



New England
Foundation
for the Arts

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**NEW ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS AWARDS OVER \$340,000 IN GRANTS TO
SUPPORT THE CREATION OF CONTEMPORARY DANCE PROJECTS**

(Boston, MA- August 31, 2006) National Dance Project (NDP), a program of the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA), has awarded **\$347,154** in **Production Grants** to support the development of new dance projects during the 2006-2007 season.

Fifteen contemporary dance artists and companies from Maine, California, New York, and Hawaii, as well as Canada, France and Australia will receive NDP Production Grants this year, ranging in amount from \$15,000-\$29,000. Projects were selected from a highly competitive applicant pool, and demonstrate multi-disciplinary collaborations, serve diverse audiences, and pursue creative and innovative partnerships between artists and performing arts presenters. Once developed, the works will be available for national tours during the 2007-2008 or 2008-2009 performance seasons.

“This year’s grantees comprise a wonderful range of offerings, from the mastery of Bill T. Jones and Bebe Miller to the rarely seen ancient Bharata Natyam dance form and contemporary Chinese dance inspired by 17th century Beijing opera,” said Jane Forde, NDP Manager. “Artists from many different corners of the earth will create works with universal resonance.”

A complete list of projects funded by NDP Production Grants this year is included below and available online at: http://www.nefa.org/grantprog/ndp/ndp_grantees.html

Artist: ANIRUDDHA KNIGHT AND ENSEMBLE, Portland, ME

Project title: *From the Heart of a Tradition*

The immediacy, certainty and expressiveness of performances by Aniruddha Knight and six musicians prove that new art flows from traditional sources. The first male dancer in nine generations of one of India’s great professional artistic families, Knight offers the last example of the hereditary practice of Bharata Natyam, made famous by his grandmother, Balasaraswati. The ensemble’s brilliantly precise execution of abstract rhythmic choreography and improvised interpretation of poetry reveal their fresh vision – and deep artistic roots. Two-hour concerts showcase repertoire never performed outside Knight’s family.

Artist: AXIS DANCE COMPANY, Oakland, CA

Project title: *Axis Dance Company/Joe Goode*

Building on the critical triumph of their first collaboration, *Jane Eyre*, a hysterical and mordant reinterpretation of the classic novel, Joe Goode creates a second dance theater work for AXIS Dance Company, the country’s preeminent physically integrated dance ensemble. Using his signature style that weaves together movement with spoken word, song, and visual imagery, Goode will mine the territory of the relational with his own brand of subtlety and humor.

Artist: BEBE MILLER COMPANY, New York, NY

Project title: *Necessary Beauty*

Necessary Beauty addresses the intersection of audience, art and beauty in a series of short dances that carry complex emotional resonance in a contained space and time. Short, multimedia works for up to four dancers, *Necessary Beauty* will be produced with digital technology for a range of venues including black

box theaters, white box galleries, outdoor events - that require only a dance floor, a projection wall, sound and light.

Artist: BILL T. JONES/ ARNIE ZANE CO., New York, NY

Project title: *Chapel/Chapter*

Bill T. Jones conceives a site-specific dance/music/theater evening that explores the oppositions of sacred and secular. The music and often troubling text, as well as the video and decor, evoke the restless questioning we face in an era where all moral certainty is suspect and the notion of evil, like the notion of good, morphs and changes. The score is driven by sacred and secular music of the Renaissance through the high modernist period, including Gospel and folk traditions from around the world.

Artist: CIE LA BARAKA/ABOU LAGRAA, Lyon, France

Project title: *MATRI(K)IS*

Of Algerian descent, choreographer Abou Lagraa will collaborate with set/lighting designer Dietmar Janeck (former dance photographer with Frankfurt Ballet) and cinematographer Gerald Groult (former collaborator with hip-hop dance company Kafig and Lyons International Dance Biennale) to develop this new 65-minute work for Cie La Baraka, his French based, multi-racial 10-dancer company. In this work, to be performed at Annecy Bonlieu Theater and at Paris' Theatre de Chaillot early 2007, Lagraa will explore the symbolism of colors, their connections to the human soul and sexual identity/ambiguity.

Artist: COMPAGNIE MARIE CHOUINARD, Montreal, Quebec

Project title: *The Ode to Joy*

Canadian choreographer Marie Chouinard's new piece will be set to Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*. This major work will be bursting with joy - generous, mad and free. The dancers, like strange gods and goddesses costumed in gold with little spherical bells, will be at the height of their beauty. It is a positive message to the audience by a group of astonishing human bodies, the 10 wonderful dancers of the company. It will be premiered in November 2007.

Artist: EIKO & KOMA, New York, NY

Project title: *Mourning*

Death is an intensely personal rite of passage in which the person expiring is the central figure, the celebrant almost. It is also a fact of public life with public consequences, in which the public is the celebrant and in which the dead may be unknown to us or even anonymous. *Mourning* exists at this intersection. A collaboration with pianist Margaret Leng Tan, noted exponent of innovative music for toy and full-size piano, who will play live.

Artist: KEO WOOLFORD, Honolulu, HI

Project title: *I-Land*

This solo performance by the Hawaiian dancer /actor Keo Woolford. expands the Hawaiian tradition of talk story, bringing together hula, dramatic narrative, comedy and hip-hop to tell of another Hawaii, beyond the 'lil grass shack.' It is an autobiographical tale of living and commuting between two islands: Oahu and Manhattan. Collaborators are hula master Robert Cazimero, hip hop choreographer Anita "Rocafella" Garcia and director Roberta Uno. The Asia Society, Ma-Yi Theater and Diverse Works are co-commissioning this new work.

Artist: NOCHE FLAMENCA, Brooklyn, NY

Project title: *Noche Flamenca*

From Madrid, *Noche Flamenca* offers audiences authentic performances of traditional flamenco. An ensemble comprised of dancers, singers, and guitar players, Noche will tour *La Strada*, a narrative work based on the story scripted and made famous by Fellini in his film of the same name. *La Strada* will comprise one half of the evening with the balance of the program comprised of ensemble, solo, and duet repertory vignettes.

Artist: RONALD K. BROWN\EVIDENCE, Brooklyn, NY

Project title: *One Shot*

The new work *One Shot*, is inspired by the beauty, sense of community and inspired legacy captured in the photographs of noted African-American documentary photographer and Pittsburgh native Charles “Teenie” Harris. Utilizing Evidence’s unique blended movement style and phenomenal music such as Anonimo Consejo’s Cuban rap and the classic jazz of Billy Strayhorn and others, *One Shot* will tour in both an evening length and repertory format. Evening length versions will include integration of selected Harris photographs and both versions will travel with an optional photo exhibit.

Artist: ROS WARBY, Melbourne, Australia

Project title: *Monumental*

Monumental is a 50-minute solo dance work integrating dance, 35mm film projection, solo cello composition, and light. Building from a long standing artistic collaboration, Warby’s unique performance practice, international acknowledgment, and the cinematic integration developed with *SWIFT* (which toured in America, and extensively in Europe), *Monumental* continues to refine Warby’s integration of the solo dance form with film projection and composition.

Artist: SARAH MICHELSON, New York, NY

Project title: *DOGS*

DOGS is a new project by Sarah Michelson with her long time collaborators Parker Lutz, (visual design and performance), Mike Iveson (music and performance), Jennifer Howard (rehearsal assistant and performance) and Greg Zuccolo (performance). The work of UK visual artist Charlotte Cullinan (Artlab) and James Lo (Sound Designer) will be featured. *DOGS* is being built to examine the classical stage in relationship to modern trends. It looks at scarcity and the tension of small time stardom by creating a grand non-collusive work and a non-collusive “star.”

Artist: SHEN WEI DANCE ARTS, New York, NY

Project title: *Second Visit to the Empress*

Shen Wei’s stunning, iconoclastic 80-minute dance-theater work is inspired by a landmark 17th-Century Beijing Opera—a consummate performing art combining virtuosic vocal and instrumental music, dialogue, pantomime, acrobatics and martial arts. Each action in *Empress* is highly symbolic; the mise en scene has no limit in space or time. The startling choreography—a hybrid of ancient and modern influences drawn from Shen Wei’s decade in Beijing Opera—incorporates a live traditional Chinese orchestra, monumental backdrops, and lush costumes. *Second Visit to the Empress* is an epochal, exotic pageant of the dance arts.

Artist: URBAN BUSH WOMEN, INC., Brooklyn, NY

Project title: *The Beauty of Little Things*

The Beauty of Little Things is a creative exchange between the all male Compagnie JANT-BI of Senegal and the all female Urban Bush Women and their respective Artistic Directors, Germaine Acogny and Jawole Willa Jo Zollar. Representing two radically different continents, this two year collaboration, with visits to Senegal and the United States, will culminate in a piece about the importance of place and community. The unique movement vocabulary that is created by mixing Acogny’s nature-inspired technique and Zollar’s brand of contemporary dance influenced by Black vernacular movement is a cross-cultural exchange in itself.

Artist: WALLY CARDONA QUARTET, Brooklyn, NY

Project title: *SITE*

A new evening-length work by choreographer Wally Cardona with composer Phil Kline and lighting designer Roderick Murray, *Site* was created for six dancers and 30-60 musicians from a local high school or college band.

Since its inception in 1996, National Dance Project has awarded over **\$5.5 million** in Production Grants and over **\$14 million** of funding in total. Projects that receive NDP Production Grants are added to a roster of selected projects available to performing arts presenters, who can then apply for NDP Touring Grants to help defray the cost of presenting these works. For further information about NDP, please visit www.nefa.org or call 617.951.0010 x 12.

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