

Tahawus Lodge Center

TODD BISSONETTE - BIOGRAPHY

A native Adirondacker based in Lake Placid, N.Y, photographer Todd Bissonette works in a variety of genres as a journalist and artist including sports, news, special events, weddings, portraits, commercial assignments, and in dance. As a full time photojournalist and stringer for the Associated Press, The New York Times, The Press Republican, and independent contributor to regional and national publications, Todd's photography covers a number of World Cup and World Class events, specializing in Bobsledding, Luge, Skeleton, Ice Hockey, Biathlon, Alpine Skiing, Cross Country Skiing, and Ski Jumping.

Bissonette also documents dance from its first expressions in the young child, through the student of dance, to the polished accomplishment of professional performance, in all the settings dancers practice their art, with the goal to reveal the interest the rural community has for dance, and the idea that exposure helps connect communities. He has long been affiliated with Rebecca Kelly Ballet and its **Onstage Youth Performance Camp** at Lake Placid, and with the **North Country Ballet Ensemble** of Plattsburgh in their annual holiday Nutcracker Ballet productions.

Todd Bissonette and choreographer Rebecca Kelly (New York City) began a collaboration in 2007 ago to reveal the rich tapestry of dance in the North Country. Rebecca and Todd enjoyed the process of "capturing" those moments that a choreographer weaves together to make a ballet. In Todd, Rebecca found a photographer with dance-like timing, possessed of a keen and inquisitive eye and an ease with people that enabled him to fit seamlessly into the rhythms of dance. His solo show, *Captured Moments* at the Point of View Gallery, LP, 2009, exhibited a large collection of performance based dance images. Many now can be seen at the Windows Gallery at Tahawus Lodge Center, in Au Sable Forks, NY.

ARTIST STATEMENT

I'm there as a spectator not to choreograph or create something that's not there. I focus and document the natural state of the subject I'm there to capture. The right shots have a feeling. You just see something and hear the shutter and feel - Wow, I caught that. The feeling of fulfillment, of an artistic millisecond plucked from the progression of time. When it happens, it spreads. I know somebody else is going to be able to look at that and feel how I felt. A lot of the ways we celebrate are so fleeting. Through photography, we can keep them and share them with others; the record remains. What a tremendous way this is to define life. It can bring emotions back. TB www.RTBPhoto.com

