

JEROME FOUNDATION FY 2006 Grants Awarded in Dance

Ananya Dance Theatre Pangea World Theatre

A grant of \$9,000 was awarded to PANGEA WORLD THEATER, Minneapolis, Minnesota, as fiscal sponsor for ANANYA DANCE THEATRE, in support of the creation of new work for a 2006 concert season. Ananya Dance Theatre, under the direction of choreographer Ananya Chatterjea, is a performing company of women artists of color who create theater and dance to stir thoughts, raise questions and inspire social change. Chatterjea brings together sculptural forms, strong footwork, emotional articulation of the Odissi classical style of dance, yoga, the energy of street theater and issue-based work in social justice and women's lives. Chatterjea is working on a new piece titled ***Duurbaar: Journeys into Horizon***, inspired by the relentless striving of women around the world to keep going, to realize a horizon where there is none visible, to create light when all seems dark. Duurbaar means "unstoppable" in Bengali; it is also the name of an organization created and led by sex workers in Kolkata, India.

Dance Council Movement Theater

DANCE COUNCIL MOVEMENT THEATER, Brooklyn, New York, received \$11,000 to support the creation and development of a new evening-length work. Founded by choreographer Alyce Finwall, Dance Council Movement Theater is a company dedicated to new and original works that bring together the worlds of contemporary dance and modern dramatic expression. The new work will utilize intense physical choreography inspired from Finwall's ballet and gymnastics training, along with a dramatic sense of staging. Finwall and a company member will generate the text that creates impetus for the movement. The work will be loosely based on the Steven Berkhoff play ***Actor***, a one-act piece that chronicles the life of a dissolute but upbeat actor as he literally walks through life on stage.

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 emerging male 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 to support emerging artists' commissions through the Bessie Schönberg/First Light Program. Dance Theater Workshop identifies and nurtures talented artists working in diverse cultural contexts, stimulates an audience and public context for these artists and their works, and provides an interactive community laboratory for the imagination. This grant continues a history of support that the Foundation has authorized to the organization to seed the development and production of new work for presentation. Dance Theater Workshop selects the emerging choreographers. Commissions range from \$1,000 to \$4,000. Artists receive presentation fees and other support in addition to the commissions.

Danspace Project

DANSPACE PROJECT, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$55,000 in support of commissions to New York City and/or Minnesota emerging choreographers for new works to be presented at Danspace. Danspace is an international leader in the commissioning and presentation of contemporary dance. Its mission is to stimulate, promote and present 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 within a professional setting. An open and continuous application process, guided by an advisory council of choreographers, enables Executive Director Laurie Uprichard to determine the emerging choreographers who receive Jerome-supported commissions. Since inception in 1993-94, Danspace Project's commissioning initiative has supported the creation of 237 new works, often in collaboration with national and international colleagues.

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DD Dorvillier/human future dance corps

The Field

PERFORMANCE ZONE/THE FIELD, New York City, acting as fiscal sponsor 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.

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.

Hijack: Kristin Van Loon & Arwen Wilder

The Southern Theater

THE SOUTHERN THEATER, Minneapolis, Minnesota, as fiscal sponsor for HIJACK, received a two-year grant of \$21,000 in support of the creation and production of new work by the choreographic team of Kristin Van Loon and Arwen Wilder. Their process for making dance is always evolving to address knowledge gained and changes in the choreographers' bodies and the world around them. Hijack is the confluence and clash of independent compositional/kinesesthetic impulses. The choreographers use subtlety and wit as tools to provide an avenue into an exploration of serious subjects. Hijack employs a site-specific approach to every performance, and sustains a commitment to movement research. Jerome Foundation's subsidy will result in the creation of at least four new works.

LAVA/Volcano Love/Sarah East Johnson

VOLCANO LOVE, Brooklyn, New York, received a two-year concluding grant of \$24,000 in support of the development and production of new work by choreographer Sarah East Johnson for her company LAVA, a troupe of strong women performing physical feats of power, strength, stamina and daring. Johnson's movement vocabulary encompasses dance, wrestling, circus acrobatics, aerials, contact improvisation and more. One new work under development is **(w)H.O.L.E.** (Whole History of Life), which draws inspiration from two distinct sources-natural phenomena/science and the female body/psyche. The structure of the piece will mirror scientific and mathematical processes that describe earth's evolutionary cycles, iterations, compressions and loops, through movement, music, visuals, text and lighting. The piece will be configured in three one-hour cycles, that vary slightly with each repetition. The audience will enter the show already in progress and be allowed to come and go at any point within the cycle, mirroring the essential elements of evolution, geologic change and the behavior of living systems.

Sarah Michelson

The Field

THE FIELD, acting as fiscal sponsor for choreographer SARAH MICHELSON PROJECTS, New York City, received \$10,000 in support of the creation and production of a new work titled **Swan Lake** (working title). The Field offers programs and services to independent performing artists and companies. Sarah Michelson maintains a collaborative laboratory for the rigorous investigation of new dance/art ideas, processes and forms, which results in contemporary work that challenges the current discourse on dance. Michelson will choreograph **Swan Lake** in collaboration with Parker Lutz and composer Mike Iveson. The work will be choreographed in response to its site, The Harvey Theater at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. The nature of the work, alluding to a requiem, marks a turning point in the career of a dance artist.

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Minnesota Dance Theatre

The MINNESOTA DANCE THEATRE, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received a two-year grant of \$24,000 in support of the creation of new work by its choreographer in residence, Wynn Fricke. Employing a company of eight dancers, the Minnesota Dance Theatre's repertory includes works by its founder Loyce Houlton, its current Artistic Director Lise Houlton, and national and local choreographers. After receiving Jerome subsidy for several years to commission works by a variety of choreographers, the Minnesota Dance Theatre decided to focus on a more substantial residency program for one choreographer, Wynn Fricke, with whom it has worked in the past. This will enable Fricke to participate in the development of the season, be engaged in the school, and develop a body of work that will advance her choreography and the repertory of the company.

Ben Munisteri

Foundation for Independent Artists

A two-year concluding grant of \$24,000 was awarded to the FOUNDATION FOR INDEPENDENT ARTISTS, New York City, as fiscal sponsor for choreographer BEN MUNISTERI, in support of the creation and development of new work over the next two seasons. Funding will underwrite the creation of a new work, *Thunderblood*, for five to six dancers, set to a commissioned score. It will premiere in the summer of 2005 at Jacob's Pillow and be presented in the fall of 2005 at Dance Theater Workshop. In *Thunderblood*, Munisteri will continue to explore his formalist methodology of dance making. He will work with movement phrases he's made over the years, adding new ones, reordering them and layering them, playing with patterns, tempos and musical accompaniment. In the second year, he'll work on a new piece with the working title of *Remixes*. In this, Munisteri will mix and remix someone else's movement phrases, utilizing his particular skills as an editor.

Margo Abdo O'Dell

Intermedia Arts

The Foundation authorized a grant of \$9,000 to INTERMEDIA ARTS, Minneapolis, Minnesota, acting as fiscal sponsor for choreographer MARGO ABDO O'DELL. The mission of Intermedia Arts is to build understanding among people through art. It is a multidisciplinary center offering presentations in visual arts, media arts, performance, and interdisciplinary forms. O'Dell, in collaboration with flamenco dancer and choreographer Colette Marie Illarde and flamenco guitarist and composer Scott Mateo, will present a concert of new work titled *Caravan: Cairo to Cordoba*, which will expose and examine the artistry of the Arab, Spanish, and Muslim worlds. New works include a duet, titled *Let's Talk*, for O'Dell and Illarde; a second duet of cultural exploration, titled *Danza Andaluza*, fusing the classical forms of raks sharki and flamenco; and an experimental piece, titled *El Baraka*, which means blessing.

Aparna Ramaswamy

Ragamala Music and Dance Theater

The Directors approved a grant of \$9,000 for RAGAMALA MUSIC AND DANCE THEATER, Minneapolis, Minnesota, as fiscal sponsor for APARNA RAMASWAMY, in support of the creation and production of new works. Ragamala Music and Dance Theater presents classical and contemporary/collaborative work based in Bharatanatyam, the ancient classical dance of southern India. Aparna Ramaswamy, choreographer and dancer with the company, will create two new works, *Aathma* and *Flying Horses*. *Aathma* is an exploration of the works of 13th century Persian poet Jelaluddin Rumi. This evening-length work will interweave Bharatanatyam and abstract and narrative dance. *Flying Horses* will be created to a musical work by Mu Daiko Artistic Director Rick Shiomi, contrasting and juxtaposing two culturally-based art forms, Japanese Taiko and Bharatanatyam.

James Sewell Ballet

The JAMES SEWELL BALLET, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received a two-year grant of \$23,000 in continued support of the Ballet Works Project. The mission of the Ballet is to create and perform an exceptionally diverse and appealing repertoire based in the ballet idiom to broaden audience access to dance and advance the art form. The essential element of that purpose is the choreography of Artistic Director James Sewell. The Ballet also provides workshop opportunities to choreographers to promote the development of new work. The Ballet Works Project is an investment in individual choreographers, in the development of the company's dancers, and in the health of the dance community. In 2004-05, the program will provide workshop time for two choreographers, one of whom is Sally Rousse. The second choreographer will be selected from applications submitted in response to an open call in Minnesota and New York City. In 2006, the program will be slightly modified to support a collaboration with the American Composers Forum, a pilot series of workshops involving collaborative choreographic and musical commissions and performances.

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Karen Sherman

The Southern Theater

THE SOUTHERN THEATER, Minneapolis, Minnesota, acting as fiscal sponsor for choreographer KAREN SHERMAN, received a grant of \$9,000 in support of the creation and production of new work. The Southern presents alternative performances by artists working at the grassroots of the Twin Cities varied cultural, political, and economic communities. Choreographer Karen Sherman will create an evening-length dance/performance work that addresses the intersection of environment, terrain, the body, and memory through the specific lens of Midwestern weather, landscape, and culture. The working title is ***Tiny Town***. This grant will support the creation and public showings of sections as work-in-progress. The final version of the piece will be produced in late 2006 or early 2007.

RoseAnne Spradlin Dance

The Field

With THE FIELD, New York City, as fiscal sponsor, the Jerome Foundation Directors approved a grant of \$9,000 to support ROSEANNE SPRADLIN DANCE. Spradlin's choreographic mission is to awaken audiences to a fuller experience of the body in motion, and to bring audience members into a closer intimacy with themselves. ***Pay Color***, a dance to be premiered this December, constitutes a section of an evening-length work to be completed in 2006. The impetus for ***Pay Color*** is to explore the heightening of sensory intake-smell, touch, sound, site and motion-to the point that the experience begins to resemble an altered state of reality. Subjects are made more critically aware of the intense beauty of the world and the inborn rights of human beings while also being exposed to the damage and pain caused by human nature.

Troika Ranch

TROIKA RANCH, New York City, began in 1993 as a collaborative project between choreographer Dawn Stoppiello and composer Mark Coniglio. The mission of this digital dance theater company is to create live performances that hybridize dance, theater and interactive digital media and to share information about their techniques with others. A grant of \$10,000 was authorized to assist Troika Ranch in creating and producing new work.

TU Dance

Southern Theater

THE SOUTHERN THEATER, Minneapolis, Minnesota, acting as fiscal sponsor for TU DANCE, received a two-year grant of \$22,000 in support of 2004 and 2005 concerts. Founded in 2003 by Co-Artistic Directors Uri Sands and Toni Pierce Sands, TU Dance brings people together through dance, creating concerts in which music, thought and movement are drawn from a variety of genres and cultures. In 2004, the company presented revised and repertory work by choreographer Uri Sands at The Southern Theater. In 2005, the company mounted an entirely new season and launch a community outreach program. A second grant of \$12,000 will support a June 2006 concert, which 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.

Ellis Wood/Wood Dance

The Field

THE FIELD, New York City, acting as fiscal sponsor for ELLIS WOOD DANCE received \$10,000 in support of the creation of a new work titled ***Hurricane Flora: Inferno***. Ellis Wood Dance was founded in 1996 with the mission of presenting performance work and developing community projects that focus on bringing the power of dance to a diverse audience. ***Hurricane Flora: Inferno*** will explore aspects of female identity as they relate to the four elements of air, fire, earth, and water. The two new sections in progress, Fire and Water, will be combined with the previously completed Air and Earth to create a complete piece that will tour in this country and abroad. The purpose of the work is to lead the audience through an experimental journey of female choice.

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Yasuko Yokoshi

New York Foundation for the Arts

The NEW YORK FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS, acting as fiscal sponsor for YASUKO YOKOSHI, received a two-year grant of \$20,000 in support of the development and production of new work. Multidisciplinary artist Yasuko Yokoshi imaginatively entwines cultures and personal insights to create radical performance work with grace, passion and biting wit. Jerome subsidy will underwrite the development of a new work titled *what we when we*, inspired by a Raymond Carver short story. Yokoshi is interested in the subtle interaction of men and women, the ambivalent environment that Carver creates, and the verbal and physical dialogue of which the story is predominantly constructed. She'll transform Carver's quintessentially American world into Japanese traditional Kabuki dance. Over the past ten years, Yokoshi has been exploring her personal tradition in narrative and character development as a primary strategy of her performance work.

Zenon Dance Company and School

The ZENON DANCE COMPANY AND SCHOOL, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received a two-year grant of \$50,000 in support of emerging Minnesota and New York City choreographers' residencies and the creation of new works for the Zenon Company. The mission of Zenon is to sustain an artistically excellent, professional dance company that presents the commissioned work of emerging and locally, nationally and internationally recognized modern and jazz choreographers to the broadest and most diverse audiences and communities possible. It accomplishes this mission through performance, education and outreach. Zenon has a long history of receiving Jerome Foundation support for the commissioning and performance of new dance work by emerging choreographers. Among those to be commissioned over the course of the next two seasons are Keely Garfield, Jeanine Durning, and Wynn Fricke.