

JEROME FOUNDATION FY 2009 Dance Grants

ARENA Dances

ARENA DANCES, Minneapolis, Minnesota, creates and performs original choreography by Artistic Director Mathew Janczewski. The Foundation supported Mathew Janczewski as an emerging choreographer from 1996 through 2002. The company received a grant of \$12,000 to support the creation and production of *Ugly*, a large-scale collaborative project, at the Walker Art Center and at a second venue outside of Minnesota. The Foundation had a small program initiative in which it awarded grants to established, mid-career artists who had an opportunity to advance their work on national or international levels. *Ugly*, which explores notions and perceptions of beauty, presented a significant opportunity for Janczewski to produce a major work in collaboration with electronic music pioneer Morton Subotnick.

BodyCartography Project/Springboard for the Arts

SPRINGBOARD FOR THE ARTS, as fiscal sponsor for THE BODYCARTOGRAPHY PROJECT, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received a two-year grant of \$20,000 in support of the production and touring of *1/2 Life* and the creation of the new work *Symptom*. The BodyCartography Project, founded by Olive Bieringa and Otto Ramstad, draws from modern dance, contact improvisation, and other contemporary movement theories in the creation of work for theater, site-specific locations, and dance films. *1/2 Life* investigates the survival of the body amidst a world of scientific research, data, and control. The performance connects nuclear super power USA, atomic survivor Japan, and nuclear free New Zealand in a contemporary ritual to address dormant nuclear nightmares. The starting place for research and development of *Symptom* is the exploration of three systems of approaching and knowing the anatomy of the body. This work is developed in collaboration with dancers, biologists, neurologists, physicists, and somatic practitioners.

Koosil-Ja/Dance KUMIKO

A \$9,600 grant was awarded to KOOSIL-JA/DANCEKUMIKO, New York City, to support the presentation of *Dance Without Bodies* in the iDANS 2008 International Festival of Contemporary Dance and Performance in Istanbul, Turkey. *Dance Without Bodies* utilizes the system and performance technique "live processing" to generate movement. The work extracts and dissects the component processes of embodied performance, allowing for a new creative assemblage ripe for digital interface and experimentation. The iDANS Festival supports international exchange and collaboration in the field of contemporary dance and performing arts. The 2008 Festival explored the experience of time in performance and question the implications of preservation, documentation, historiography, and the archive in dance.

Dance New Amsterdam

DANCE NEW AMSTERDAM, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$38,000 in support of commissioning and producing new works within the program *In the Company of Men*. Dance New Amsterdam is committed to providing a dynamic environment in support of contemporary dance education, creation, and performance. It maintains a comprehensive, integrated approach that focuses on four objectives, one of which is fostering the creation and development of new works. *In the Company of Men*, created in 1994, gives voice to the unique and distinctive energy of men creating and dancing together. Jerome grant dollars support the development of new works by emerging male artists working in contemporary dance. They will be given performance and commissioning fees, subsidized rehearsal time in Dance New Amsterdam studios, subsidized production costs, front of house and production personnel, and promotional support.

Dance Theater Workshop

DANCE THEATER WORKSHOP, New York City, identifies, presents and supports independent contemporary artists and companies in order to advance dance and live performance in New York and worldwide. Through residencies, commissions, and community interaction, Dance Theater Workshop has been a leader in dance and performance for 41 years and has presented over 2,500 artists and companies. A Jerome Foundation grant of \$36,000 was awarded in support of emerging choreographers and performance artists in the Bessie Schönberg/First Light Commissioning Program. Jerome dollars are dedicated to commissions supporting the creation and presentation of new works.

Danspace Project

DANSPLACE PROJECT, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$57,000 in support of the participation of emerging choreographers in its Commissioning Initiative. The Danspace 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. Jerome Foundation support enables Danspace Project to make commissions for the creation and presentation of new work by emerging choreographers.

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Miguel Gutierrez and the Powerful People/The Field

Directors authorized a grant of \$8,820 to THE FIELD, New York City, acting as fiscal sponsor for MIGUEL GUTIERREZ AND THE POWERFUL PEOPLE, to support the creation, development, and production of the new evening-length work *Last Meadow*. The Field supports and sponsors the development, creation and presentation of musical, dance, theatrical, film, and video works. Gutierrez has been producing work since 2001, and has received one previous grant from the Foundation. In *Last Meadow*, Gutierrez works with the idea of communication gone awry: the inadequacy, failure, and mystery of language. By language, he means not only words but also organized patterns of communication that transmit coherent meaning, with structures as diverse as gesture, maps and architecture.

HIJACK/Red Eye Theater

RED EYE THEATER, Minneapolis, Minnesota, as fiscal sponsor for HIJACK, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received \$10,780 to support the creation of new work. HIJACK is the choreographic collaboration of Kristin Van Loon and Arwen Wilder. Grant support subsidized the creation of a duet, *Lame Duck*, for Van Loon and Wilder; a trio, *O.M.G.M.K.T.P.Y.T.*, set on the performance collaborative Mad King Thomas; and a second trio, *Smithsoniansmith*, with Van Loon, Wilder, and Scott Heron. HIJACK represents the confluence and clash of two independent compositional/kinesthetic impulses. It chooses specific inspirations and then investigates those sources, drawing compositional tactics from other genres and grappling with aesthetic, social, and political issues.

Luis Lara Malvacias/The Field

THE FIELD, New York City, as fiscal sponsor for LUIS LARA MALVACIAS/FULL FAT DANCE, received a two-year grant of \$18,000 in support of the creation, development, and presentation of two new works. The Field supports and sponsors the development, creation and presentation of musical, dance, theatrical, film, and video works, serving more than 2,000 artists per year. Malvacias is a choreographer and multidisciplinary artist who is intensely interested in exploring interaction among a variety of artistic disciplines. His first new work, *Reason without Meaning*, deals with the organization of perceptions that exist in their own right but that are not necessarily attached to a particular meaning. The second work, *Contemplating Impotence: present day reality is a lot more like this that I wish it were*, plays with reversals of meaning and subversion of predictability. Sensations look like disturbing realities and feelings are perceived as banal experiences. The piece contains images and characters that Malvacias has been observing over the years from the window of his studio in the rapidly changing Williamsburg area of Brooklyn, overlapped with images and inspirations from selected paintings by the German artist Neo Rauch.

James Sewell Ballet

The JAMES SEWELL BALLET, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received \$11,760 in support of the Ballet Works Project. Founded in 1990, the Ballet's mission is to create and perform works that connect artists with audiences and to advance contemporary ballet. One of its goals is to create and present new choreography. Since 1999, Jerome Foundation has provided support to the Ballet so that emerging choreographers within and outside of the company have opportunities to develop new works utilizing the resources of the Ballet. This new grant supports the development of new works by emerging choreographers with the aim of producing those works.

jill sigman/thinkdance/Unique Projects

UNIQUE PROJECTS, New York City, as fiscal sponsor for JILL SIGMAN/THINKDANCE, received \$7,500 in support of the creation and production of *ZsaZsaLand*. Jill sigman/ thinkdance is an experimental company presenting work at the intersection of dance, theater, and visual installation, often employing non-traditional environments, formats, and ways of engaging the viewer. Sigman asks questions through the medium of the body. *ZsaZsaLand* is a multimedia dance theater work, a commentary on decadence and decay, commercialism and cannibalism, in contemporary American culture. In this new work, Sigman explores the collision of abundance, decadence, violence, and fatalism in contemporary American culture.

Walker Art Center

The WALKER ART CENTER, Minneapolis, Minnesota, a catalyst for the creative expression of artists and the active engagement of audiences, examines the questions that shape and inspire individuals, cultures, and communities. The Jerome Foundation Board approved a two-year grant of \$40,000 to commission, develop, and present new contemporary dance works by emerging Minnesota choreographers. The works were presented within the festival *Momentum: New Dance Works*, curated and co-presented by the Walker and The Southern Theater in Minneapolis. Choreographers benefit from the production services offered by these two major presenting institutions and by receiving commissioning funds early in the process to assist in the development of new works.

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Zenon Dance Company

ZENON DANCE COMPANY AND SCHOOL, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received \$10,000 in support of July 2008 performances of works by emerging New York City and Minnesota choreographers at Dance Theater Workshop in New York City. The mission of Zenon Dance Company and School is to sustain an artistically excellent, professional dance company in the Twin Cities by presenting the commissioned works of emerging and locally, nationally and internationally recognized modern and jazz choreographers to the broadest and most diverse audiences and communities possible. This repertory company has commissioned new works from over 30 choreographers, many of those with the support of the Jerome Foundation. The culmination of its 25th anniversary season was a series of performances at Dance Theater Workshop. Zenon also received \$24,500 in support of the commissioning and performance of new dance works by three emerging choreographers. The Jerome Foundation grant allows Zenon to select emerging choreographers based in Minnesota and New York City and commission them to create new works while in residence with the Company. These works are then presented on a Zenon season.