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2010 Lighting Artists in Dance Award Recipients

Dancers' Group announces the 2010 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 third annual grant awards to support lighting designers working in the field of dance. The **Lighting Artists in Dance (LAD) Award** is the only 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 the Bay Area.

"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."

The 2010/2011 grantees are:

Lighting designer **Ben Coolik** with **DOUBLE VISION**;
Lighting designer **Derek Duarte** with **Stephen Pelton Dance Theater**;
Lighting designer **Patty-Ann Farrell** with choreographer **Lenora Lee**;
Lighting designer **Christian Mejia** with **Raisa Punkki / punkkiCo**;
Lighting designer **Elizabeth Mendana** with **Push Dance Company**;
Lighting designer **Michael Oesch** with **Jenny McAllister / 13th Floor Dance Theater**;
Lighting designer **Tony Shayne** with **Epiphany Productions Sonic Dance Theater**;
Lighting designer **David Szlasa** with **Sara Shelton Mann / Mixed Bag Productions**.

An advisory panel of regional specialists in the dance field reviewed the proposals and selected the 2010/2011 grant recipients. The panel consisted of **Jose Maria Francos**, technical director, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts; **KT Nelson**, co-artistic director, ODC/Dance; 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.

A total of \$12,000 was awarded to the following lighting/dance projects:

Ben Coolik with DOUBLE VISION

August 2011 * Dance Mission Theatre, San Francisco

Awarded \$1000

“-I?-" is part two of the *Particular Intervention* series by lighting designer and multi-media artist Ben Joel Coolik, in collaboration with the San Francisco dance company DOUBLE VISION. Inspired by Francisco Varela's dharma science philosophy of the "emerging body," -I?- is a living inquiry into the self through the exploration of the internal/external dynamic relationships that give rise to what society calls "body." Using interactive technologies, the performance investigates how the theories of Body, Effort, Shape and Space, the basis for Laban Movement Analysis, are also applicable to light, video and sound.

Derek Duarte with Stephen Pelton Dance Theater

June 2011 * Dance Mission Theatre, San Francisco

Awarded \$2500

two rooms will be a new dance theatre piece for actors, dancers and musicians created by Stephen Pelton Dance Theater in collaboration with playwright Brian Thorstenson, composer Robert Maggio and set and lighting designer Derek Duarte. *two rooms* tells the intertwining stories of six characters: a middle-aged gay man with HIV, his lesbian best friend, his sister, his latest romantic obsession, a missing lover, and a local tomboy. Each character's individual story maps their own longing and desire, their dreams of the missed and the missing.

Patty-Ann Farrell with choreographer Lenora Lee

September 2010 * Dance Mission Theatre, San Francisco

Awarded \$1000

Passages, an interdisciplinary collaboration between choreographer Lenora Lee, lighting designer Patty-Ann Farrell, media designer Olivia Ting and musician/sound designer Francis Wong, is in homage to Lee's grandmother, Lee Ping To, who immigrated through Angel Island Immigrations Station in 1940, the year the station was closed.

Christian Mejia with Raisa Punkki / punkkiCo

June 2011 * Dance Mission Theatre, San Francisco

Awarded \$1000

A Pixel of an Idea is based on artist Claire Pasquier's original idea of creating artwork in pixels. Playing with movement, light, set and color to make simple scenes (pixels) into a larger complex picture, *A Pixel of an Idea* will explore the issue of aging of the body.

Elizabeth Mendana with Push Dance Company

Summer 2011 * Museum of African Diaspora, San Francisco

Awarded \$1000

Push Dance Company artistic director Raissa Simpson and lighting designer Elizabeth Mendana will collaborate to develop *Mixed Messages*, a 45-minute multi-media dance that loops twice through, exploring the museum's three levels of galleries, staircases and corridors.

Michael Oesch with Jenny McAllister / 13th Floor Dance Theater

Spring 2011 * CounterPULSE, San Francisco

Awarded \$1000

Michael Oesch & Jenny McAllister / 13th Floor Dance Theater are exploring connectivity and alienation, and their effects on personal interactions in modern society. They are exploring the Internet's ability to both connect people across tremendous distances, while simultaneously erecting barriers between human interaction. Mr. Oesch will be creating several light wall installations, forming a grid of interconnectivity that will serve to explore the issues of commonality and alienation.

Tony Shayne with Epiphany Productions Sonic Dance Theater

June 2011 * ODC Theater, San Francisco

Awarded \$2500

A multi-disciplinary, full-length dance, music, and theater piece choreographed by Kim Epifano, *Heelomali* will explore the intersection between culture, identity and community. The new work is inspired and informed by the personal stories of those in the Bay Area's refugee and immigrant communities; and in partnership with Refugee Transitions, a Bay Area non-profit that assists refugee and immigrant families to become self-sufficient in their new homes.

David Szlasa with Sara Shelton Mann / Mixed Bag Productions

May 2011 * Fort Mason, San Francisco

Awarded \$2500

Mixed Bag Productions and David Szlasa will premiere a new multi-media performance *Zero Point* in Spring 2011 as part of the San Francisco International Arts Festival. Exploring human emotion and states of presence as affected by contemporary technology, *Zero Point* involves an international cast of artists utilizing dance, text and integrated lighting and media created by Szlasa.

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, and ONSITE—increasing visibility for dance on local, regional, and national levels.