

Lisa Rumbauskas: Our New Company Manager

I'm proud to announce Lisa Rumbauskas as NJDTE's new Company Manager, replacing outgoing Manager, Linda Fitzgerald. Lisa is an NJDTE alumna, and holds a BFA in Dance from the prestigious Tisch School at New York University. Since graduating, Lisa has performed throughout the US and Europe for such renowned choreographers as Mark Morris and Ann Reinking. She brings a wealth of expertise, and dance experience to our school. Many of you will not doubt recognize her as the Assistant Rehearsal Director from our most recent production of *The Nutcracker*. Please join me in welcoming Lisa back to NJDTE.

Nancy Turano, Artistic Director

"...an exciting time to come back to my dance roots..."

Lisa Rumbauskas remembers the first day she walked into a class at the New Jersey Dance Theatre Ensemble: "I didn't feel intimidated, but I worried what others might think of my capabilities. Was I going in over my head? Would I be accepted both as a dancer and as a friend?"

"It didn't take long to realize I was in the company of talented students, many of whom would become – and still remain – great friends. Along with the caring teachers, everyone worked together to create a wonderful dancing experience.

"So rejoining NJDTE is like

coming home. And it certainly seems an exciting time to come back to my dance roots."

In the roots department, Lisa is surely no slouch. After NJDTE, she also trained at Joffrey Ballet School, the American Ballet Theatre School and the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet before earning a Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts from the Tisch School of Arts at New York



University.

Since then, Lisa has performed for choreographers and directors as varied as Mark Morris, Lynn-Taylor Corbett, Ann

Reinking, Marc Robin, and Arlene Phillips. Her credits also include the National Tour of *The Lion King* as well as that play's Hong Kong workshop, the Westchester Broadway Theater, the Marriott Lincolnshire productions of *Swing!* (USO/Harlem/Swing), *Saturday Night Fever* (Connie), and *Carousel* (Louise). Most recently, she performed the part of "Et Cetera" in the Houston Theatre's production of *Cats*.

"Dance isn't just a career... or even a way of life... it's a family. Dancers share the highs and lows of our chosen paths together, so the lows are never low and the highs are always a celebration. That's what I hope my experience will bring back to NJDTE, that sense of camaraderie... and fun."