



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

DAVID A. PATERSON
GOVERNOR

May 17, 2008

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to send greetings to everyone who has gathered to enjoy the *2nd Annual Dance Parade and Festival* in New York City.

The Empire State is very fortunate to be home to a wealth of resources for the creative and performing arts, with a brilliant array of artistic offerings that invite the mind, engage the heart and inspire the soul. Among the purest of art forms, dance has exhilarating and transformative powers, awakening the talents and abilities of the dancer, so they experience the joy of rhythm and movement, and the thrill of communicating that joy through performance.

This year, more and more dancers are taking part in the New York Dance Parade, with nearly 4000 people participating, including 108 organizations displaying 31 different dance styles. On behalf of all New Yorkers, I congratulate those affiliated with this impressive event and extend the sincere hope that the Dance Parade may long continue in its mission to highlight the diversity and the similarity of New York's many cultures through artistic integrity, sharing hope through the language of dance, for many years to come.

With warmest regards, and best wishes for a special celebration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David A. Paterson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DAVID A. PATERSON
Governor