

# *configuration* DANCE THEATRE

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **CONFIGURATION DANCE THEATRE OPENS SCHOOL IN ELMWOOD VILLAGE**

Internationally renowned dance troupe brings expert instruction along with performance opportunities for aspiring artists to the Elmwood community

**Buffalo, New York, 18 August 2009** – The southeast corner of Lexington and Ashland Avenues was long a thriving hub of activity when the Lexington Co-op was located there. Configuration Dance Theatre, or CDT, will be the new resident in that familiar locale, bringing a renewed vitality to the storefront and a wealth of opportunities to the community. The Configuration School of Ballet is expected to open on September 21<sup>st</sup>, and registration for classes are being accepted now. Rates and schedules are available by calling or (716) 883-4510 or on their website ([www.ConfigurationDanceTheatre.org](http://www.ConfigurationDanceTheatre.org)).

Discovering the space at 230 Lexington ends CDT's long search for a suitable home. The professional dance company will make that address their rehearsal venue, instruction studio and gallery space. After a long and highly distinguished career as a professional dancer, Joseph Cipolla, a Buffalo native and the company's Artistic Director, has felt an earnest desire to give something back to his hometown community. This venture satisfies that longing. Cipolla believes that the school is a natural development in the growth of the company, stating that "Our school adds a greater sense of purpose to CDT's mission, which is to educate, to serve a broad range of communities, and to raise awareness of the social importance of the arts."

Assemblyman Sam Hoyt applauds CDT's decision, finding the Lexington spot a perfect fit for the company and the neighborhood. Hoyt claims that he is "happy that CDT has chosen the Elmwood Village as their new location for the company...I am confident that the residents of our community will welcome this nationally recognized group with open arms. They will be a great new addition to our already rich inventory of cultural assets."

The school will provide instruction in ballet, modern dance, character dance, and Pilates. The staff will include Cipolla, who boasts thirty-two years of international experience, and fellow school founder Kolleen Fischer along with guest instructors from other professional companies and established dancers who perform with CDT. Classes will be available for all age groups with encouragement given to all skill levels, but Cipolla asserts, the emphasis will be on providing "more than just dance lessons. We will be offering our students a chance to truly engage in the experience of dance." Students who excel will be considered for the specialized, professional training program and possible inclusion with the troupe in their scheduled performances and the company's appearances in New York City. Open Houses for meeting the staff and for showing

the school are being planned. More information will be available on the company's website and through the contacts listed above.

#### About Configuration Dance Theatre:

Configuration Dance Theatre combines classical ballet's formal traditions with modern dance's dynamic expressiveness to create dramatic and emotional performances. The ability to bring studied discipline to contemporary choreography extends from the wealth of professional experience within the troupe. CDT was founded, in part, by Joseph Cipolla in 2000, and the company's operations were moved to Western New York in 2007. Cipolla is a former principal dancer with the Birmingham Royal Ballet, Sadler Wells Royal Ballet, and the Dance Theatre of Harlem. As the company's Artistic Director, his insights and creative energy have brought wonderfully original and challenging works to performers and audiences alike. Under his leadership, Configuration Dance Theatre has evolved into a 21<sup>st</sup> century forum for promoting the integrity and the spirit of new and established expressions in dance.

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P.O. Box 641, Buffalo, NY 14231-0641 *website:* [configurationdancetheatre.org](http://configurationdancetheatre.org)

*Configuration Dance Theatre is an IRS certified, 501c3, not-for-profit organization.  
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