



Gurur Ertem (left)
and Aydın Silier at
the iDANS Gala

Istanbul, Dance Your Heart Out

Two Robert College graduates, Aydın Silier RC 79 and Gurur Ertem RC 94, have teamed up to take dance to new heights in Turkey. Their Bimeras Cultural Foundation, an organization based in Istanbul to promote international collaboration in contemporary dance and performance, this year organized the first-ever iDANS International Festival of Contemporary Dance and Performance. The festival took place September 20 - October 20, 2007 at various venues in Istanbul. "We focus on international works that question and explore taken for granted definitions of the body and of dance," says Ertem. The theme for this year was "solo", an exploration of the possibilities the solo form offers to both artistic and social issues. "We were really pleased with the interest shown in the festival," says Ertem. "We managed to move beyond the traditional dance audience. More than half in the audience were new to this kind of work, and a large number were international." Ertem went to New York after the festival to attend a performance biennial and says she was happy to see that iDANS was being talked about. The festival will continue annually and will also feature a conference and lecture/performance series which address related themes in order to create an informed discussion about the questions and concerns raised by contemporary dance. For more information please visit: www.idans.org.