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Lighting Artists in Dance Award 2009/10

Dancers' Group announces the 2009 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 second annual 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 and lighting designers access to funds that will help support their collaborations, which will culminate in the creation of public dance performances taking place in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano and Sonoma counties.

"This annual program was developed to engage and support emerging, mid-career and established Bay Area lighting designers," says Executive Director Wayne Hazzard. "Our hope is that these grants will allow each project an opportunity to deepen their creative partnership. We anticipate that an additional impact from these awards will be to benefit 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, competitive pool of 17 applications. The 2009/2010 grantees are:

Lighting designer **Darl Andrew Packard** with **CounterPULSE**;
Lighting designer **David Elliott** with **Jess Curtis/Gravity**;
Lighting designer **Elaine Buckholtz** with **ODC Dance**;
Lighting designer **Eric Andler** with **Dandelion Dancetheater**;
Lighting designer **Heather Basarab** with **AXIS Dance Company**;
Lighting designer **Kedar Lawrence** with **Erika Tsimbrovsky/Avy K Productions**.

An advisory panel of regional specialists in the dance field reviewed the proposals and selected the 2009/2010 LAD grant recipients. The panel consisted of **Joanna Haigood**, artistic director, Zaccho Dance Theatre; **Jose Maria Francos**, technical director, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts; and **Matthew Royce**, 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. This year's 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 explore a multitude of dance forms. A total of \$12,000 was awarded to the following lighting/dance projects (in order by performance date):

Kedar Lawrence with Erika Tsimbrovsky/Avy K Productions

San Francisco; Nov. 2009

Awarded: \$2,200

Nocturnal Butterflies is a multimedia dance performance dedicated to Vaslav Nijinsky. His life and work were punctuated by his creation of a divine primitivist dance form that left a lasting mark on the art culture of his time. Nijinsky, who later in life was committed to a psychiatric clinic, left a diary that was full of beautiful nonsense. This performance will penetrate the illusory world that the genius preferred to the real one.

Darl Andrew Packard with CounterPULSE

CounterPULSE, San Francisco; Nov. 2009

Awarded: \$2,200

Performing Diaspora is a festival, residency program, symposium and discussion series designed to support artists who are deeply rooted in traditional forms, and who are using those forms as a basis for experimentation and innovation. The festival will span four consecutive weekends and showcase numerous different dance traditions.

Heather Basarab with AXIS Dance Company

Malonga Casquelorde Center, Oakland; Sept. 2009–Mar. 2010

Awarded: \$2,200

As new resident lighting designer for AXIS Dance Company, Heather Basarab will light a new work by David Dorfman that incorporates performer-manipulated lighting.

Elaine Buckholtz with ODC Dance

ODC Theater, San Francisco; Summer 2010

Awarded: \$2,200

In 2010, ODC will celebrate its 40th anniversary and the reopening of the ODC Theater. The three-week season features a major new artistic collaboration by choreographer Brenda Way and lighting artist Elaine Buckholtz. This new work will invite audiences to actively re-engage with many facets of the organization as well as the building, which has long been their main venue.

Eric Andler with Dandelion Dancetheater

ODC Theater, San Francisco; Fall 2010

Awarded: \$1,000

Mutt is a full-length dance-play that examines mixed identity by following the fractured story of Miyomi, a mixed-race girl born in a World War II internment camp. "Mutt" will be performed as a work-in-progress in September 2009 and will premiere at ODC in the fall of 2010.

David Elliott with Jess Curtis/Gravity

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco; Fall/Winter 2010

Awarded: \$2,200

Jess Curtis/Gravity's **Dances for Non-Fictional Bodies** a multi-component, performance-based project that examines the role(s) of imagined societal ideals as a kind of "fictional body" that disables individuals in terms of our ability to see others, and be seen, as beautiful, empowered, and autonomous.

BACKGROUND

Founded in 1982, **Dancers' Group** assists and supports the San Francisco Bay Area dance community by creating a nexus of resources, expertise, and knowledge. Working to advocate for dance in the Bay Area 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 Bay Area through services such as our Parachute Fund, Fiscal Sponsorship program, California Dance Network, professional training seminars, and the publication *In Dance*.

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