



DANCE TEACHER VIDEO OF THE MONTH

TAP happy

Congratulations to **Jennifer DiDonato**, Editors' Choice for the *Dance Teacher* Video of the Month!

While on faculty at the New York Film Academy in New York City, DiDonato choreographed and directed this tap

dance video, *Babble by Bombershay*, in the style of a black-and-white silent movie.

Advanced tappers from

the school's musical theater certificate program performed in the film as part of an independent study project. "At the Film Academy, we want them to learn to focus on the story and remember what they're trying to do and not just dance for dancing's sake," she says. "I thought this would be a great opportunity for them to use tap to express themselves."

Throughout the film, the only sounds are vaudevillian piano music and tapping. To capture clean tap sounds, DiDonato says, they shot the scene first—at Café Regular du Nord in Brooklyn, which frequently hosts artists. Then they recorded dancers tapping in a sound booth to match the film. —*Andrea Marks*

To see the film, go to dancemedia.com/v/10656.

Want to build buzz about your studio, workshop or class? Posting videos to the *Dance Teacher* Video of the Month Contest is quick, easy and free. If your video is selected as Editors' Choice, you'll be featured on this page, on dance-teacher.com and in *DT's* newsletter! Visit dancemedia.com to share your videos and vote for your favorites.



SURVEY SAYS

"From viewing windows to closed-circuit TVs to scheduled observation days, studio owners have many ways of addressing parents' desire to see their children in action. What is the policy at your studio? Why?"

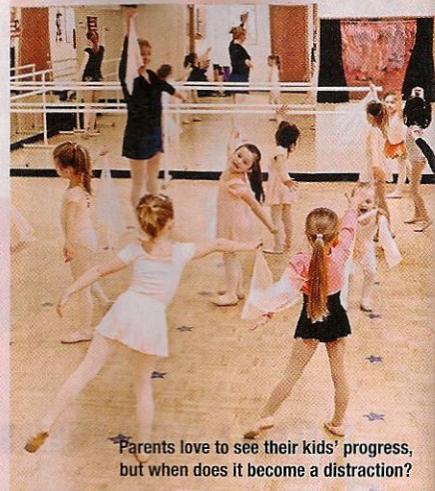
"We have windows in two of three studios. Competition and older classes are always in one without windows. The parents don't stay for those."

—*Danielle Talbott @MsDanieDances*

"We have observation days as well as a week when parents can take class with their kids."

—*Rachel Smith @rsmithdances*

"Our studio has video cameras/TV screens." —*DanceParentProblems @DanceParentProb*



Parents love to see their kids' progress, but when does it become a distraction?

"When they are old enough to be in the room by themselves, parents get to see routines approximately one time a month."

—*Shea Dances @SheaDances*

If parents crowding around studio windows and doors are making it impossible to teach, turn to "Please Don't Tap on the Glass" (page 84) for advice on choosing a viewing policy that works.

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THIS MONTH ON DANCE-TEACHER.COM

➔ **VIDEO!** *Ailey II* director **Troy Powell** teaches a Horton balance series.

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COVER GALLERY

APRIL 2002 The late Denise Jefferson, who directed The Ailey School until 2010, told *DT*, "When I was younger, I would scream and yell more—not necessarily negatively—but I was more personal and high-energy. As I've gotten older, I've started believing in creating an artist by creating a safe environment. You don't have to intimidate—that's old school. You support the students."

On page 54, *Ailey II* director Troy Powell—one of the teachers carrying out Jefferson's legacy—shares his approach to Horton technique, a foundation of Ailey choreography.



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