When Cheri T. Walsh was growing up in Irvine, California, her mother enrolled the three-year-old in a creative movement class. “Which basically meant we ran around in circles to classical music,” Walsh says.

At the end of the year, all the little girls put on tutus, gave a performance for their parents, and dutifully posed for photos. End of that tiny ballerina story.

Except, says Walsh, “I just never stopped.”

She trained in classical ballet and went on to a full-fledged career in modern dance and musical theater, touring the United States and Europe.

Now the managing director of Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College, Walsh uses her first-hand knowledge of what it takes to put on a show to bring all manner of performing artists to the borough.

“I program from the gut,” she says. “I’ll see something, I’ll love it, and I’ll say, ‘We must bring it to Brooklyn!’”

While Walsh enjoyed her career as a dancer, she knew she didn’t want the long hours of training, frequent travel, and physical pain for little pay to go on for decades. She earned a bachelor’s degree in political science instead, and had plans to attend law school. But then she took a trip to New York, expecting to go to a few auditions and possibly take a class, and “completely fell in love with the city.” She also fell in love with Robert W. Walsh, now her husband and commissioner of the New York City Department of Small Business Services.

The two live in Carroll Gardens with their three-year-old son, Liam.

Walsh joined the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts three years ago as director of development and was named managing director summer 2004. “We present things you can’t see in Manhattan,” she says of the center. “Our mission is to serve Brooklyn, and we remain mindful of its communities.”

“Crossover audiences make us very special,” Walsh says. The center has a range of programs to please everyone, from Klezmer bands and Chinese acrobats to Brazilian tango dancers and Russian ballet.

Walsh is eager to broaden the programming even further, perhaps one day having larger dance festivals and inviting artists to come for extended teaching residencies. “We want to be the cultural anchor for southern Brooklyn,” she says.
Brooklyn College is planning an extension of its Center for the Performing Arts. The new, architecturally distinguished building will house rehearsal and performance space, set design and construction workshops, a double-height theater, and a grand lobby and arcade for exhibitions as well as classrooms, and meeting and reception rooms. This pavilion for the performing arts will attract theorists and practicing artists, talented students, and accomplished faculty.

Brooklyn College alumni Leonard and Claire Tow have pledged an unprecedented matching gift of $10 million to Brooklyn College for the new structure, the first building on campus to be financed through a public and private partnership.
Saturday, March 25
Women's Softball. BC vs. York College. Doubleheader: Noon, Athletic Field.

An Evening with Bob Newhart. Bob Newhart's career includes decades of stand-up comedy, two long-running television series, and numerous movies. 8 p.m., Whitman Hall. $20–$40.

Tuesday, March 28
Men's Tennis. BC vs. Hunter College. 4 p.m., Tennis Courts.

Student Center Film Raps. Carlo's Way. Film and discussion. 6:30 p.m., Student Center.

Wednesday, March 29
Women's Softball. BC vs. College of St. Elizabeth. Doubleheader: 5 p.m., Athletic Field.

Thursday, March 30
Conservatory Faculty Recital Series. Lars Frandsen, guitar. 2 p.m., Levenson Recital Hall. $5.

Student Center Film Raps. Hide and Seek. Film and discussion. 6:30 p.m., Student Center.

Friday, March 31
Conservatory Orchestra with the Brooklyn College Chorale. Haydn, The Creation. 7 p.m., Whitman Hall. $5.

Saturday, April 1
Manding Juta. The fabled city of Timbuktu comes to life in a dance displaying strength, grace, and acrobatics. 8 p.m., Whitman Hall. $15–$30.

Sunday, April 2
Open House. For all prospective and accepted students (freshmen, transfers, and graduate). For information, call (718) 951-5001. 10 a.m., Student Center.

Berestain Bears on Stage. Mama Bear, Papa Bear; Sister Bear; and Brother Bear will take children through classic adventures in this new musical storytelling event, conceived by Stan and Jan Berenstain. 2 p.m., Whitman Hall. $10–$20.

Monday, April 3
Men's Tennis. BC vs. SUNY Maritime College. 4 p.m., Tennis Courts.

Tuesday, April 4
Conservatory Faculty Recital Series. Douglas Hedwig, trumpet. 2 p.m., Levenson Recital Hall. $5.

Women's Softball. BC vs. College of Staten Island. 6 p.m., Athletic Field.

Student Center Film Raps. Two for the Money. Film and discussion. 6:30 p.m., Student Center.

Wednesday, April 5
Music for Strings II. Conservatory of Music students present chamber works for strings. 5 p.m., Levenson Recital Hall.

Thursday, April 6
Student Center Film Raps. Happy Gilmore. Film and discussion. 6:30 p.m., Student Center.

Friday, April 7
Women's Softball. BC vs. Lehman College. 4 p.m., Athletic Field.

Saturday, April 8
Prep Center Student Recital. 12:30 p.m., Levenson Recital Hall.

Sunday, April 9
David Amram. David Amram and a group of ten other musicians demonstrate the dazzling variety of Jewish music. 2 p.m., Whitman Hall. $25.

Monday, April 10
Men's Tennis. BC vs. SUNY Purchase. 5 p.m., Tennis Courts.

Brooklyn College String Project Spring Showcase. One hundred children, ages five and above, all pupils of BC Conservatory of Music students, perform. 7 p.m., Whitman Hall.

Tuesday, April 11
Brooklyn College Percussion Ensemble and the Royal Irish Academy of Music Percussion Ensemble. The seventh annual joint concert, under the direction of Morris Lang, Brian Willson, and Richard O'Donnell. 2 p.m., Whitman Hall. $5.

Men's Tennis. BC vs. New York City Tech. 4 p.m., Tennis Courts.

Women's Softball. BC vs. Baruch College. 6 p.m., Athletic Field.

Student Center Film Raps. The Dukes of Hazzard. Film and discussion. 6:30 p.m., Student Center.

Saturday, April 15
Women's Softball. BC vs. Medgar Evers College. Doubleheader: Noon, Athletic Field.

Lazer Vaudeville. Vaudeville makes a triumphant and high-tech return, featuring black light with juggling, lasers with magic, audience participation with acrobatics and slapstick comedy. 1 p.m., Whitman Hall. $8–$15.

Friday, April 21
Men's Tennis. BC vs. York College. 3:30 p.m., Tennis Courts.

Saturday, April 22

Russian/American Kids Circus on Stage. One of the world's most exceptional children's circuses returns to Brooklyn for only one performance of high-wire balancing, unicycle riding, and improbable juggling. 1 p.m., Whitman Hall. $10–$20.

Sunday, April 23
Yidishe Cup Klezmer Band. This group does neo-Borscht Belt klezmer comedy that will have you dancing with the shtickmeister! 2 p.m., Whitman Hall. $25.

Tuesday, April 25
Women's Softball. BC vs. New York City Tech. Doubleheader: 5:30 p.m., Athletic Field.

Student Center Film Raps. The Man. Film and discussion. 6:30 p.m., Student Center.

Wednesday, April 26
Women's Softball. BC vs. John Jay College. 4 p.m., Athletic Field.

All events are free unless otherwise noted. Programs in the Student Center require a valid Brooklyn College ID or a Community Resident Pass for admission (see page 4). For tickets and information about events at Whitman Hall, Gershwin Theater, and the New Workshop Theater, call the box office, (718) 951-4500.

Monday, April 27
Conservatory Student Chamber Music Recital II. 2 p.m., Levenson Recital Hall.

Student Center Film Raps. Presumed Innocent. Film and discussion. 6:30 p.m., Student Center.

Thursday, April 27, to Sunday, April 30
The Crucible, by Arthur Miller. The tale of a 1692 witch trial, which explores the timeless issues of intolerance, paranoia, and hysteria. Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m., Gershwin Theater. $12.

Friday, April 28
Men's Tennis. BC vs. Lehman College. 4 p.m., Tennis Courts.

Saturday, April 29
Prep Center Faculty Recital. Victoria Freyburg, Nick Armstrong, Kalin Ivanov; Valerie Coates perform. 12:30 p.m., Levenson Recital Hall.

Saturday, April 29, to Sunday, April 30
National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica. Directed by Professor Rex Nettleford, the company presents the New York premiere of Nettleford's The King Must Die, Arsenio Andrade's Dimensions, and Christopher Walker's Urban Fissures. Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m., Whitman Hall. $20–$40.

Monday, May 1
ConTempo, directed by Tania León. Conservatory students perform contemporary works. 7 p.m., Levenson Recital Hall. $5.

Monday, May 1, to Friday, May 5
Volunteer Days. Campus and neighborhood cleanup. Sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs. For details, call (718) 951-5842.

continued on next page
Cats, Sunday, May 21, 2006, at 4 p.m.

Don’t miss your chance to experience the twenty-fifth anniversary tour of Cats! With over 45,000 performances in twenty-six countries, what began with Andrew Lloyd Webber’s purchase of a book of poems about cats became one of the longest running shows in Broadway’s history. Winner of Best Musical and six other Tony awards, Cats features twenty of Lloyd Webber’s timeless melodies, including the hit song Memory. And you thought cats had only nine lives!

Wednesday, May 3

Men's Tennis. BC vs. St. Joseph's College. 4 p.m., Tennis Courts.

Thursday, May 4

Student Center Film Raps. Enemy of the State. Film and discussion. 6:30 p.m., Student Center.

Friday, May 5, to Friday, June 2

M.F.A. Thesis Exhibition, Opening Reception. Brooklyn College M.F.A. in art students present their thesis works in a show, entitled Plan B. For gallery hours, call (718) 951-3572. Opening reception: Friday, May 5, 6 p.m.; Brooklyn War Memorial, 195 Cadman Plaza West.

Friday, May 12

Scenes from Great Operas. 7 p.m., Levenson Recital Hall.

Monday, May 15

Composers Concert II. Conservatory composers present their new works. 7 p.m., Levenson Recital Hall.

Wednesday, May 17

Conservatory Wind Ensemble, directed by Paul Corn. 7 p.m., Whitman Hall, $5.

Sunday, May 21

Cats. The award-winning musical comes to Brooklyn. 4 p.m., Whitman Hall. $20–$45.

Tuesday, June 27

Open House. For transfer students. For more information, call (718) 951-5001. 3 to 7 p.m., Student Center.

Thursday, May 11

Conservatory Orchestra, directed by Gene Rothman. The Conservatory Concerto Competition winner performs. 5 p.m., Whitman Hall. $5.

Student Center Film Raps. The Specialist. Film and discussion. 6:30 p.m., Student Center.

Friday, May 12

Scenes from Great Operas. 7 p.m., Levenson Recital Hall.

Monday, May 15

Composers Concert II. Conservatory composers present their new works. 7 p.m., Levenson Recital Hall.

Tuesday, May 16

Conservatory Jazz Ensemble, directed by Salim Washington. 5 p.m., Levenson Recital Hall.

Wednesday, May 10

Conservatory Brass Ensemble with the Brooklyn College Percussion Ensemble, directed by Douglas Hedwig and Morris Lang. 5 p.m., Levenson Recital Hall. $5.

Thursday, May 11

Conservatory Orchestra, directed by Gene Rothman. The Conservatory Concerto Competition winner performs. 5 p.m., Whitman Hall. $5.

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Sunday, May 21

Cats. The award-winning musical comes to Brooklyn. 4 p.m., Whitman Hall. $20–$45.

Tuesday, June 27

Open House. For transfer students. For more information, call (718) 951-5001. 3 to 7 p.m., Student Center.

Monday, July 24

Open House. For transfer students. For more information, call (718) 951-5001. 3 to 7 p.m., Student Center.