

For Immediate Release

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**MARGARET JENKINS DANCE COMPANY ANNOUNCES  
GRANT RECIPIENTS FOR REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PROGRAMS OF  
CHOREOGRAPHERS IN MENTORSHIP EXCHANGE (CHIME)**

*Innovative mentorship program expands and provides grants and cost-free studio time for dance artists in the San Francisco Bay Area, Southern California and for national exchanges*

SAN FRANCISCO, LOS ANGELES, NEW YORK, December 7, 2009 — The Margaret Jenkins Dance Company (MJDC) today announced the 2010 recipients of the Choreographers in Mentorship Exchange (CHIME) grants in the San Francisco Bay Area and Southern California, as well as the grant recipients of the pilot program, CHIME Across Borders.

**CHIME in Southern California** received major support from The James Irvine Foundation to return to Los Angeles County for three years after completing a successful pilot in 2008, with funding to support a mentorship relationship for three pairs of Southern California dance artists. The MJDC received major funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support both CHIME in Southern California and **CHIME in the San Francisco Bay Area** as well as funding for the pilot year of **CHIME Across Borders**, an exchange among national choreographers.

The grantees for the sixth year of CHIME in the San Francisco Bay Area are (in alphabetical order with the mentors listed first): **Christian Burns**, independent dance artist and Co-Founder of The Foundry, and RAWdance Co-Founders **Ryan T. Smith and Wendy Rein**; choreographer and dance educator **Cathleen McCarthy** and **Raissa Simpson**, Artistic Director of Push Dance Company; and **Charya Burt**, choreographer, teacher and founder of Charya Burt Cambodian Dance, and choreographer and dancer **Tara Catherine Pandeya**. Reduced program support from regional philanthropic organizations necessitated the reduction of the number of CHIME grants awarded in the San Francisco Bay Area from five to three pairs in 2010.

The grantees for year one of CHIME in Southern California are: **Lynn Dally**, Artistic Director/Choreographer, Jazz Tap Ensemble and Adjunct Professor at UCLA, and Bharata Natyam dancer and choreographer **Mythili Prakash**; **Doran George**, artist, dancer, writer, and curator, and **Julie Tolentino**, time-based installation artist and choreographer; and choreographer and educator **Victoria Marks** and **Mira Kingsley**, choreographer/performer and educator.

Two advisory panels of national and regional specialists in the dance field reviewed the proposals and selected the 2010 CHIME recipients. The San Francisco Bay Area panel consisted of **Bonnie Brooks**, chair of the Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago; **Janice Garrett**, choreographer, dance educator, and Artistic Director of Janice Garrett & Dancers; and **Keith**

**Hennessy**, performer, teacher and Artistic Director of Circo Zero Performance. The selection panel for CHIME in Southern California consisted of **Rosanna Gamson**, Artistic Director of Rosanna Gamson/ Worldwide; **Oguri**, Artistic Director of Body Weather Laboratory; as well as **Bonnie Brooks**, who participated in both panels.

These pairs of San Francisco Bay Area and Southern California CHIME recipients will receive financial awards totaling \$60,000 and more than 600 hours of cost-free studio time over the course of one year beginning January 1, 2010.

In July 2009, the MJDC first announced the continuing expansion of CHIME with the launch of CHIME Across Borders, a national mentorship exchange program. With support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, this new program will bring choreographer mentors of renown to work in San Francisco with a group of local choreographers over the course of one year. For the pilot phase in 2010, the MJDC invited **David Gordon**, a dancer, choreographer, writer and theatrical director prominent in the world of postmodern dance and performance, to act as the first CHIME Across Borders Chair. Based on the recommendations of an Ad Hoc committee, a small number of San Francisco Bay Area dance-makers were invited by the MJDC to apply to work in a mentorship relationship with Mr. Gordon. The MJDC is pleased to announce Mr. Gordon's selection of the first three CHIME Across Borders mentees: **Katie Faulkner**, Artistic Director of little seismic dance company; **Stephen Pelton**, Artistic Director, Stephen Pelton Dance Theater; and **Deborah Slater**, Artistic Director of Deborah Slater Dance Theater and Founder of Art of the Matter Performance Foundation. Mr. Gordon will design a year-long curriculum of assignments and activities for the mentees to augment his hands-on time with these artists during 2010 at the Margaret Jenkins Dance Lab (MJDL). Intensive, week-long sessions with Mr. Gordon will be held February 8 – 14, 2010, May 17 – 22, 2010 and September 27 - October 2, 2010.

### **About CHIME**

CHIME is a unique mentorship program allowing for self-selected pairs of professional choreographers – mentor and mentee – to receive financial support for 12 months in order to establish and explore a working relationship that includes, but is not limited to, work in the studio. The program seeks to formalize the exchange and feedback mechanisms between established and emerging California choreographers. Conceived by MJDC Artistic Director Margaret Jenkins, CHIME's primary goal is to encourage and enrich the development of California choreographers.

### **About Margaret Jenkins Dance Company**

Founded in 1973 to support the artistic vision of founder and artistic director Margaret Jenkins, the Margaret Jenkins Dance Company (MJDC) has been a part of the San Francisco Bay Area's cultural community for over 30 years. Jenkins founded one of the first schools to train professional modern dancers in San Francisco in conjunction with the creation of a vibrant performance space in which her company and other nationally prominent companies performed. The MJDC regularly performs in San Francisco and has an extensive history touring throughout the United States and abroad.

Over the ensuing years, Ms. Jenkins has created more than 70 dance works and has collaborated with an impressive roster of composers, poets and other creative designers. She is a recognized

leader in both the local and national arts communities, initiating and implementing programs that support and encourage choreography and general services to the field of dance.

**The James Irvine Foundation** is a private, nonprofit grant-making foundation dedicated to expanding opportunity for the people of California to participate in a vibrant, inclusive, and successful society. The Foundation's grant-making focuses on three program areas: Arts, Youth, **California Democracy**. Since 1937, the Foundation has provided more than \$1 billion in grants to more than 3,000 nonprofit organizations throughout California. With \$1.4 billion in assets, the Foundation made grants of \$78 million in 2008 for the people of California. [www.irvine.org](http://www.irvine.org)

**The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** is a private philanthropic institution that makes grants on a selective basis to institutions of higher education, independent libraries, centers for advanced study, museums, art conservation, and performing arts organizations. The foundation's Performing Arts program focuses on achieving long-term results by providing multi-year grants to leading organizations in the disciplines of music, theater, and dance. Annual giving in the area of the performing arts has averaged approximately \$28 million per year since 2005. In 2004 the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation was awarded a National Medal of Arts, the highest award given to artists and arts patrons by the United States Government. [www.mellon.org](http://www.mellon.org)

For CHIME information, please visit [www.mjdc.org](http://www.mjdc.org) or call 415 861 3940.

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