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**NEW ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS AWARDS \$50,000 IN TOURING SUPPORT THROUGH "AMERICAN MASTERPIECES: DANCE" FOR SIGNIFICANT AMERICAN DANCE WORKS**

(BOSTON –December 13, 2006) American Masterpieces: Dance (AMD), the dance component of a major initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) administered by New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA), has awarded **\$50,000** in touring grants to two historically significant American dance works that will tour nationally.

Two American dance companies, Lula Washington Dance Theatre of Los Angeles and Tapestry Dance Company of Austin, TX received touring support grants this year of up to \$25,000 to augment 14 AMD reconstruction and touring grants awarded to 14 companies in July 2006. Projects were selected from a highly competitive applicant pool, and projects are expected to tour, to ensure the works reach the broadest possible audience. In selecting projects, a panel of reviewers considered scale, geographic reach, and the representation of diverse ethnicities and artistic forms, as well as the historic significance of the works.

American Masterpieces: Dance was launched in December 2005, and this is the second round of grants awarded. Touring plans are expected to be announced in May 2007.

**Funding for Colleges and Universities**

AMD funding is also available to colleges and universities, through the American Masterpieces: Dance College Component (AMDCC). AMDCC is administered by Dance/USA and supports the restaging, performance, and documentation of classic American dances of the past century that are brought to college students and audiences in communities across the nation. . Information about AMDCC is available at [http://www.danceusa.org/programs\\_publications/American\\_Masterpieces.htm](http://www.danceusa.org/programs_publications/American_Masterpieces.htm)

**GRANTEES**

**Artist: Lula Washington Dance Theatre Los Angeles, CA**

**Project title: *Donald McKayle's Songs of the Disinherited***

Lula Washington Dance Theatre is one of the west coast dance companies that act as a repository of McKayle works. McKayle was one of Lula Washington's teachers and source of inspiration. McKayle is an African American master artist now residing in California, and he choreographed *Songs of the Disinherited* in 1972.

**Artist: Tapestry Dance Company, Austin, TX**

**Project title:** *The Souls of our Feet – A celebration of American Tap Dance*

Under the direction of internationally acclaimed tap artist Acia Gray, Tapestry Dance Company will tour *The Souls of our Feet*, a broad range of Hollywood and Vaudeville classics, featuring master works of 20th century legends and their living protégés. Led by tap ambassador Dianne “Lady Di” Walker, this tour will feature historical works of Bill “Bojangles” Robinson, Charles “Honi” Coles, The Condos Brothers, The Nicholas Brothers, Miller Brothers and Lois, Eddie Brown, Buster Brown, Gene Kelly and Donald O’Connor, Fred Astaire and Eleanor Powell, The Copasetics and Leon Collins as well as contemporary artists Sarah Petronio, Acia Gray and Dianne Walker.

For a listing of all companies funded by AMD to date, visit

[http://www.nefa.org/grantprog/americanmasterpieces /AMD\\_grantees.html](http://www.nefa.org/grantprog/americanmasterpieces /AMD_grantees.html)

For further information about AMD, please visit [www.nefa.org](http://www.nefa.org) or call 617.951.0010 x 516.

*American Masterpieces: Dance is generously funded by the National Endowment for the Arts.*

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