



Member's Newsletter

Volume No. 3

December 2008

We Went, We Twirled, We Conquered!

Well...can you believe it? We prepared for a year and now...it's over. As we look at the hundreds of photos posted by Group Photos we are reminded of how very proud of the All Stars we are. You all came together for just about 16 hours practice, from so many varied backgrounds, and put together a performance group that shined as if you had been together all year. You are the BEST!!

The educational parts of the trip like: Medieval Times, Radio City and the Christmas Spectacular, Broadway and a Show, Ben's NY Kosher Deli and the NBC Rehearsal were all just added perks to this outstanding life experience. We are so happy you all joined us.

On page 4, you will see the response we received about next year. Please keep your fingers crossed that we get an early decision!

We have lots of other special events planned for the future. We are in the process of applying for several right now. Keep checking our websites for updates. In fact, if you are 21 and older and feel you have what it takes to be a member of a USA Baton Twirling All Stars' USO Performance Troupe, please send a performance DVD of yourself to BTNI 14 Bond Street, STE 395, Great Neck, NY 11021. Your DVD should show yourself alone in any performances you think will show your talents for this type of show. We contacted the USO and they have requested a composite DVD of our troupe. If you are accepted we would give you any details we have, as we receive them.

Again, we are so VERY PROUD of all of you. Thank you for being one of the first USA Baton Twirling All Star members!

Happy Holidays!

Karen & David

Our Staff: Thank You for an OUTSTANDING JOB!



One of the things we all learn as we grow older is how wonderful people can be. How often can you belong to something as big, important and unfamiliar as this NYC Tour was and have at your service a group of people who are as unselfish and hard working as our staff was? Rarely is the answer.

Our staff came together, leaving their own jobs, businesses and families behind, to help make this NYC Tour one of your greatest lifetime memories. Their love of baton twirling mixed with their dedication to the children and young adults who had been invited to this great event made them a staff of talent and a strong work ethic and produced our wonderful final product. KeriAnn Lynch led the staff through the practices,

seamlessly, and credits them for the quality of performances both on Tuesday and Thursday. Callene Derrick coordinated every aspect of the tour and spent many a sleepless night preparing for the next day of the tour. Anything that could humanly be done to make this event perfect was done on your behalf by what I believe is the finest staff any group could be fortunate enough to have.

We have had parents come to us and volunteer to be on staff for future events. THANK YOU for those offers. As we revamp some of the areas of our special events' format, we will certainly take some of you up on those offers.

THANK YOU STAFF! Without you this NYC Tour would not have been possible!!

Inside this issue:

OUR STAFF	1
STAYING POSITIVE	2
TECHNICAL GLITCHES	2
FRIENDS & FAMILY: OUR SUPPORT SYSTEM	2
SPECIAL EVENTS	3
WEBSITES & UPDATES	3
INITIAL RESPONSE FROM MACY'S	4



TEAMWORK

***“THE POWER
OF YOUR
WORDS IN
INTERVIEWS
HAS A
PROFOUND
IMPACT ”***



FAMILY & FRIENDS

The chance of a “Technical Glitch” in live performances

“The show must go on”.....Have you ever heard that statement? What that means is no matter what....when you are in a live performance.....you have to go with the flow. There is no starting over; no adjustment to music that didn't start correctly; adjusting to the lighting; accepting whatever condition is present in order to complete your performance as expected.

The All Stars learned first hand in Herald Square just exactly what that means. Although to them, the technical

glitch in herald Square seemed much larger than it really was on TV.

What happened was; the commentators talked over the first 15-20 seconds of our music, muting it. When they were done talking and the music came on.....it was 15-20 seconds into the music. The kids, were of course surprised, but after a few seconds, like pros, they adjusted and got to their spots and continued with the performance as if nothing had happened. That shows how well they had come together as a group/team.

We know some of the kids were disappointed about this glitch BUT when you compile the entire parade route performance and the Herald Square performance, everything was so good and so crowd pleasing that this little glitch should be just that....a little hiccup in the scheme of things.

The All Stars conducted themselves like Broadway Stars and we are Very Proud of their performances and behavior! **Great job All Stars....Take A Bow!!**

Press Coverage after the parade and being “POSITIVE”

We are thrilled that so many of the All Stars received good press and radio coverage in their home areas. That is an added thrill!

Please remember that whenever you are being interviewed, you represent the All Stars. Your comments will reflect your feelings about your experiences first hand. If you speak in a positive manner and express the fun you had, then so many will want to be like you, in their eyes, al-

most famous. If your comments are less than enthusiastic about your experience, then those listening will not aspire to be like you.

While we recognize that you practiced hard, you also got to do some fabulous things: Medieval Times, The Rockettes' Show, Broadway, Ben's and Herald Square. It wasn't all practice on a dark garage roof..truly.

Also, please remember when

you are responding to questions that Macy's had nothing to do with the tour or the merchandise you received. They invited us to participate in the parade and the USA Baton Twirling All Stars' organization did the rest. We don't want to get in trouble by mentioning Macy's inappropriately.

If you think you need assistance preparing for an interview please contact us for help. Have Fun!!!

Our Great Support System: Family & Friends

Not only was it wonderful to have 150 All Stars on the performance line, but to have 266 additional people with us throughout the week and at the Thanksgiving dinner was just incredible.

So many of the adults traveling with us constantly offered their assistance to Callene and David throughout the

week. From sewing to bus checks to helping with our two wheelchair members to offering the blessings at dinner....our Family & Friends were a great support system.

Anytime you are moving 400 people around, even when every plan has been made in advance, something is bound to pop up. Having the adults that are traveling with you

remain positive and cooperative sets the tone for the All Stars and the other children on the tour.

Rules sometimes seem foolish and inconvenient but are in place for everyone's safety. Having everyone following the rules and being respectful of those in authority helps make the tour run smoothly.

Thank You for your support!

Camps, Clinics and Other Special Events

BTNI's website contains a list of all events we host. Please keep checking for updates and brochures. If you have any questions just contact us and we will be glad to answer.

We would like to include pictures and articles on any All Star's activities be it college news or other news they would like everyone to be aware of.

Our 2009 Camp Brochure is available now online at

www.batontwirlingnetwork.com.

We are looking to offer short shot camps/clinics (3 day events) throughout different areas of the country. If you have a facility that we might consider using, please let Karen know. We would like to offer some non competitive opportunities for all twirlers to attends and enjoy.

We are also waiting on approval from the State of New York on holding a large outdoor event at Jones Beach.

This was a large multi organizational traditional event back in the 60's and 70's when Walt McShea was the host. We are trying to bring it back to life. We will post updates on our website so keep checking.

Hope to see you at one of our upcoming events!



Updates

You Are Our Inspiration

Seize the Day

Be glad of life because it gives you the chance to love and to work and to play and to look up at the stars.

Henry Van Dyke

Life's sweetest joys are hidden in un-substantial things....

May Riley Smith

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

Eleanor Roosevelt

*YOU
WERE
A
STAR
ON
BROADWAY!*

Check out www.usabatontwirlingallstars.com & www.batontwirlingnetwork.com and other special notes

If you lent your baton to our videographer and didn't get it back, Karen has them and will be mailing it back to you shortly.

If you would like to send a 1-2 line comment about your positive experiences in NYC, along with your name to us via email, we would like to start putting some comments up on the web page. Send to Karen at BTNI@verizon.net.

Send us your pictures from your week in NYC. If you could burn them onto a disk and mail to us at BTNI 14 Bond Street, STE 395, Great Neck, NY 11021 that would be great. We are going to try to get a photo gallery up on our websites for everyone to view. If you only have a few then go ahead and email them to Karen.

Our two websites will continu-

ally be updated with new events and anything we feel is of interest to you and the twirling world. Please keep checking the sites to stay informed with what we are busy doing. If you have something specific you would like to see us offer, just shoot us an email telling us about it.

We are here to serve you and enjoy quality life experiences together!

Check for updates on the web!

Response to an email Karen sent to her contact at Macy's on Friday following the parade

Hey Karen!

First of all, so sorry to hear about your hospital stay... what lousy timing!!! I was surprised not to see you at rehearsals and during parade week, but happy to hear you're doing better and got to catch the end of the experience. I can only imagine how frustrating that must have been for you!

As for the group's performance, from my perspective, I was really impressed with them! Their professionalism at NBC rehearsals was astonishing. Honestly, we rarely get a first time group who can put a routine together in just a few days and then show up to rehearsal focused and ready to go! It made our stressful rehearsal evening much lovelier. As for the parade performance, well, it was just a whirlwind -- I'll have to watch the parade again on my DVR to remind myself how it looked! :)

Seriously, you certainly delivered on what you promised. The kids were phenomenally talented and represented the best of what baton twirling has to offer. Thank you for that!

Let's discuss the reapplication procedure after the New Year.

Until then, hope you enjoy the holiday season -- and thanks again for all you did to make the 2008 parade so beautiful!

Cheers,
WW

**This email included a clause that said we may not know until spring whether we will be included in the parade next year but I replied and assured them, we would be willing and able no matter when they let us know! Keep your fingers crossed!*