



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

TILLES CENTER

Christina Hill, Director of Marketing

[christina.hill@liu.edu](mailto:christina.hill@liu.edu)

Vanessa Kellogg, Assistant Director of

Marketing & Programming

[vanessa.kellogg@liu.edu](mailto:vanessa.kellogg@liu.edu)

[Link](#) to Misty Copeland Marketing Assets

**MISTY COPELAND, FIRST BLACK PRINCIPAL BALLERINA OF  
AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE & FOUNDATION FOUNDER,  
TO APPEAR IN SPECIAL FUNDRAISING EVENT AT TILLES CENTER ON APRIL 26**

*One-Night-Only Event to Include Moderated Conversation with Susan Fales-Hill,  
and Performances by ABT Studio Company & BE BOLD Students*

*Proceeds Benefit Copeland's BE BOLD Program*

Brookville, NY [March, 2025] –**Tilles Center for the Performing Arts at Long Island University** is proud to host ***An Evening with Misty Copeland*** on Saturday, April 26 at 7:30 pm. This one-night-only event will see Ms. Copeland, ABT's first Black female principal dancer, author, and philanthropist, in conversation with screenwriter, author and producer, **Susan Fales-Hill**, as Copeland speaks about her legendary career. Dance performances will also be included, featuring members of the prestigious **American Ballet Theatre Studio Company**, of which Copeland is an alumna, and students of Copeland's **BE BOLD** program. Proceeds in part from *An Evening with Misty Copeland* will benefit the **Misty Copeland Foundation (MCF)** and its signature BE BOLD program, which will also hold special master classes for **Long Island students** at LIU on April 26.

"Building on the success of last season's unforgettable ***Lin-Manuel Miranda + Friends***, which brought the Broadway icon together with celebrated performers and local students, we are thrilled to welcome Misty Copeland to Tilles Center and Long Island University," shares **Tom Dunn**, Executive and Artistic Director, Tilles Center, and Dean of LIU's College of Arts and Design. "Her groundbreaking career and inspiring journey will not only captivate audiences but also provide invaluable inspiration to the next generation of artists. This promises to be an extraordinary evening of conversation, artistry, and mentorship."

In 2015, Misty Copeland was the first Black woman to be promoted to Principal Dancer with **American Ballet Theatre** in the company's 75-year history. Additionally, she is the *New York Times* best-selling author of *Life in Motion*, *Ballerina Body*, *Black Ballerinas*, and *Bunheads*, and is also author of the award-winning children's book, *Firebird. The Wind at My Back*, co-written with Ms. Fales-Hill, about pioneering ballerina and mentor Raven Wilkinson, was published in 2022.

In 2022, the Misty Copeland Foundation (MCF) was launched with its signature program BE BOLD, which aims to bring greater diversity, equity and inclusion to dance, especially ballet. Two special BE BOLD beginner classes will be held on the Long Island University campus earlier in the day on April 26 for "ballet-curious" children ages 6-10. **The students, from various Nassau and Suffolk County Boys and Girls Clubs and other not-for profit organizations**, will be offered an engaging introduction to the basics of ballet, including movement, creativity, and fun—all accompanied by live music.

"The Misty Copeland Foundation will offer two BE BOLD beginner-friendly master classes for local community members, emphasizing creativity, self-expression, and confidence-building, which are central to the program's inclusive approach to dance education, says the Foundation of the event. "Designed for children ages 5–10, these classes introduce the foundations of ballet through joyful movement, imagination, and the inspiration of live music, all within a welcoming environment that celebrates each child's individuality. Rooted in the BE BOLD model, the program provides a meaningful experience that nurtures personal growth, body awareness, and a strong sense of community."

Born in Kansas City, Missouri and raised in San Pedro, California, **Misty Copeland** began her ballet studies at the late age of thirteen. At fifteen, she won first place in the Music Center Spotlight Awards. She studied at the San Francisco Ballet School and American Ballet Theatre's Summer Intensive on full scholarship and was declared ABT's National Coca-Cola Scholar in 2000. Misty joined ABT's Studio Company in September 2000, joined American Ballet Theatre as a member of the corps de ballet in April 2001, and in August 2007 became the company's second African American female Soloist. In June 2015, Copeland was promoted to principal dancer, making her the first African American woman to ever be promoted to the position in the company's then 75-year history.

Moderator **Susan Fales-Hill** is an award-winning television writer/producer, author and arts advocate, who sits on the board of American Ballet Theatre. Early in her career she worked on *The Cosby Show* spinoff series *A Different World*, where she became one of Hollywood's few female and youngest show runners. Under her leadership, the show received the Nancy Susan Reynolds Award, was nominated for the NAACP Image Award, an Emmy, and received the prestigious Humanitas Prize. Ms. Fales-Hill currently serves as an Executive Producer/Writer on HBO's *And Just Like That*, and co-wrote the two inaugural episodes of the second season.

**American Ballet Theatre Studio Company** seeks to develop the next generation of ballet dancers, choreographers and audiences. The central mission of ABT Studio Company is to prepare its exceptionally promising dancers for careers in American Ballet Theatre's main Company or other leading ballet companies worldwide. ABT Studio Company serves as the crucial vehicle for transitioning from student to professional performer. Over 80% of current American Ballet Theatre dancers are alumni of ABT Studio Company.

###

**Ticket Information:** Purchase subscriptions and single tickets at [tillescenter.org](http://tillescenter.org) or [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com), in-person at Tilles Center's Tantleff Box Office or by telephone at 516.299.3100. The box office, located at 720 Northern Boulevard (Route 25A) in Brookville, New York, is open Monday to Friday from 1 to 6 p.m. Fees are associated with all orders, and there are no refunds, though subscribers also enjoy exchange privileges.

#### **ABOUT TILLES CENTER**

Tilles Center for the Performing Arts at LIU Post's mission is to engage and enrich our community through arts performance, education, and advocacy. For more than 40 years, Tilles Center has hosted and presented more than 50 performances each season by world-renowned artists in music, theater, and dance. The nonprofit also supports thousands of children and adult learners each year through its robust arts education programs, providing arts experiences to underserved communities — from low-income school districts and those on the autism spectrum to local seniors. Tilles Center is located at LIU Post, 720 Northern Blvd, Brookville NY. Learn more at [tillescenter.org](http://tillescenter.org).

#### **ABOUT THE MISTY COPELAND FOUNDATION & BE BOLD**

The Misty Copeland Foundation is dedicated to expanding access to dance and the arts, empowering young people from under-resourced communities through movement, mentorship, and opportunity. Founded by

trailblazing ballerina Misty Copeland, the foundation strives to break barriers in ballet and cultivate a more inclusive and diverse future for the art form. Through programs like BE BOLD, which provides free, high-quality dance education, the foundation nurtures confidence, creativity, and self-expression, ensuring that every child has the chance to experience the transformative power of dance.

### **ABOUT LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY (LIU)**

Long Island University, founded in 1926, continues to redefine higher education, providing high quality academic instruction by world-class faculty. Recognized by Forbes for its emphasis on experiential learning and by the Brookings Institution for its “value added” to student outcomes, LIU has a network of over 285,000 alumni, including industry leaders and entrepreneurs around the globe. Visit [liu.edu](http://liu.edu) for more information.

### **ABOUT CATHOLIC HEALTH**

Catholic Health is an integrated system encompassing some of the region’s finest health and human services agencies. The health system has nearly 17,000 employees, six acute care hospitals, three nursing homes, a home health service, hospice, and a network of physician practices.

### **OUR PARTNERS**

A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, funding for the 2024/25 season at Tilles Center for the Performing Arts at LIU Post comes from Season Sponsor Catholic Health.

Additional support is provided by Sandy and Eric Krasnoff, Dime Community Bank, Eileen and Jon Otto, Northville Industries, The Honorable Roger B. Tilles, Dori and Peter Tilles, Capital One, The Guru Krupa Foundation, Poll Restaurants, Assemblymember Charles D. Lavine, Salvatore and Mary Ranieri, Dori and Peter Tilles, Ruskin Moscou Faltischek, TD Bank, The Claire Friedlander Family Foundation, Green Vale School, Friends Academy, Portledge School, Lisa and Brian Land and Long Island Speech & Myofunctional Therapy.

Classical music performances are made possible, in part, by the Classical Music Fund in honor of Dr. Elliot Sroka. With additional funding provided by Manuel H. and Claire Barron, the Joan and David Steinberg Annual Endowed Concert Fund, the Cosmo H. Guarriello and Lissa V. De Angelis Happiness Fund, Sandra L. and Steven P. Harris, Ruth Stober and The Stober Lafer Family Foundation.

Tilles Center’s presenting program receives funding from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature.

#### Funding for Arts Education

School Partnership Program: New York Community Trust – Long Island, Salvatore and Mary Ranieri and Jovia Financial Credit Union

Sensory Friendly Initiatives: The Fay J. Lindner Foundation and The Theresa Foundation

Arts & Aging Programs: Cona Elder Law, Long Island Speech & Myofunctional Therapy & Northeastern Aviation

Additional support for arts education provided by Barbara Bell Cumming Charitable Trust, The Kroll Family, Jim Krantz and Jason and Teddy Richmond.

Arts Education Programs are made possible, in part, by the Gilbert and Rose Tilles Endowment for Arts Education. Additional leadership support provided by the annual *Swing for Kids Tournament*.

#### Capital Improvement Fund

Support for capital projects provided by the Estate of Dolores and Herbert Goldsmith, Dori and Peter Tilles and The Tantleff Family. With additional support from the Estate of Irwin Fingerit and the Estate of Virginia Marshall.

Classical Media Partner: WSHU