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# PS DANCE!

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DANCE EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**MEDIA KIT**



@PSDANCENYC

#PSDANCENYC

#DANCEFOREVERYCHILD



# DANCE FOR EVERY CHILD

## SYNOPSIS

Step inside the halls of five NYC public schools and celebrate dance! Hosted by veteran TV journalist Paula Zahn, PS DANCE! is the new documentary that captures what happens when students have dance in their curriculum. The journey is one of imagination, curiosity, hard work and discipline. In these studios, dance is for every child.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



I never realized what an advocate I am for dance education until Jody Gottfried Arnhold came into my life and pointed it out. When Jody invited me into the classrooms of five NYC public school dance educators, I felt the world get brighter. With little notice of my arrival, and no script in place, my team captured everyday lessons and spontaneous reactions from teachers and students.



I witnessed joy and confidence blooming in elementary school, saw collaboration and caring thrive in middle school, and cried behind the camera while high schoolers told me how dance kept them in their classrooms and off the streets. Dance transforms - it inspires, it connects, it breeds discipline and hard work and respect. I hope this film illuminates the powerful impact dance education can have on every child and grows into a movement to provide this opportunity nationwide.

- Nel Shelby



## BACKGROUND

**“Inspiring. Uplifting.  
Insightful.  
Arts education is a  
basic right.  
PS DANCE! shows us  
why we must protect it.”**

*- Jed Bernstein  
President/CEO  
Lincoln Center For The  
Performing Arts*

PS DANCE! is a documentary spotlighting the consistent and sequential dance education programs in five NYC public schools. The Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in Dance, PreK-12, used by dance teachers citywide, frames this documentary created by award-winning dance filmmaker Nel Shelby, dance ambassador Jody Gottfried Arnhold, and dance education consultant Joan Finkelstein. Hosted by veteran television journalist Paula Zahn, the film was developed in collaboration with the NYC Department of Education Office of Arts and Special Projects. Master Dance Educators Catherine Gallant, Ana Nery Fragoso, Michael Kerr, Ani Udovicki and Patricia Dye demonstrate and discuss how a rich dance education develops artistic, social, academic and life skills in their students from elementary through high school.

# FAST FACTS



- PS DANCE! Features 16 children, spanning from Pre-K through high school. Nearly 100 students make an appearance in the film, showcasing the influence of dance programs in their schools.
- There were 192 certified school-based dance teachers for the 2013-2014 school year, in 2014-2015 school year 25 additional certified dance teachers were added to the dance teacher database.
- To date there are close to 400 dance teachers in the dance teacher database to service close to 1800 NYC public schools
- Dance students in public schools are taught from a variety of school based curricula around creative movement, modern and contemporary dance, ballet, improvisation, composition, African and African diaspora, jazz, tap, hip-hop, Bollywood, and various other dance genres. Students improvise and create their own dances while learning dance techniques and existing choreographic repertoire.
- The Blueprint for Teaching and Learning has been created for dance, music, theater, visual arts and the moving image with five common strands of learning: arts making, arts literacy, making connections in the arts, community and cultural resources, and careers and lifelong learning.

# FILM CREATORS



## JODY GOTTFRIED ARNHOLD

### Dance Ambassador

Jody Gottfried Arnhold, dance educator/advocate and founder of 92Y Dance Education Laboratory (DEL), taught dance in NYC public schools for over 20 years. She serves on the Advisory Committee for Arts Education at NYCDOE and Co-Chair of the Committee that created the Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in Dance, PreK-12. She is on the Board at 92Y, Harkness Foundation for Dance, Hunter College and Chair of its Dance Advisory Committee, Honorary Chair at Ballet Hispanico, and on Dance/NYC's Advisory Committee. Jody has received National Dance Education Organization's Visionary Award, Teachers College Distinguished Alumni Award, and was honored by the NYC Arts in Education Roundtable. She holds a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, an M.A. in Dance Education from Teachers College, Columbia University, and is a Certified Movement Analyst.



## NEL SHELBY

### Producer and Director

Nel Shelby preserves and promotes dance by filming performances and creating marketing videos and original films. Nel Shelby Productions, based in NYC, boasts a diverse list of dance clients in New York and beyond. Nel serves as Festival Videographer for Jacob's Pillow Dance and is Resident Videographer at the Vail International Dance Festival (VIDF). Her documentary about choreographer Nejlá Y. Yarkin will premiere in 2015, and past films include *The Altitude of Dance*, a documentary on VIDF, which debuted on Rocky Mountain PBS; four short films for Wendy Whelan's *Restless Creature*; and a short created with Adam Barruch that screened at NYC's Dance on Camera Festival and San Francisco Dance Film Festival. She holds degrees in broadcast video and dance.



## JOAN FINKELSTEIN

### Consultant

Joan Finkelstein, Executive Director of the Harkness Foundation for Dance, performed professionally in dance companies and in RAGS on Broadway, choreographed for the Atlanta Ballet and Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, and taught children and adults across the nation. She directed the 92Y Harkness Dance Center from 1992-2004, overseeing classes, the 92Y Dance Education Laboratory (DEL) teacher-training program, performances, workshops, lectures, and social dances. As Director of Dance for the New York City Department of Education from 2004-2014, she spearheaded the Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in Dance, PreK-12 and professional development for dance teachers. She is a writer of the new National Core Arts Standards in Dance.

## TEACHERS



### ANA NERY FRAGOSO

(K-5), P.S. 315 in  
Midwood



### ANI UDOVICKI

(9-12), Frank Sinatra  
School of the Arts, in Long  
Island City



### CATHERINE GALLANT

(Pre-K-5), Battery  
Park City's P.S. 89



### MICHAEL ANTHONY KERR

(6-8), Brooklyn's  
New Voices School of  
Academic & Creative  
Arts



### PATRICIA DYE

Dye (9-12), Science  
Skills Center High  
School for Science,  
Technology and the  
Creative Arts in  
Downtown Brooklyn

FOR MORE INFO VISIT: [psdancenyc.com/about/](http://psdancenyc.com/about/)



## TECHNICAL SPECS

**“PS DANCE! makes a compelling case for the importance of dance in all public schools. Everyone interested in the future of our young people should watch this film.”**

*Arlene Shuler  
President & CEO  
New York City Center*

**“A celebration – and all the evidence we need – for why the arts are an essential part of education, personal growth, and a civil society.”**

*Ella Baff  
Executive and Artistic  
Director  
Jacob’s Pillow Dance  
Festival*

Country of Production: USA

Language: English, Closed Caption and Spanish subtitles

Running Time: 53 minutes

Shooting Format: 1920X1080 / Pro Res 422

### PRODUCTION CREW

PS DANCE! was filmed on location in New York City

Produced and Directed by Nel Shelby

Hosted by Paula Zahn

Edited by Loren R. Robertson

Music composed by Bob Novak & Gabriel Ruiz-Bernal

Dance Ambassador: Jody Gottfried Arnhold

Consultant: Joan Finkelstein, Director of Dance, New York City Department of Education (2004-2014)

Videographers: Ashli Bickford, Cody Buesing, Joe Conlon, Steve DiCasa, Christopher Duggan, Jessica Ray, Benjamin Richards, Nel Shelby

Audio Mixer: Andy Peterson

Musicians for sound score: Bob Novak, Kate Bateman, Simon George, Alexandra Cantalupo Kinobe

Color Grading: Jason Bahling