



Teaching Children Excellence

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**NATIONAL DANCE INSTITUTE OF NEW MEXICO'S
COMPANY XCEL DANCERS
TO PERFORM AT CAREER TRANSITIONS FOR DANCERS GALA
IN NEW YORK CITY**

Twelve young dancers from National Dance Institute of New Mexico's Company XCel will travel to New York City to perform at the *Career Transition For Dancers', 21st Anniversary Jubilee* on Monday, October 23, 2006. The star-studded Gala showcases diverse cultures through the universal art of dance, and includes appearances by James Earl Jones, Liza Minnelli, Bebe Neuwirth, Rosie O'Donnell and many more. This annual event is a benefit for **Career Transition For Dancers** which has helped more than 3,200 professional dancers identify their unique talents in preparation for establishing new careers when dance is no longer an option.

Says seventeen-year-old dancer, Glenn Giron, "This is an amazing chance of a lifetime! To have been chosen to dance on stage in New York City with so many acclaimed performers is really special. All of us in Company XCel are proud to represent NDI-NM and do what we love to do best – dance!"

Envisioned by NDI-NM Founding Artistic Director, Catherine Oppenheimer, in 2002, Company XCel is a pre-professional performing arts training and performing group for teens and young adults. Company XCel members participate in a rigorous, year-round dance curriculum at The Dance Barns, and explore intensives and workshops at professional companies throughout the United States. This past summer, Company XCel dancers represented NDI-NM at several prestigious dance programs across the country including: Lines Ballet Company in San Francisco, San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, Richmond Ballet School, and our own Broadway Theater Dance Workshop in Santa Fe. Students were accepted into outstanding summer programs including AAB at SUNY, Virginia School for the Arts, Long Beach Ballet and Ballet West at the University of Utah.

Company XCel dancers are: Chelsea Aguiar, Eli Barnes, Philip Brito, Glenn Giron, Ariana Hawthorne-Davis, Marcelino Juarez, Guy Mannick, Jesse Martinez, Jocelyn Montoya, Katie Montoya, Tess Montoya, Matthew Ortiz

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