

DANCESCAPE



Courtesy Mattel, Inc.

▲ *Dancers' careers are notoriously short, but Barbie, who celebrates her thirty-fifth birthday this year, has been dancing nearly as long as she's been around. In 1961, the same year she met Ken, Barbie became a ballerina. She has since gone on to become a performer on a TV dance club show as well as a Rockette. This Nutcracker Barbie is a rare special edition issued several years ago; there's been a deluxe Swan Lake Barbie, too. One of the least expensive Barbies on the market, though, is also dressed in a tutu and toes shoes—especially useful when your feet are permanently en pointe. There's even a Cavalier Ken to partner her!*

Among the many commemorations of her birthday are Barbie: In Fashion (published by Abbeville), a tiny portfolio of exquisite ensembles with an introduction

written by Barbie herself (with some help from Laura Jacobs), and The Art of Barbie (Workman), in which the doll is depicted by a galaxy of star artists.

But can anything else in this anniversary year match the panache of Café Barbie, this fall at The Kitchen in New York City? Billed as "an intercontinental salon," the evening linked Manhattanites with devotees in Paris and Santa Monica in the first event of Electronic Café International, the Kitchen's new interactive multimedia facility. The spectacle included a visual art exhibition, live discussion from all three cities, and a celebration of the publication of Forever Barbie: The Unauthorized Biography of a Real Doll by M. G. Lord (William Morrow). Happy birthday, girlfriend!

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