

# THE SCHOOL of PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

## For Immediate Release

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## The School of Pennsylvania Ballet Announces Creation of Boys' Scholarship Fund

**Philadelphia, PA (May 28, 2015)** – [The School of Pennsylvania Ballet](#) announces the new Herbert and Joyce Kean Scholarship Fund for Boys that allows boys to explore ballet's non-traditional form of athletic activity while helping them realize their talent and passion.

The Scholarship Fund provides full-tuition scholarships for boys ages six to 17 who are accepted into The School of Pennsylvania Ballet. During the 35-week school year the students receive intensive instruction in classical ballet technique, partnership, men's classes as well as modern dance, Pilates and weight lifting.

"We love what the Director Arantxa Ochoa has been doing with The School of Pennsylvania Ballet and are excited to offer financial support to help encourage young boys to experience ballet," said Joyce Kean. "It is very important for us to provide opportunities to boys who might not otherwise be able to have such exposure to ballet."

The Scholarship Fund is important because in Philadelphia and across the country young boys face the stigma that ballet is for girls. With the creation of the Scholarship Fund boys, who might not necessarily be able to experience ballet, are given the opportunity to learn technique and develop the discipline and athleticism needed to be a professional dancer. Studying ballet also teaches boys a form of dance that will cause them joy while helping them develop skills that will influence all aspects of their lives.

"Male ballet dancers have to be athletic and extremely well trained so they have the stamina to leap, spin, and lift female dancers throughout a performance," said Angel Corella, Pennsylvania Ballet's Artistic Director. "In order to break down the gender stereotypes that cause many boys to only participate in traditional sports, we need to give them the opportunity to easily experience ballet."

### How Can Boys Join the School?

Boys are invited to a free audition for the School on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm at the Louise Reed Center for Dance. Previous ballet training isn't needed to audition, as the artistic staff will determine the level of study appropriate for each boy. For the audition boys should wear a white t-shirt and black tights or shorts. For more information please contact Joanne Smith at

215-587-6942 or visit <https://www.paballet.org/school-auditions>.

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**About The School of Pennsylvania Ballet**

The School of Pennsylvania Ballet, led by Arantxa Ochoa, one of the most celebrated ballerinas in the history of Pennsylvania Ballet, has a mission to provide the highest quality dance education by fostering artistic and technical excellence while preparing students for careers as professional dancers. The 160 young dancers gather their inspiration from studying in the same space and performing with the professional Company of Pennsylvania Ballet.