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Press Release

Local Dance Video Receives National Attention

Catskill Community Center Video Project Featured in Dance Studio Life Magazine

Catskill, NY February 10, 2016: The Catskill Community Center dance video project submitted to the *Re: ROSAS!* international dance project is featured in the February 2016 issue of Dance Studio Life Magazine. The video is based on an international dance project initiated by Belgian choreographer Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker and adapted by dance instructor and choreographer Erika Russo and videographer Cynthia Putorti, both of Catskill.

In 1983, De Keersmaeker and her company Rosas premiered "Rosas danst Rosas." The original piece is one hour and 40 minutes presented in four movements. In the second movement, dancers perform while sitting in chairs. For the *Re: ROSAS! FABULEUS Rosas Remix Project*, De Keersmaeker made a simplified, fifteen-minute version of the chair section. She invited dancers and videographers around the world to make it their own and submit videos of their work after Beyonce appropriated some of the choreography without De Deersmaeker's permission. As of January 2016, 341 videos have been published on the project website. The Community Center's submission is #300 and can be viewed here: <http://www.rosasdanstrosas.be/300-rosas-dance-through-life-2/>

Renowned dance critic and writer Elizabeth Zimmer (*Village Voice*, *Los Angeles Herald Examiner*) reviewed a number of the submissions on-line and selected the Catskill video and another from Houston to feature in her article. She interviewed Russo and Putorti several months ago.

Russo and Putorti collaborated with twenty-five area dancers between the ages of four to eighty-three years to create their version. Most of the younger performers were dancers enrolled in Tara VanRoy's Petite Productions Dance and Arts Academy in Catskill.

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"We wanted to create a piece that presented a woman's life from childhood to maturity with a section for each phase of life: childhood, pre-teen, teen, adult, mature." Putorti explained.

"There are five dancers in each group," Russo added. "I adapted De Keersmaeker's basic choreography as appropriate for each age group. For example, the movements are quicker and more physical for the teens than for the mature women." Pre-K dancers were Cadence Marie Gallaher, Lily Baxter-Mackey, Stella Phoenix, Anna Kathleen Purdy, and Brooke Schumacher. Pre-Teen dancers were Ashley Vaughn, Joanna Van Slyke, Madison Moskowitz, Faith J. VanRoy and Lydia Ackerman. Teen dancers were Zoe Rudloff, Caitlyn Lane, Haley Imbesi, Rachel Wagman, and Maddison Ackerman. Adult dancers were Rachel Timan, Laura Hammerer, Alison Phoenix, Erika Russo, and Erin Holdridge. Mature dancers were Margaret Adams, Ellen Mahnken, Margo Pelletier, Andrea Cunliffe, and Jane Toby.

Dance Studio Life Magazine is available at the magazine's website: <http://danceteacherstore.com/collections/dance-studio-life-magazine/products/dance-studio-life-magazine-february-2016-issue>.

For more information, contact the Catskill Community Center at (518) 719-8244.

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