

New Jersey Ballet 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala      **Introduction**

Video	Audio
<p>Title screen:  NJB logo 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</p>	<p><b>Kristine Johnson:</b> John and I are pleased to be here to join you in celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a major New Jersey arts organization and a national treasure-- New Jersey Ballet Company.</p>
<p>Photos of recent NJB performances</p>	<p>For half a century, New Jersey Ballet has entertained audiences from Bergen County to Cape May with world-class professional ballet. Throughout its 28-week performance season, New Jersey Ballet communicates the passion and power of dance not only to traditional ballet audiences, but also to children and others seeking more contemporary fare.</p>
<p>Performance photos</p>	<p>The Company's repertory is extensive and diverse, from classical to contemporary to cutting-edge. The repertory includes classical works choreographed by some of the greatest names in the world of dance, and one of this country's largest collections of ballets for children.</p>
<p>Photos of "Nutcracker" from various seasons</p>	<p>NJB's "Nutcracker" has been a holiday tradition at Paper Mill Playhouse for 38 years, but it's just part of a repertory season of more than 60 performances at ten venues throughout the state, from community college theatres to NJPAC's Prudential Hall.</p>
<p>Photos of recent performances, emphasizing close-ups of the dancers</p>	<p>New Jersey Ballet's troupe of 20 dancers come from the U.S. and nine other countries, and from some of the world's top academies and international dance companies--including the Company's own renowned dance school. Together these artists have become a company with the distinctive ability to perform a classical ballet one night, jazz the next, and a contemporary American masterwork the following week--all without skipping a beat.</p> <p><b>John Elliott:</b> Perhaps it's the ability to take on such</p>

## New Jersey Ballet 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala **Introduction**

	varied and challenging roles that motivates dancers to make their careers at New Jersey Ballet.
Video clip from New Jersey Network:  Gabriella and David as children in the Nutcracker	Here's Gabriella Noa and David Tamaki, at age 11, performing the roles of Clara and Fritz in NJB's "Nutcracker."
Recent performance photos of Gabriella and David	Today, Gabriella Noa-Pierson and David Tamaki contribute their mature talents as principal dancers with New Jersey Ballet.
Early photos of Carolyn Clark and George Tomal	<b>Kristine Johnson:</b> NJB has always been a dancers' company. In the late 1950's Carolyn Clark and the late George Tomal, dance partners with American Ballet Theatre, founded a full-time, professional dance company for New Jersey.
Tilt down 1958 poster of first NJB performance	The fledgling New Jersey Ballet Company gave its first performances at Arts High School in Newark in December, 1958.
Close-up of 1958 poster showing ticket prices of \$1.50 and \$2.00	<b>John Elliott:</b> We haven't seen ticket prices like that in quite a while.
Montage of photos from 1960's	<b>Kristine Johnson:</b> In the 1960's, New Jersey Ballet began collaborating with more than 50 New Jersey arts organizations, including the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, the Masterwork Chorus, and New Jersey State Opera. Over a forty-year partnership, NJB resident choreographer George Tomal choreographed sixteen opera ballets that NJB and the State Opera have performed together.
Montage of photos from 1970's	New Jersey Ballet expanded its scope in the 1970's. The Company launched its On School Time arts education program, which has traveled to hundreds of schools to

## New Jersey Ballet 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala **Introduction**

	introduce students in grades K through twelve to the art of ballet.
Photo of Edward Villella as Cavalier in "Nutcracker"	New Jersey Ballet debuted its "Nutcracker" at Paper Mill Playhouse in 1971, with Edward Villella, star of New York City Ballet, in the role of the Cavalier. In that same year, he became artistic advisor to the Company.
Montage of more photos from the 1970's  Add text to photos:  "New Jersey Ballet projects confidence and breeziness, technical security and stage presence." Anna Kisselgoff <i>The New York Times</i>	New Jersey Ballet became the resident company of Paper Mill Playhouse, and its first repertory season there won high praise from the critics, including America's most prominent dance critic at that time, Anna Kisselgoff of The New York Times.
Montage of photos from the 1980's	The 1980's had an auspicious beginning. At the Waterloo Music Festival, a performance of "Carmina Burana" by New Jersey Ballet, the New Jersey Symphony and the Mendelssohn Choir brought a crowd of six thousand to its feet.
Photo(s) from Glassboro performance	In 1987, New Jersey Ballet and the legendary Kirov Ballet shared the stage at Rowan University in Glassboro for a weekend of dance celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the Johnson-Kosygin summit.
Photos of D'Antuono and Koslov	By the end of the decade, two more international ballet stars would join NJB as Artistic Advisors, Eleanor D'Antuono and Leonid Kozlov.
Photo of 1991 Russia trip	In the 1990's, New Jersey Ballet began touring internationally, to Russia, Bermuda, Taiwan, and Italy, and quickly won a reputation as a world-class regional dance company.
Photo of Giselle performance	With funding from the Dodge Foundation, NJB staged

New Jersey Ballet 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala **Introduction**

	<p>"Giselle," the first major classical production by a New Jersey dance company, to critical acclaim.</p>
<p>Photo(s) from "Esmeralda"</p> <p>Add text:</p> <p>"A Teeming Action Ballet with a Classical Sheen"</p> <p>Anna Kisselgoff <i>The New York Times</i></p>	<p><b>John Elliott:</b> In this new century, New Jersey Ballet appeared on the Star-Ledger's top ten list of New Jersey cultural events for three years in a row, most recently for its production of "Esmeralda," a full-length ballet based on "The Hunchback of Notre Dame." New Jersey Ballet is the only U.S. company with the full-length ballet in its repertory.</p>
<p>Photo from "Nutcracker"</p>	<p>NJB's "Nutcracker" became the first full-length classical ballet ever presented in India. Sell-out crowds demanded adding an extra performance.</p>
<p>Photo(s) from 2008 Russia tour</p>	<p>Last year, New Jersey Ballet was again invited to Russia, this time to perform contemporary dance in a seven-city tour that included Moscow and St. Petersburg. New Jersey Ballet was greeted with distinctively Russian rhythmic applause of approval and multiple curtain calls.</p> <p>I'd call that a good beginning, Kristine.</p>
<p>Title screen:</p> <p>NJB logo 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</p>	<p><b>Kristine Johnson:</b> Please enjoy this Gala performance. The artists and dancers of New Jersey Ballet will make it happen, but your support makes it all possible. Thank you.</p>