

Choreographer Jacques D'Amboise to Receive Douglas Watt Lifetime Achievement Award

by BWW News Desk



choreographers on Broadway & on film.

The Fred and Adele Astaire Awards will once again recognize excellence in dance on both stage and film. This year's Awards gala will take place May 15, 2011 at the Skirball Center for the Performing Arts at New York University, 566 LaGuardia Place) New York City 10019. The gala evening will begin with a VIP cocktail reception at 6pm with the Awards Presentation and Show at 7:30 pm. [Once](#) again the Awards Gala will benefit Dance Education in NYC public schools. The evening is presented by Patricia Watt, Producer of the awards, Ava Astaire and The Douglas Watt Family Fund for the Performing Arts. This year's Douglas Watt Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to legendary dancer, choreographer and founder of the National Dance Institute Jacques D'Amboise whose career spans the worlds of theater, dance, television and film. Awards will also be given to honor the best dancers and

The late Douglas Watt founded The Astaire Awards with Fred Astaire. His longtime leadership inspired the prize. He spent nearly 6 decades as a Broadway theatre critic for The Daily News and The New Yorker. Watt was instrumental in convincing producer Cheryl Crawford to bring the New Jersey revival of PORGY AND BESS to Broadway in 1941, helping to solidify the show's landmark place in history. Watt was one of the founders of the Drama Desk Awards and served on the nominating committee for both the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Tony Awards. Watt died at the age of 95 on September 29, 2009. Nominees for excellence in dance & choreography on Broadway will be made on April 26th at a special reception at the Firebird Russian Restaurant on Theater Row in the heart of the Theater District hosted by Patricia Watt, Carolyn & Ronald Buchter.

2011 Fred & Adele Astaire Awards on May 15 presented by Ava Astaire and the Douglas Watt Family Fund for the Performing Arts benefit dance education in public schools serving autistic and disabled children and The National Dance Alliance which provides scholarships to colleges and dance institutions to promising young dancers.

Executive Producer: Patricia Watt; Co-Producer: Joe Lanteri, National Dance Alliance;

Associate Producer, Bronwen Carson. Director is Joe Lanteri.

Honorary Chairs are *Judith Jamison* and **Wendy Federman**



Awards

Gala Co-Chairs are Carolyn Kendall Buchter, Cassandra Seidenfeld Lyster and Bruce Michael. Benefit Co-Chairs are Sara Kaplan Johnson, and Jamie Watkins

Gala Committee includes Jennifer Bank, Raymond Cappodano, Joyce Chasen, Ursula Deljian, Victoria Detiger, Missy Echeverria, Elyse Emmer, Wendy Federman, Terri Gold, Regina Kravitz, Jacqueline Marks, Alix Michel, Coryn Nadeau, Melinda Paltrow, Nancy Pearson, Scott Perrin, Scarlett Pildes, Randi Rahm, Kat Schaffer, Jennifer Taylor and Andrew Wargo

Honorary Committee includes Mr. and Mrs. Richard Adler, Jean Claude Baker, Bob Balaban, Marisa Berenson, Anna Bergman, Patricia Birch, Marge Champion, Arlene Dahl, Jacques D'Amboise, Gracielle Danielle, Eve Ensler, Jules Fisher, Mario Fratti, Mitzi Gaynor, Savion Glover, Joel Grey, Anne Jackson, Susan Jaffee, Arthur Laurents, Rob Marshall, Donna McKechnie, Joey McKneely, Jerry Mitchell, Bebe Neuwirth, Phyllis Newman, Marsha Norman, Robert Osbourne, Jane Powell and Dick Moore, Harold Prince, Rex Reed, Ann Reinking, Donald Saddler, Liz Smith, Richard Thomas, Sergio Trujillo, Karen Ziemba, Eli Wallach.

This year's Awards will take place at Skirball Center for the Performing Arts at NYU on May 15. The Jack H. Skirball Center for the Performing Arts is the premier venue for the presentation of cultural and performing arts events for New York University and lower Manhattan. Led by executive producer Jay Oliva (President Emeritus, NYU) and senior director Michael Harrington, the programs of Skirball Center reflect NYU's mission as an international center of scholarship, defined by excellence and innovation and shaped by an intellectually rich and diverse environment. A vital aspect of the Center's mission is to build young adult audiences for the future of live performance. www.skirballcenter.nyu.edu

VIP Prime Seating includes 6:00 pm VIP Red Carpet Cocktail Party; Prime Seating at Performance & Post Awards Show VIP Party with Nominees, Recipients and Performers \$425.

General Seating (Two Tiers - all have unobstructed views) \$150 & \$75 - Early Order VIP Prime Seating Discount - Available only through April 30. 20% Discount