



NEW ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS INITIATES SERIES FOR THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS BY DANCE ARTISTS, ADVOCATES, AND AUDIENCE

Free series workshops will explore topics of significance to the dance community

February 7, 2008

Dates

- [March 9-10, 2008](#)
- [March 18-19, 2008](#)
- [March 31-April 1, 2008](#)
- [April 13, 2008](#)
- (Tentative)
- [May 13, 2008](#)
- [June 2-3, 2008](#)
- [June 24-25, 2008](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(BOSTON) The New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) is proud to announce a series of seven events intended to encourage the exchange of ideas in New England's dance communities. The seven exchanges (outlined below) are planned for the coming months in locations throughout the region. The one- to two-day events are free, and are designed to bring together local dance artists, educators, presenters, funders, advocates, and audiences to engage in dialogue on topics of significance in the field of dance. Each exchange will include performances by regional dance artists, facilitated discussions, and opportunities for community building, professional development, and networking.

These first-ever exchanges are the next steps in the Regional Dance Development Initiative for New England, as part of NEFA's National Dance Project. While the National Dance Project provides a system of support for the production and touring of contemporary dance in the United States, these regional initiatives seek to strengthen dance communities at the local level.

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March 9-10, 2008

Lewiston, ME: Franco-American Cultural Center/Bates College

Context and Collaboration

- *exploring strategies to contextualize work to broaden audiences and deepen impact
- *thinking outside the box about ways to leverage regional artists through the support systems for national artists



March 18-19, 2008

Southern NH/ VT: Marlboro College, Brattleboro VT

Developing a College/ High School Circuit

*making use of facilities for bartered exchange

*developing the potential for interdisciplinary work for regional artists within academic settings



March 31-April 1, 2008

Western MA: MASS MoCA, North Adams

Non Traditional Spaces for Dance

Using MASS MoCA's multi-disciplinary space as a catalyst for discussion, topics of site-specific dance and dance designed to be viewed in contexts apart from the proscenium stage will be explored



April 13, 2008 (Tentative)

Providence, RI: Perishable Theater

Presenting Native American Dance

*engaging Native American dance artists in dialogue with presenters and dance artists of other forms around opportunities and contexts for regional Native dance artists to present work



May 13, 2008

Northern VT & NH: St. Johnsbury Academy, St. Johnsbury, VT

Dance in the Rural Setting

*presented in cooperation with Extending the Dance Map: A Northern New England Rural Dance Initiative

*focus on how to encourage performance opportunities for regional artists in rural areas

June 2-3, 2008

Eastern MA: Summer Stages/Concord Academy

Commissioning and Touring

- * Developing a circuit in the region to provide long term residencies for the commissioning of new work by regional artists
- * Engaging strategies to provide peer to peer feedback for regional artists during the creative process

June 24-25, 2008

New Haven, CT: Festival of Arts and Ideas, ACES Theater

Alternative Formats for Presenting/ Presenting in the Virtual World

- *specific focus on the growing use of technology in the work of regional artists, the potential and challenges of these hybrid forms of dance and technology

About NEFA

NEFA creatively supports the movement of people, ideas, and resources in the arts within New England and beyond, makes vital connections between artists and audiences, and builds the strength, knowledge, and leadership of the region's creative sector. NEFA is a 501 (c) 3 that operates with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New England state arts agencies, and from corporations, foundations and individuals.

Currently, NEFA administers nine grant-making programs that support the performing arts and public art. NEFA is also actively involved in over ten projects and initiatives, ranging from the research and analysis of the impact of the creative economy to the creation and administration of resources and online tools, linking the regional, national and international cultural community.

For up to date information on grant programs, projects, and initiatives, please visit www.nefa.org or call [617] 951-0010.

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