



## Mission Statement

Contemporary Ballet Theatre's (CBT) mission is to raise health awareness by offering educational and occupational opportunities through the arts. CBT provides seven programs to underserved communities for ages three through 103 focusing on those of The Bronx including the mentally as well as physically challenged. Ballet instruction and performance within a cooperative structure from those around the world is the foundation of CBT's services. Programs consist of a four-tiered dance company (**Professional Productions**), school **Year Round Arts in Education (AIE)** and **Health through (HA) Programs, Summerdance Intensive, Summerdance Festival, Empowerment Program, CBT Too** in addition to **Consultations**.

Contemporary Ballet Theatre was incorporated in 2000 as a two-year incubation project sponsored by a non-profit organization called The Point Community Development Corporation. During that start-up phase, Ms. Pepper, CBT's Founder and Artistic Director managed it as a South Bronx multi-cultural professional ballet company serving 5000 people through five programs. During that time CBT produced 30 sold out performances in The Bronx and debuted in California, Washington D.C. and New Jersey. In 2004 CBT received approval for its own 501(c) 3 status. CBT has been building capacity to meet its mission through partnerships. To date CBT has undertaken over 50 collaborations. Pepper and Contemporary Ballet Theatre have been noted in such publications as Time Out Magazine, Parkchester News, Bronx Times, The New York Times as well as "O," Oprah Winfrey's Magazine.

Pepper began choreographing at age seven, and became a professional dancer at age 15. A Washingtonian-Panamanian with French descendants, Pepper graduated from the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, D.C., and then continued her career path to New York City. Having attended Adelphi University on a scholarship, Pepper graduated with a BFA in Dance, with concentrations in English, Theater and Psychology. She was a recipient of several scholarships where she studied to include The Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance and Dance Theatre of Harlem. Pepper danced with Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, performing at the New York State Theatre at Lincoln Center, The Joyce Theatre and the Houston Grand Opera. She then danced with Guimond Dance, Rae Dance, Ballet Long Island, Lumiere Ballet, Arthur Aviles Typical Theatre, and with Louis Johnson Dance Theatre Ensemble, her last nine years of her career. With Louis Johnson, Pepper has performed the solo piece "Shout" at various venues throughout New York and Washington D.C.; for Aretha Franklin at Carnegie Hall, Merv Griffin Resorts in Atlantic City and The Paramount Theater at Madison Square Garden to name a few. She has danced and choreographed for all types of productions including video and film. At the start of 2015, Pepper received various certifications, Shape Up NYC for fitness and Customer Service/Management from Hostos Community College. In the near future, Ms. Pepper will obtain an MBA; and PHD in dance education through psychology.