

Astoria, The New Arts District

April 18, 2018



(L. to r.): Amy Harrison, Executive Director of Rioult Dance NY, Hal Rosenbluth, President and CEO of Kaufman Astoria Studios; Juliet Papa, acclaimed reporter at 1010 WINS Radio; and Rob Walsh 1010 WINS Radio host, "The Bottom Line for Business." Photo Tony Barsamian

Internationally acclaimed modern dance company RIOULT Dance NY will open an 11,000-square foot facility, designed expressly for dance, in the Kaufman Arts District in Astoria, on the corner of 34th Avenue and Steinway Street. The RIOULT Dance Center will be a home for the RIOULT Dance NY company as well as a resource to the dance community offering professional training and affordable rehearsal space. Pascal Rioult's longtime vision will come to life this fall.

The center will give RIOULT an opportunity to fulfill a long term goal of opening the RIOULT Dance School, which will be a welcoming and accessible community resource offering classes for all ages and all abilities. In addition to providing high quality dance training, the center will boast a state of the art black box theater. Students will share the halls with the

professional dancers of RIOULT Dance NY creating an inspiring and inclusive artistic environment. "I see the RIOULT Dance Center becoming a destination of endless possibility and enrichment for Queens, for RIOULT Dance NY, and for the art of Dance," said Pascal Rioult, Artistic Director.

Education has been essential to the mission of RIOULT Dance NY for more than 20 years. Through the RIOULT Dance School, the Company will expand its existing educational programs to serve young people from toddlers to teens. Children's classes will include Modern, Ballet, Creative Movement, Hip Hop, African and Afro Caribbean Dance, Jazz, and Spanish Dance/Flamenco, among others. Inspired by the vision of Pascal Rioult, the RIOULT Dance School will carry forward a dance tradition that values individualism, welcomes diverse voices, and is committed to encouraging new voices to emerge.

The Center will serve a broad audience from professional dancers to those in the community who wish to explore different dance and dancebased forms. Classes geared toward professional dancers will include modern and ballet sporting an exemplary faculty with roots in the modern techniques of Martha Graham, Jose Limon, and May O'Donnell. Classes for the community will reflect the cultural diversity of Queens. Modern dance and ballet will coexist with culturally specific dance forms including African and Afro Caribbean dance and Flamenco, and fitness classes such as Pilates, Gyrokinesis, Body Conditioning, Masala Bhangra, among others.