

editor's *letter*


Dear Everyone,

This month's magazine focus is MODERN DANCE - an oft ignored form of dance. I've tried to analyze why and I've decided that not only is there not a great emphasis on modern dance until the college level, but also there's the fear factor. Even to studio owners and teachers, the study of modern dance appears to be daunting and because so many of us are untrained it doesn't appear to be an "essential" in the formation of the studio syllabus. **The history and development of modern dance is fascinating, and how to make the teaching of it desirable and practical is a problem we must overcome.** The art form is way too important for it to be eliminated in the curriculum of the studio. We've tried to give you some insight into the benefits of teaching modern dance as well as the impact it has and will continue to have on today's dancers. I'm sure you'll enjoy.

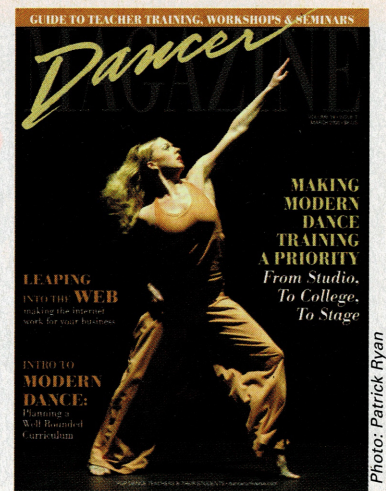
Jasmine Rios offers part II of her healthcare series, **"Seeking a Healthy Dance Community."** She states that "seeking a healthy dance community is within reach and all members of the dance community can play a role. Dancers, dance educators, parents of dancers, spectators can all begin here. The resources are available at your fingertips." Studio owners and teachers take note that a good many of those resources are listed at the end of this article. If healthcare for yourself and your business is an issue, this article has some extremely valuable information.

Backstage is one of our newer features and will focus on people and jobs that happen behind the scenes - backstage, if you will. **This month we invite you to meet a video designer, GILLES PAPAIN.** He creates movies that will be projected onstage for ballets and other performance art. He closely works with the entire artistic team, using high-tech tools that assist in conveying the artistic message. I'm sure many of you have never given a thought to how this is done yet we all enjoy the fruits of the labors of these creative personnel.

Until next month...



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ON THE COVER: Marymount Manhattan College Alum and Parsons company member Abby Silva on stage