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07 Sep 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Covenant Ballet Theatre of Brooklyn celebrates 35 years of inspired dance education and performance in South Brooklyn**

**BROOKLYN, NY** – This month, Covenant Ballet Theatre of Brooklyn (CBT) launches a year-long celebration of its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

To kick off the celebration, CBT will host an open house at its studios in Gravesend on Saturday, September 17 from 1 to 6:30 pm. The day will feature a variety of free 35-minute dance and movement classes for all ages, performance showcases, raffle prizes, and more. For further information, visit [www.covenantballet.org/openhouse](http://www.covenantballet.org/openhouse), call 718-891-6199, or email [info@covenantballet.org](mailto:info@covenantballet.org).

Since 1987, CBT has invested in the children and families of South Brooklyn, where cultural activities and resources are limited. Artistic Director Marla Hirokawa founded CBT on the conviction that a serious ballet education combined with maximum inclusion is needed to advance the art form, train youth, and improve the lives of those within its embrace. In an accepting yet rigorous environment, CBT fosters the love of dance through pre-professional training in its studios and educational programs in NYC schools, and through dozens of original ballet productions conceived and choreographed by Ms. Hirokawa.

In its 35 years, CBT has trained hundreds of students, age three through adult, who come from CBT's South Brooklyn region as well as all five NYC boroughs and the tri-state area. Under the direction of Ms. Hirokawa, countless students and audience members have had their lives enriched through the unique combination of love for the art form, generosity, rigor and discipline, acceptance, inclusion, and respect for all. It is these qualities that make CBT the unique dance organization that it is today.

CBT alumni have gone on to study at major performing arts high schools in NYC and virtually every major dance school in New York and beyond, including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, American Ballet Theatre, Ballet Hispanico, Dance Theatre of Harlem, the Julliard School, and the School of American Ballet. Many have apprenticed and danced with professional companies such as Martha Graham Company, Suzanne Farrell Ballet, and the Metropolitan Opera. Others have formed their own dance companies and dance schools. They



have also leveraged life lessons acquired at CBT to launch successful careers in education, fashion, finance, health care, law, neuroscience, and public relations, among other fields.

Reflecting on the work that CBT does, Ms. Hirokawa said, "Our alumni live and work all over the U.S. and around the world. They're artists, they're scientists, they're entrepreneurs. They're immigrants who have become citizens. They're building families. They're building their lives. They're going out into the world, and they're impacting it at large.

"Anniversaries are a good time to look back and see all that has been accomplished. Celebrating our 35th anniversary invigorates me and makes me look forward to the next decade and beyond."

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