



NEW YORK dance festival

World class dance in the Finger Lakes.

January 1, 2008

To: All Directors of Dance Conservatories, Departments, and Colleges

Re: New York Dance Festival is accepting applications for the Janet Collins Fellowship!



Hello!

On behalf of Artistic Chairman, Carmen De Lavallade, Executive Producer, Sean McLeod, Associate Director, Thomas Warfield, and the New York Dance Festival Planning Committee, we would like to notify you of an extraordinary educational and career-building opportunity for your most talented and accomplished students, the Janet Collins Fellowship for Dance.

Last year, legendary dance icon, Carmen De Lavallade, and multi-award winning international producer and choreographer, Sean McLeod, established this Fellowship in honor of Janet Collins, Mrs. De Lavallade's cousin and inspiration to dance. Although rarely spoke of now, Janet Collins was an absolute force in the world of dance and is identified as the first African American Prima Ballerina, a barrier she broke when she accepted a role with the Metropolitan Opera Ballet in 1951. Also in 1951, she won the Donaldson Award, signifying the best dancer on Broadway for her role in Cole Porter's *Out of This World*. Of her performance in this show, Arthur Pollack of the *Compass* eloquently wrote, "Janet Collins dances with something of the speed of light, seeming to touch the floor only occasionally with affectionate feet, caressing it as if she love it and, loving, wanted to calm any fear it might have that in her flight she would leave it and never come back." Ms. Collins was also a highly regarded artist and designer, having designed and constructed some of the breathtaking costumes and dresses that she adorned on the world stage. Examples of her striking designs still exist today at the New York Public Library.

As Ms. Collins is an iconic personality that bridged the way for so many dancers, women, and artists of color, Mrs. De Lavallade and Mr. McLeod wished to establish a new connection to her that would continue her legacy of giving. With that in mind, we invite your Board of Study to submit to our committee the nominations of any worthy, outstanding dance candidates from your institution that embody the personality, talent, generosity, and characteristics of the legendary Janet Collins.

The Janet Collins Fellowship promotes increased business and artistic learning by allowing the recipients to be paid a stipend while working as staff and artistic resident at the New York Dance Festival. The opportunity begins June 30, 2008 and concludes July 20 at 6pm. The value of the Fellowship is \$2,500 (\$1,500 scholarship to the Festival, and a \$1,000 cash award). The Fellowship is interwoven with the New York Institute of Dance and Education and the Kaleidoscope Dance Theatre's preparation for the New York Dance Festival, and allows full integration into the Festival's class and performance schedule, providing an incredible opportunity for candidates to learn. This highly interactive model was designed to give participants an effective overview of the dance world, both corporate and artistic, through application, while providing an opportunity to work closely with Mrs. De Lavallade, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Warfield, and the entire 2008 international faculty. The formal Fellowship Award will be presented to recipients at the 2008 *International Stage*

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Dance Concert and Carmen De Lavallade Awards for Dance, an event that is part of the Festival's World Class Concert Series.

Those eligible for nomination are college-level students pursuing a BA, BFA, or MA. Please feel free to share this opportunity with any worthy candidates, and use the application enclosed for their nomination. You may reproduce the application as many times as you need. I thank you for your time and sincerely hope we may be able to honor your program and one of the candidates you submit with this prestigious honor. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (315) 252-4420, or at brian@nyide.com.

Warmest Regards,

Brian Morey
Director of Production and Multimedia
New York Institute of Dance and Education