



Creative Outlet  
Dance Theatre of Brooklyn  
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**CREATIVE OUTLET DANCE THEATRE OF BROOKLYN  
PRESENTS GALA FUNDRAISER FEATURING JENNIFER HOLLIDAY**

On Saturday, April 12, 2003 at 7:30pm in the Brooklyn Museum of Art's Cantor Auditorium, Creative Outlet Dance Theatre of Brooklyn will present "**Up Close & Personal**," an evening of dance and song, featuring world-renowned, Tony award winning songstress **Jennifer Holliday**. The show-stopping diva will perform several of her top hits. Ms. Holliday, star of "**Dreamgirls**" and "**Your Arm's Too Short to Box With God**," has one of the greatest voices of the millennium. Her spine-tingling first hit, "**And I'm Telling You**," is covered by many aspiring young artists. The Brooklyn Museum of Art is located at 200 Eastern Parkway.

Featured dance artists include Creative Outlet Artistic Director/Choreographer Jamel Gaines, who has created works for the Alvin Ailey Dance Center and Martha Graham School of Dance; Bahiyah Sayyed-Gaines, principal dancer for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; Anika Ellis, lead performer in the Broadway national tours of "*Fosse*" and "*Aida*;" Creative Outlet Managing Director and founding member Kevin Joseph; Associate Director Lakai Worell; Shirley Black-Brown; Anthony Burrell; Cherise Simmons; Eddie Stockton; and Dion Wilson. A private reception following the performance will allow guests to meet the artists, "up close and personal."

Proceeds from the gala benefit performance will go toward the Creative Outlet's efforts to raise funds to acquire a new, state-of-the-art studio and performance space at the Lafayette Presbyterian Church in Fort Greene, Brooklyn. Portions of the evening's event have been sponsored by a generous grant from Assemblyman Roger Green.

Hip and gritty, combining a variety of dance forms, ranging from modern African and classical, to urban and hip hop, Creative Outlet's repertoire fuses dance with film, live music and spoken word, producing incisive movements and images. Their physicality and furious energy draws attention to social and cultural issues and to the African American experience.

Founded in 1994, Creative Outlet has created more than a dozen new dance works presented at venues including the United Nations, the Acapulco Black Film Festival, Toyota/Essence in Celebration of the Arts, Brooklyn Academy of Music, MAAFA, American Museum of Natural History, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Aaron Davis Hall, and festivals in Italy and Germany. Creative Outlet also shows their work to more than 3000 children annually, to bring the arts to schools.