

January 18, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE SCHOOL OF AMERICAN BALLET AT LINCOLN
CENTER UNVEILS NEW LINCOLN KIRSTEIN STUDIO WING**

Expansion designed by Elizabeth Diller of Diller Scofidio +
Renfro is first Lincoln Center redevelopment project to be completed

The School of American Ballet will dedicate a redesigned and expanded studio space in honor of the School's co-founder, Lincoln Kirstein, on Tuesday, January 23rd, at its Lincoln Center headquarters in the Samuel B. and David Rose Building. The Lincoln Kirstein Wing, designed by Elizabeth Diller of Diller Scofidio + Renfro, is the first completed element of the Lincoln Center redevelopment project that will transform the campus into a more welcoming, open and accessible destination.

The \$7.2 million expansion increases SAB's ballet training facility in the Samuel B. and David Rose Building from five to seven studios and will allow the School to enhance current programming and introduce new initiatives, such as the expansion of the Children's Division to include children as young as 6 beginning in September 2007.

In close collaboration with artistic director Peter Martins, Elizabeth Diller has conceived an innovative design that preserves the open, airy atmosphere of two of the School's existing ballet studios while adding two new all-glass studios in the generous air-space above, resulting in a suite of four, distinct studios that share lighting and views but are acoustically independent of one another. The two upper glass studios each feature a liquid crystal wall facing the new upstairs lounge area that can alternate between transparency and translucence at the discretion of the ballet teacher. All studios feature state-of-the art sprung dance floors.

The four studios which comprise the redesigned space will be dedicated as the "Lincoln Kirstein Wing" in recognition of Kirstein's profound importance to the School. Born in 1907, Kirstein brought choreographer George Balanchine to the U.S. in 1933, and together they founded SAB in 1934. Kirstein served as the School's President and chief administrator until his retirement

in 1989. The January 23rd dedication will inaugurate Kirstein centennial celebrations by several major arts organizations, including New York City Ballet.

The School of American Ballet is the premier ballet academy in the United States, training more students who go on to become professional dancers than any other American school. It is both a constituent of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and the official academy of New York City Ballet. Each year, 20 SAB students on average sign professional contracts with dance companies around the United States and abroad. Not only do SAB alumni comprise over 90 percent of New York City Ballet, but dancers trained at the School also currently appear on the rosters of over 60 U.S. and more than a dozen international companies.

Lincoln Center is the largest performing arts center in the world, uniting on one campus 12 of the finest performing arts and educational organizations located anywhere. After more than forty years of artistic excellence and service to the community, the nation, and the world, Lincoln Center has embarked upon a major transformation initiative to fully modernize its world-renowned concert halls and public spaces, renew its legendary 16-acre urban campus, and reinforce its vitality for decades to come.

Much of Lincoln Center's infrastructure and many of its notable performance and educational facilities require renovation, and in some cases, considerable expansion. Changes in the needs and interests of the public have also inspired a thorough reconsideration of the campus' original design in the context of current and future programming priorities. These factors became the framework for a campus-wide planning initiative, with the first two redevelopment plans—the West 65th Street Project and the Promenade Project—scheduled to be complete for Lincoln Center's 50th anniversary in 2009.

A related project will be the transformation of the Harmony Atrium, a privately-owned public space between Broadway and Columbus Avenues and West 62nd and 63rd Streets, into a vibrant public community and cultural space offering performances, information, and ticket services.

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