

Into the Big Leagues

From left: Allison Ellner, DT Editorial Director Susan Amoruso, Bill Prudich, DT Publisher Carrie Molay, Robert Baker, Carol Paungarten and I are all smiles.

EDUARDO PINO



Every photo shoot has a great story—Katherine Dunham hamming it up in her New York City apartment; Martha Graham Artistic Director Terese Capucilli, in full Greek mythical regalia, cooing over her new baby; the girls from Colorado's Starstruck Dance Academy braving the cold of the snowy Rockies.

This month's cover shoot was quite special in its own way. What started out as wishful thinking (what if we got the country's four top studio owners in the same place at the same time?) turned into a driving desire (we've got to find a way to do this!) and finally, thanks to four very accommodating individuals and their respective staffs, a dream come true. On April 5, Carol Paungarten from Steps on Broadway, Allison Ellner from Broadway Dance Center, Robert Baker from Millennium Dance Complex and Bill Prudich from EDGE Performing Arts Center (the latter two from L.A.) gathered in our photographer's NYC studio for the first time.

These four artistic directors, from different backgrounds representing unique philosophies and business focuses, were remarkably genial with one another. Here were the nation's biggest players and yet there was no drama, only a genuine

sense of communion and sharing. Everyone had something to gab about. And you have more in common with them than you'd think. What did the talk turn to, between shots, but to teachers who back out last-minute from heavily publicized workshops and surly front-desk workers?

The results of our extensive Q & A with these four star directors appear in "Meet the Titans," starting on page 40, and are the perfect headliner for our business issue this year. I hope you find their answers as informative and inspirational as we did. Remember: Each of these studios started out small. And despite being world-renowned now, the directors told us over and over that they work the hardest to make their studios a "home away from home" for dancers. When you think about it, that's really the best thing that a studio can be.

JENI TU
MANAGING EDITOR