

JEROME FOUNDATION FY 2007 Grants Awarded in Dance

Ananya Dance Theatre

The ANANYA DANCE THEATRE, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received \$10,000 in support of the creation and production of a new work, *Pipaasha*, to be presented in September 2007. Ananya Dance Theater is a company of women artists of color, diverse in many ways but uniformly committed to artistic excellence and the passionate articulation of their dreams, hopes and desires. The company, under the direction of Ananya Chatterjea, uses the Odissi classical style of dance and blends it with the line and breath release of yoga, the abstract theatrics of Indian ritual practices, and the urgent energy of street theater. *Pipaasha, Extreme Thirst*, is a response to the steady drying up of the world's resources, specifically through environmental damage, which heightens the vulnerable position in which much of the world's women and children are forced to live. The work explores ideas of loss and struggle, the desire to live, and the relationship of these ideas to femininity.

ChameckiLerner

CHAMECKILERNER, New York City, received \$8,000 in support of the production of a new work, tentatively titled *Exit*. Founded in 1993 by Andrea Lerner and Rosane Chamecki, this contemporary dance company creates environments that flirt with a physical and fantastic reality, sometimes seeming almost real yet slightly absurd, sometimes seeming fantastic yet disturbingly real. *Exit* will reflect both the challenges inherent in the field of dance and the process of aging as creators, serving as an allusion to the artist's capacity for navigating the unknown.

Dance New Amsterdam

A two-year grant of \$40,000 was awarded to DANCE NEW AMSTERDAM, formerly known as Dance Space Center, New York City. These funds support *In the Company of Men*, a concert series that commissions new work by male emerging choreographers. Established in 1994, *In the Company of Men* promotes the development and growth of today's emerging male choreographers and inspires the next generation of male dance artists. Six to eight choreographers present new works over a four-day series.

Dance Theater Workshop

DANCE THEATER WORKSHOP, New York City, received \$35,000 in support of the Bessie Schönberg/First Light Commissioning Program. Dance Theater Workshop, one of the country's preeminent service, producing and presenting organizations, is dedicated to identifying and nurturing talented emerging and mid-career artists working in diverse cultural contexts, stimulating a broader audience and public context for these artists and their works, and offering opportunities via an interactive community laboratory for the imagination and its essential, practical application to the surrounding world. Jerome funding will support commissions to emerging choreographers for the development of new work for presentation in the 2006-07 season. These commissions supplement guaranteed performance fees, production services, and promotional support provided to artists as part of the ongoing sponsorship program. It is anticipated that 11 emerging choreographers or pairs of collaborators will be commissioned.

Danspace Project

DANSPACE PROJECT, New York City, has received support from the Jerome Foundation since 1996 for the Commissioning Initiative, which allows the Executive Director and advisors to select emerging choreographers for commissioning support. Danspace Project stimulates, promotes and presents challenging new work in dance from a broad range of artistic voices within a distinguished and nurturing environment. It encourages choreographers to take risks and is committed to assisting artists in realizing their creative visions. Approximately 13 commissions will be made each year, representing financial support above and beyond the presentation fees that the organization pays to emerging choreographers who present new works at Danspace Project. A two-year grant of \$55,000 was approved.

DanzAisa

DANZAISA, New York City, operates under the direction of choreographer Gabri Christa. The organization received \$10,000 in support of the development and production of *Memoria*, a new work to be produced in early 2008. *Memoria* is a multimedia performance project inspired by the work of the writer Hanif Kureishi. Christa's themes are lost dreams, the isolation of living and probably dying in a country or a place where one wasn't born, the distance from relatives and family and the creation of a new community that becomes a family. With *Memoria*, Christa will continue to address the immigrant experience, an ongoing theme for her.

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DD Dorvillier/human future dance corps/The Field

THE FIELD, New York City, acting as fiscal agent for HUMAN FUTURE DANCE CORPS, received a two-year grant of \$22,000 in support of the creation and production of two evening-length works by choreographer DD Dorvillier. human future dance corps, a multidisciplinary ensemble, is dedicated to the presentation of original art in a postmodern idiom, emphasizing creative risk taking and innovation. In the new work **No Change**, Dorvillier will incorporate activities ranging from pedestrian marking, organizing, and measuring of the space to physically charged and articulated dances within an interactive sound installation. The two energies will build a dialog between states, from loose and ambient to sharp and expressive. **Santajack** will examine the inescapable destructive force at play in the construction of choreography. This cinema/dance installation will involve six dancers, a 40-minute video/film, and surround sound installation. The dance will be built collaboratively.

Lawrence Goldhuber/BIGMANARTS/Dance Theater Workshop

DANCE THEATER WORKSHOP, New York City, acting as fiscal sponsor for BIGMANARTS, received a grant of \$8,000 in support of the production of works by Lawrence Goldhuber in May 2007. Goldhuber's work is usually related to his large physical size and society's misconceptions of and prejudices toward obese people. The show will include the New York premiere of **The Seven Deadly Sins: Gluttony**, a new work titled **Hoody**, and two additional works.

Miguel Gutierrez/Danspace Project

DANSPACE PROJECT, New York City, acting as fiscal sponsor for choreographer MIGUEL GUTIERREZ, received \$9,000 in support of the development and production of **Hybrid**, a work for seven to nine dancers, created in collaboration between Miguel Gutierrez and the Powerful People. **Hybrid** looks at different manifestations of "hybridity" in the spaces of form, culture, the body and performance. This work will explore and create fluid pathways among a mix of performance forms and among people in the space, generating an exchange of energy and experience. Gutierrez continues his investigation of how to translate the experimental nature of performing into a sensory experience for the audience.

H.T. Dance Company Inc.

H.T. CHEN DANCE COMPANY/MULBERRY STREET THEATER, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$20,000 in support of the **Ear to the Ground** commissioning series for emerging Asian American choreographers. The organization, founded in 1978, promotes contemporary dance and Asian American expression through artistic creation, arts education and presentation. Since 1994, the Jerome Foundation has provided support that enables the Company to commission new dance works from emerging choreographers, provide rehearsal and performance space, and produce video documentation of the works. Choreographers may apply to the program or be nominated; and their applications are reviewed by independent rotating panels. For many emerging choreographers, this series functions as a springboard for the development of and greater attention for their work.

Luis Lara Malvacias/The Field

THE FIELD, New York City, acting as fiscal sponsor for LUIS LARA MALVACIAS, received a grant of \$9,000 in support of the creation of **There is no such Thing**. Malvacias is a choreographer, dancer, designer and visual artist. **There is no such Thing** will explore the power of images and words to trigger and manipulate emotions, references and behaviors as related to individual experiences. Malvacias will investigate the verbal, visual and physical possibilities contained in the concepts of hiding and struggling. Twenty-one short sections form the structure of the piece. The resulting work will contain physically contradictory movement material, theatrical images, spontaneous actions and immediate performance, videos, installations and manipulated sounds.

Sarah Michelson/The Field

THE FIELD, New York City, as fiscal sponsor for choreographer SARAH MICHELSON, received a two-year grant of \$20,000 in support of the creation of a new work, **Plain** (working title), to be premiered in 2008 and presented in Wales the following year. **Plain** is a musical that imitates the aesthetic of cartoon. It is Michelson's aim to sustain a collaborative laboratory for the rigorous investigation of new dance/art ideas, processes and forms. She makes works that challenge current discourses on dance.

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Aparna Ramaswamy/Ragamala Music and Dance Theater

RAGAMALA MUSIC AND DANCE THEATER, Minneapolis, Minnesota, as fiscal sponsor for choreographer APARNA RAMASWAMY, received \$10,000 in support of the development and production of two new dance works, *Yathra* (Journey) and *Sva* (Vital Force). *Yathra* explores the intricacies of the human journey from the dawn of birth to the twilight of life, tracing the physical and emotional passage of a soul through the phases of life. *Sva* is a collaboration between Aparna Ramaswamy and Nagano, a Japanese Taiko ensemble. *Sva* will explore rhythm and movement through the cultural and philosophical kinships between the Bharatanatyam style of dance and Taiko.

James Sewell Ballet

JAMES SEWELL BALLET, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received \$12,000 in support of the participation of two emerging choreographers in the Ballet Works Project. The mission of James Sewell Ballet is to create and perform works that connect artists with audiences and to advance contemporary ballet. The Ballet Works Project promotes the development of new works by choreographers from inside and outside of the company. It provides 30 hours of subsidized workshop time to each choreographer to develop new works utilizing the Sewell company. This culminates in open showings of the works-in-progress.

RoseAnne Spradlin Dance/The Field

THE FIELD, New York City, acting as fiscal sponsor for ROSEANNE SPRADLIN DANCE, received \$10,000 in support of the development and production of new work. RoseAnne Spradlin Dance was founded in 1995. Jerome funding will be directed to the creation and production of *Survive Cycle*, an evening-length dance work investigating destructive processes, natural and unnatural, as a means to explore "dancing" with the blows of life. The theme will be followed through several levels of meaning, exploring the personal, cultural and global reverberations of cycles of excess and decline, accumulation and decay.

Morgan Thorson & Company/The Southern Theater

THE SOUTHERN THEATER, Minneapolis, Minnesota, acting as fiscal sponsor for MORGAN THORSON & COMPANY, received \$10,000 in support of the production of new work in New York City. The mission of The Southern Theater is to build and sustain a vibrant artistic community by supporting the Twin Cities' most creative independent performing artists and presenting them to audiences in an intimate environment that encourages artistic exploration. It frequently acts as fiscal sponsor for independent artists' requests. Choreographer Morgan Thorson has created dance and movement-based works since 1996. Her choreography is based on rigorous physical methodology. She's interested in the tension between the physical limitations of the body and the expansive nature of the imagination. Thorson and her company will produce the evening-length *Faker* in January 2007 at P.S. 122, and *No Feeling for Harmony* in March at the Joyce Soho. Her objectives are to gain visibility in New York and initiate a touring program for the company.

TU Dance/The Southern Theater

Founded in 1988, THE SOUTHERN THEATER, Minneapolis, Minnesota, presents alternative performances by artists working at the grassroots of the Twin Cities' varied cultural, political and economic communities. In 2003, Uri Sands and Toni Pierce-Sands created TU DANCE, which presents original choreography, expands audiences for dance by interweaving dance genres, and employs trained dancers from diverse backgrounds. A grant of \$12,000 was authorized as the fourth year of subsidy for the company. An upcoming June 2006 concert will include the Minnesota premiere of *Tearing* by Uri Sands and a new work for Toni Pierce-Sands choreographed by Ron K. Brown of Evidence Dance Company. Jerome support will also seed the development of three new works by Uri Sands, the first of which will draw inspiration from the nomadic Bedouin people, and the second from urban hymns and personal experience. Sands will develop a third work for a future season, a series of male solo dances accompanied by live solo cello, set to the preludes for each of Bach's cello suites.

Walker Art Center

The WALKER ART CENTER, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received a two-year grant of \$40,000 in support of the creation and production of new works by emerging choreographers within the Momentum series. Eight emerging Minnesota choreographers will be served via commissioning dollars, developmental support, and production subsidies. *Momentum: New Dance Works* is curated and co-presented by the Walker and The Southern Theater. A call for applications is distributed annually, followed by a rigorous competitive review yielding the selection of a final group of artists to be commissioned. The series is designed to provide the type of highly visible and highly produced programs of contemporary dance works needed by the next generation of movement artists in Minnesota.

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Zenon Dance Company and School

ZENON DANCE COMPANY AND SCHOOL, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received a two-year grant of \$50,000 in support of the commissioning and performance of new dance works by emerging choreographers. The mission of the company is to sustain an artistically excellent, professional dance company by presenting the commissioned works of emerging and recognized modern and jazz choreographers to the broadest and most diverse audiences and communities possible. It accomplishes this through performance, education and outreach. Nearly 70% of the company's yearly contracted time is devoted to the development of new work by emerging choreographers. Zenon chooses to work in this way because it brings excitement and risk to the aesthetic of the company. The process of creation is inspiring to the dancers, who are intelligent improvisers. Over two years, six emerging choreographers will be given opportunities to create new works for Zenon.