

# An Open Letter to the Pilates Community

*Regarding Ms. Siri Galliano's Defamation of Various Pilates Professionals and Me.*

*From: PETER FIASCA*

*February, 2012*

Dear Friends in the Pilates Community:

If you are reading this letter, chances are you have meaningful ties to our community. You likely know that the Pilates community—like many communities—has its fair share of disagreements, conflicts and disputes, on issues ranging from philosophies to practice methods. Differences of opinion can often foster healthy discussion, regardless of one's leanings. However, when the dialogue devolves into baseless, crass, harmful and unlawful accusations, there comes a time when one must stand up and say: *Enough is Enough*. Hence this letter.

I'm writing to you about a troubling matter that unfortunately has reached the point where I have decided not to remain silent, either for myself or for the sake of the Pilates community. As some of you may know, Ms. Siri Galliano, proprietor of a Pilates studio in Los Angeles, fancies herself as instructor-to-the-stars. Her website proclaims that she is "one of the most sought-after experts on Pilates, and has been featured on television and in several major magazines, entertaining and informing audiences with her passionate views," yet instead of engendering respect, Ms. Galliano prefers to stir fear by attempting to discredit reputations. People are indeed afraid of saying or writing anything that might provoke her wrath.

We are led to believe by such rhetoric that her opinions, of course, are beyond question. I don't think so. Certainly, she is "passionate," as I have learned during a vendetta she has pursued against me over the past two years—one about which she has boasted in emails to others in the Pilates community. To one professional friend she wrote, "You want to fight? I'm Italian you idiot." This is the same person whose instruction, according to her website, "incorporates a combination of focus, joy and a refreshing sense of humor," which is a clear contradiction compared to her highly unprofessional, repeated, increasingly suspect and self-discrediting Internet tirades.

Ms. Galliano regularly uses the Internet to broadcast her opinions and rebuke her perceived opponents who might espouse differing approaches as if having the loudest and most shrill opinion somehow renders her views beyond reproach.

For over 2½ years I ignored her misguided ramblings. However, I have seen Ms. Galliano's attacks escalate against me and many others whom she capriciously detests, or, those who simply do not share her views. The time has come to say: *Enough is Enough*.

The purpose of this letter is not to provide an exhaustive recitation of all of Ms. Galliano's bitter misstatements and ramblings, but rather to take a stand against her inappropriate conduct as well as blatantly untrue, disparaging commentary. Indeed, I have engaged legal counsel, which has served Ms. Galliano with a "cease and desist letter" (which you can review [here](#)) advising her of my position.

As expected, Ms. Galliano promptly fired away on the Internet about the letter itself. As expected, Ms. Galliano tried to shout her message even louder still, generically crying “freedom of the press,” which obviously does not give her the right to make outrageously false, bizarre, damaging and defamatory statements. *Enough is Enough.*

I sincerely regret that I must communicate with you about this situation, but I’m compelled to voice my point of view to those of you who have expressed tireless support and who share my mission to unify and encourage those of us who seek to preserve the teachings of Joe Pilates.

I want you to know that my past silence about Ms. Galliano’s ridiculous Internet rants has been driven by a hope that she would find some other less damaging obsession and move on. But given her continued aggressive and personally disparaging pursuit of this vicious vendetta, I have been left with no choice but to speak out at this time. I want to make sure you know that my past silence has in no way been an acknowledgement of even a shred of truth in her commentary.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, for being a part of ClassicalPilates.net and for your dedication to maintaining the integrity of Pilates. If enough people take a stand against Ms. Galliano’s vindictiveness, her power to scare people might subside. Please let me know if you have any questions and comments.

Sincerely,

*PETER FIASCA*