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NJDTE New Jersey Dance Theatre Ensemble

Liz Koeppen - A New Stage

In this issue, we feature Elizabeth Koeppen, modern faculty, and member of our Advisory Board. Liz comes to us from the Parsons Dance Company and was instrumental helping us get the classic work *The Envelope* for the Ensemble Repertory. She taught the unique "style" of David Parsons and spoke of his intentions with each step as she staged this witty and wondrous work. NJDTE is one of the few youth dance company given rights to perform this piece, which we did to much acclaim at NJPAC's 2005 Dance Jam.

Nancy Turano, Artistic Director

"NJDTE is doing everything right..."

Virginia Beach native Elizabeth Koeppen began her training with Judith Hatcher and Darlene Kelly. Since then she has never stopped making waves in the dance world. Liz received her BFA studying at SUNY Purchase's rigorous Dance Program. In 1989, she joined Parsons Dance Company as a young performer.

Today, she is the company's Associate Director, where she shares responsibility with David Parsons for running the day-to-day activities, while staging works and touring.

"The transition from dancer to Associate Director has been very smooth. Over 17 years, I've experienced the highs of performing David's incredible works, around the world; then as rehearsal director, building on his innovative talent. I've been very lucky."

It's much more than luck, though. Through Liz's hard work and commitment, she's had the opportunity to stage David Parsons' works with a number of great companies including the New York City Ballet, Penn-

sylvania Ballet, Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal, and Roland Petit's Ballet National de Marseille.

She's also an experienced teacher, not only at her alma mater, but well-regarded institutions like The Juilliard School, NYU's Tisch School, and The 92nd Street Y.

Of course, Liz misses being on stage – any dancer would – but the dance world is more than performing. Through hard work and her own innate ambition, she's been able to create a gratifying career off-stage as a teacher, coach and rehearsal director.

When we contracted with Parsons Dance to perform *The Envelope*, Liz was sent as rehearsal director. Her experiences with our dancers simply reaffirmed her confidence in the Ensemble.

"It's been a wonderful addition to my career – and my life – working with these talented, beautifully trained and nurtured dancers. While teaching them *The Envelope*, I was absolutely surprised at their concentration and desire to learn the piece. Their hard work, and professionalism helped them master a very complicated style in a very short time.

"In my opinion, NJDTE is doing everything right. From the

perfectly varied programming and highly professional training to that great combination of discipline and positive reinforcement."

Liz well understands the time, preparation and costs that go into staging the works of guest choreographers.

"It's truly something special that NJDTE's young dancers, at this stage in their careers, are fully prepared to perform the works of such great choreographers. You have the perfect environment to make that happen."

Photos of The Envelope: Lucinda Dowell



David Parsons with Liz Koeppen
Photo: Lois Greenfield

New Invoice System

Beginning with the Summer Intensive Program this year, NJDTE will initiate a new electronic invoicing system to help improve income processing and record-keeping. Through the system, you will now be able to mail in payments while maintaining an accurate record of what you've paid for tuition and other Ensemble-related expenses. In addition, the new accounting system will help us provide more concise financial reporting to our auditors, our donors and other new funding resources that we are now approaching. Through such funding, we'll take one more step toward providing a richer, more rewarding experience for our school, our company and the community at large. We're sure you'll appreciate the effort.