

For Immediate Release

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Lighting Artists in Dance Award

Dancers' Group announces 2008 grant awards to support the progress of lighting design for dance in the Bay Area

SAN FRANCISCO – Dancers' Group, San Francisco's leading dance advocacy organization, announces their first grant awards to support lighting designers working in the field of dance. The **Lighting Artists in Dance (LAD) Award** is the first program of its kind in the Bay Area and provides choreographers, dance companies, lighting designers and dance presenters access to funds that will help support their collaboration culminating in the creation of public dance performances taking place in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano or Sonoma counties.

"This program looks to engage and support the development of emerging, mid-career and established Bay Area lighting designers," says executive director Wayne Hazzard. "Our hope is that these grants will allow the selected projects an opportunity to deepen their creative partnership, illuminating dance on our Bay Area stages. We anticipate that an additional impact from these awards will be the benefit to the audience as they experience performances that have grown in some way."

Lighting designers and choreographers were invited to apply in self-identified pairs. Dancers' Group received a large, very competitive pool of 17 applications from 34 pairs of lighting designers and choreographers/dance companies/presenters in the Bay Area. The 2008/2009 grantees are **Max** [lighting designer] with **Keith Hennessy/Circo Zero**; **Matthew Antaky** [lighting designer] with **Ken James/Fellow Travelers Performance Group**; **Allen Wilner** [lighting designer] with **Shinichi Iova-Koga/inkBOAT**; **Jack Carpenter** [lighting designer] with **Keith Terry/Crosspulse**; and **Jacob Petrie** [lighting designer] with **Janice Garrett and Charles Moulton**.

Each project, described below, will receive a \$2,400 grant to support their proposed projects for a total of \$12,000 awarded.

An advisory panel of regional specialists in the dance field reviewed the proposals and selected the 2008/2009 LAD grant recipients. The panel consisted of **Della Davidson**, Artistic Director of the Sideshow Physical Theater in California and Professor of Theatre and Dance at UC Davis; **José Maria Francos** the Technical Director at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts; and **Matthew Royce** a Lighting Designer and Production Manager.

The LAD Award is not intended to underwrite general production costs, but rather to support projects that encourage an active interaction between lighting designers and their dance partners.

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This years awarded proposals demonstrate how the collaborating artists will take lighting design to the next level either by working with new methods or forging new or expanded partnerships. Funded projects will take place in large and small venues and one site-specific project was funded.

Lighting Artists in Dance Award 2008/2009

[in order of performance dates]

Max with Keith Hennessy/Circo Zero

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum • San Francisco

Nov 13-15, 2008

“**DELINQUENT**” is an experimental cross-disciplinary performance project featuring a diverse cast of Bay Area Youth and young adults ages 16-24. Working in collaboration with choreographer/director Keith Hennessy, the performers will create a series of performance events / scenes/ dances/ interventions/ spectacles addressing themes of juvenile justice, youth incarceration, personal and collective identity, racial profiling, and community engagement. Light will be the primary means for defining both architectural and metaphorical space. Max’s design and performative interventions will operate as a character or force within the ensemble of performers.

Max is a lighting and set designer and puppeteer. Her work has been presented world-wide and she has worked with numerous Bay Area companies including Keith Hennessy/Circo Zero, Jess Curtis/Gravity, Hope Mohr Dance, Dance Brigade, Stephen Pelton, EmSpace and Jo Kreiter/Flyaway Productions among others. In addition she has worked at CounterPULSE, Dance Mission Theater, Theatre of Yugen and the Experimental Performance Institute at New College of California where she also taught technical theater. A member of Theater of Yugen’s Performance ensemble, Max’s set design for Yugen’s “frankenstein” was nominated for a Bay Area Critic’s Circle Award.

Jack Carpenter with Keith Terry/Crosspulse (Slammin and Barbatuques)

Project Artaud Theatre • San Francisco

December 5-7, 2008

A new collaboration between Oakland bases ensemble Slammin and San Paolo, Brazil-based ensemble Barbatuques, two of the foremost body-music groups. The work will be an abstract dance piece, involving ingredients from traditional and contemporary sources that explore the range of possible movement and sound created entirely by the body via clapping, slapping, snapping, stepping and vocalizing with no external props. Jack Carpenter will attend the entire four-day collaborative process with the two groups and will create a palate of color, shadow and light that support the work that unfolds.

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Jack Carpenter is a Theatrical Systems Consultant, the Production Manager for World Arts West and has been a freelance lighting designer since 1980. He has been received four nomination and been awarded four Bay Area Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Lighting Design. He has also received four Isadora Duncan Awards for Visual Design. As a lighting designer he has worked locally at the Oakland Ballet, Cal Performance, Berkeley Repertory Theater, Yerba Buena, Concord Pavillion, Theater Artaud and nationally at Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Michigan Opera House, Summerstage in Central Park, Wexner Center and Jacob's Pillow among others. He has also worked on European tours and for fashion shows.

Jacob Petrie with Janice Garrett and Dancers and Charles Moulton Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum • San Francisco April 13–19, 2009

“StringVictory (Working Title)” will bring together four dancers, the Del Sol String Quartet and Vari-Lite Technology to explore the way that the dancers, the musicians and automated moving lights impact each other when sharing the same kinetic/aural space. The piece is a further exploration of the concepts and ideas first visited in “StringWreck” which premiered at YBCA Forum in April 2008.

Jacob Petrie is a lighting designer and master electrician. He has designed for a number of Bay Area artists, companies and theaters including, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, New Conservatory Theater, Golden Thread, Janice Garrett and Dancers, Ellis Wood Dance, Magic Theatre company, The Foundry, San Francisco State University Theatre Arts, American College Dance Festival, Destination Dance, and El Teatro de la Esperanza among others.

Allen Willner with Shinichi Iova-Koga/inkBOAT ODC Theater • San Francisco Summer 2009

“Grief Lesson #4” is a new work directed by Shinichi Iova-Koga based on the Greek play “Alkestis” by Euripides and translated by poet Anne Carson. The performance will feature four performers who will interact with four lighting trees that can be activated and manipulated on stage.

Allen Willner has worked with Shinichi Iova-Koga's inkBoat since 2000 with whom he was nominated for an Isadora Duncan Award in 2001 and received an Isadora Duncan Award in 2003 for his lighting and stage design in “Heaven's Radio.” Allen also received a Dean Goodman Choice Award for his lighting design of Ingabor Weinnman's post-holocaust play “Don't Look, Don't Ask.” In addition to his work with inkBoat, Allen has worked with many Bay Area and national companies and theaters including ESP Project, **Error! Contact not defined.**, Paige Sorvillo, Debra Slater, Shotgun Theater, Motion Lab, Krista Denio, Nanos Operetta, USF Players, Tanya Calamoneri & Company, Sleepytime Gorilla Museum and Sara Kraft among others.

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Matthew Antaky with Ken James/Fellow Travelers Performance Group Multiple East Bay & San Francisco Locations Fall 2009

"Intersecting Stories" is a dance installation confined to a fifteen by fifteen foot square to seen in the three-quarter round. Working with the themes of communication and interpersonal relationships, this work is intimate for the performers and the viewer. The work will be designed to at once be able to be presented in many different environments (store front, gallery, parking lot, garage, living room, back yard or lobby of theater) and be cost-effective to produce. We are creating a lighting system of new technologies and animated light on video projectors to insure high production values and portability.

Since 1985 **Matthew Antaky** has created and collaborated on both scenic and lighting designs for all of the performing arts including Theater, Opera, Dance and Music. His work has been seen throughout the U.S. as well as in Europe, Canada and Mexico. He is a six-time nominee and two-time recipient of the Isadora Duncan Award for Outstanding Visual Design. He has designed for the National Ballet of Peru, ODC Dance Company, Opera Pacific, New Century Chamber Orchestra, Smuin Ballet, Utah Symphony and Opera, Liss Fain Dance Company, Jo Kreiter/Flyaway Productions, Festival Opera Company, Opera San Jose, Mark Foehringer Dance Project, Oakland East Bay Symphony and San Jose Dance Company among others.

BACKGROUND

Founded in 1982, **Dancers' Group** assists and supports the San Francisco Bay Area (SFBA) dance community by creating a nexus of resources, expertise, and knowledge. Working to advocate for dance in the SFBA and beyond, we assist in the creation and production of engaging, original dance by artists at all stages of their career, and support the dance community and its audiences in the passionate pursuit and enjoyment of art. We fulfill this mission by seeking to:

Unify: We bring a variety of artists and organizations together in engaging partnerships, enabling us to identify and leverage new resources for our community.

Strengthen: We build the quality, accessibility, and sustainability of dance in the SFBA through services such as our Parachute Fund, Fiscal Sponsorship program, California Dance Network, professional training seminars, and In Dance.

Amplify: We introduce new audiences to dance through our presenting and co-presenting programs—2nd Sundays, Dance Discourse Project, ONSITE and the WestWave Dance Festival—increasing visibility for dance on local, regional, and national levels.

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