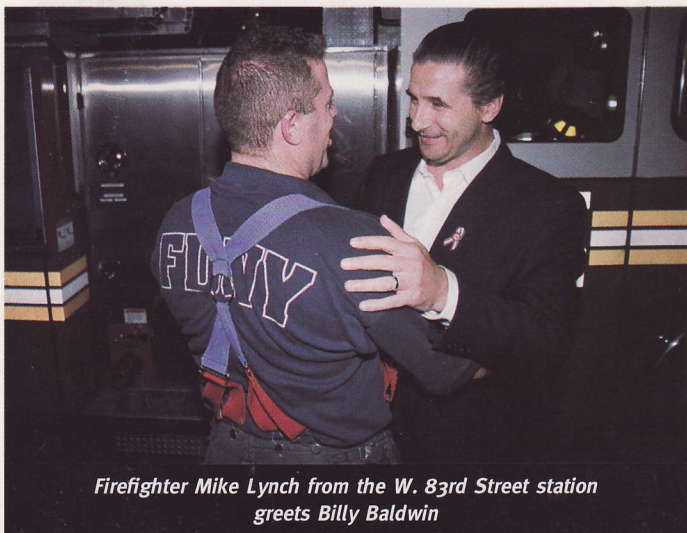
Video premiere: A preview of the new dance music video, "Pennsylvania Dances," produced by State College native Denise McClellan, now a dancer/choreographer/producer in New York, will be shown at 7 p.m. Saturday at Players Nite Club, 100 W. College Ave., State College. Copies of the video will be available for a donation to benefit arts education and outreach through New Moves, Inc. Extreme inline skater Chris Edwards and guest speaker State College Mayor Bill Welch will be in attendance. Call 237-5230.

details details

QUEST

DAVID PATRICK COLUMBIA

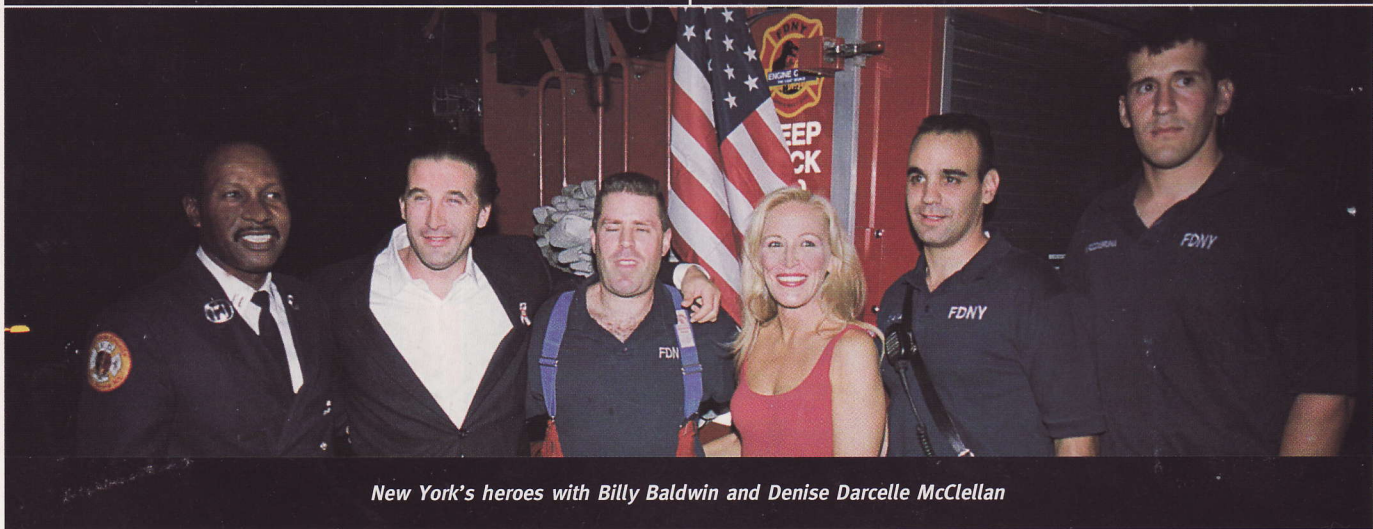
SPIRIT RAISER FOR NEW YORK DANCES/NEW MOVES OUTREACH PROJECT



Firefighter Mike Lynch from the W. 83rd Street station greets Billy Baldwin



New York's bravest enjoy the spirit raiser



New York's heroes with Billy Baldwin and Denise Darcelle McClellan

PATRICK MCMULLAN

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TONY BLAIR ON THE ROAD AS HE RALLIES THE TROOPS



THE QUEEN

PRESENTED WITH BATON

Looking as if she was auditioning for *Star Wars*, the Queen was presented with a high-tech baton at Buckingham Palace. It will be relayed through 22 countries on its way to Manchester for the 2002 Golden Jubilee Commonwealth Games. The baton contains her opening address in a specially designed capsule.

BILLY BALDWIN

CAN-CAN HELP

William Baldwin helped lift the spirits of New York's firefighters – by doing the can can.

The actor joined in the high kicks with the Broadway Rockettes during a fun lesson at the Landmark on the Park church near Central Park.

