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PRESS RELEASE

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Dance/USA 2010 Annual Conference: DANCE Beyond Borders

Hundreds of dance professionals to gather in Washington, DC for four days of professional development, networking, performances, and celebrations

Washington, DC – Dance/USA's **2010 Annual Conference** in Washington, DC kicks off this week, featuring a host of renowned speakers, performances from local and national dance artists, and special events at some of DC's hidden-gem venues. Nearly 400 individuals from the national and international dance field will convene for the Conference, taking place **June 16-19** at the Ritz-Carlton Pentagon City.

The Conference, titled "**DANCE Beyond Borders**" features break-out sessions focusing on four topics of increasing importance and relevance to today's dance field—**international exchange, artistry, management, and audience engagement**. Four plenary sessions will also address these issues, including keynote speaker **Congressman Louise Slaughter**, who chairs the Congressional Arts Caucus and has a long-standing commitment to arts advocacy. Additional plenary speakers include noted director and playwright **George Stevens Jr.**, **Jonathan Lowe**, Senior Director of Marketing and Promotions for the Los Angeles Kings, and **Karen Riordan**, President of Arnold Worldwide, Washington DC, who will jointly share their expertise in crossover marketing strategies as they apply to dance. A fourth plenary features an interdisciplinary panel moderated by **Caitlin Strokosch**, Executive Director of the Alliance of Artists Communities, with creative artists **Reuben Margolin**, a large-scale sculptor and artist, **Gideon Obarzanek**, Artistic Director, Chunky Move, **Paata Tsikurishvili**, Artistic Director & Founder, Synetic Theater, and **Irina Tsikurishvili**, Resident Choreographer & Founder, Synetic Theater.

Highlights of the Conference include the **Opening Night Reception** at the exquisite **House of Sweden**. Located on the banks of the Potomac River, the House of Sweden serves as home to the Embassy of Sweden and boasts stunning exhibition spaces and lush views. The reception will be accented by site-specific performances from DC dance artists Daniel Burkholder, Maida Withers, and Jane Franklin Dance.

This year's **Honors Celebration** takes place at the **U.S. Botanic Garden** at the foot of Capitol Hill. Dance/USA will recognize this year's Honor Award recipient **Carmen de Lavallade** (presented by renowned choreographer **Gus Solomans JR**) and **Ernie Award** (named for the late Ian "Ernie" Horvath)

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recipient **Dick Caples** (presented by noted choreographer **Lar Lubovich**). The new **Champion Award**—given to an individual or organization in the Conference host city whose achievements, leadership, and support have sustained and/or significantly advanced dance in their home community—will be presented to both **The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation** and the **Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation**.

Ten leading dance companies and artists from Washington, DC will take the stage at the historic Lansburgh Theatre for the **DC Host Committee's Performance Showcase**. Highlighting the diverse variety of genres and styles among DC's dance scene, the showcase includes Bowen McCauley Dance, CityDance Ensemble, Coyaba Dance Theatre, Dakshina/Daniel Phoenix Singh Dance, Gesel Mason Performance Projects, Janaki Rangarajan, Karen Reedy Dance, StepAfrika, The Washington Ballet, and Urban Artistry. Conference attendees will also be treated to a performance by top ballet companies nationwide at The Kennedy Center's **Ballet Across America II**, featuring Houston Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, The Suzanne Farrell Ballet, Ballet Arizona, Tulsa Ballet, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet, and North Carolina Dance Theatre.

Additional special programming is available for emerging leaders and trustees of dance organizations. The full Conference schedule, hotel information, and registration are available at www.danceusa.org. Members of the press are invited to attend the Conference. Please contact Betsy Lundgren at 202.833.1717 or blundgren@danceusa.org with inquiries.

Dance/USA is grateful to **American Harlequin Corporation**, title sponsor of the 2010 Annual Conference, for their generous support. Dance/USA thanks **DeWitt Stern Group** for their generous sponsorship of the 2010 Honors Celebration. Dance/USA and the DC Host Committee thank **The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation**, the **House of Sweden**, **Marpat Foundation**, and **The Washington Ballet** for their support. Dance/USA also wishes to thank the **National Endowment for the Arts**, the **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**, **The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**, **The Shubert Foundation**, **Freed of London**, **The Arts Insurance Program**, **The Trust for Mutual Understanding**, and **Patron Technology** for their support of the 2010 Annual Conference.

ABOUT DANCE/USA

Dance/USA is the national service organization for the professional dance field. We believe that dance is essential to a healthy society, demonstrating the infinite possibilities for human expression and potential, and facilitating communication within and across cultures. Dance/USA sustains and advances professional dance by addressing the needs, concerns, and interests of artists, administrators, and organizations. By providing services and national leadership, Dance/USA enhances the infrastructure for dance creation, education, and dissemination.

Established in 1982, Dance/USA is a membership organization serving a broad cross-section of professional dance (currently over 400 ballet, modern, ethnic, jazz, and tap companies, dance service and presenting organizations, individuals, and related organizations). With an informed understanding of local dance communities and an eagle-eye view of dance nationally, we occupy a unique position in the

field. By working primarily in the interests of our membership, Dance/USA strengthens the dance field as a whole and the performing arts field in general. Dance/USA's priorities include **advocating** for dance, providing **information & research** on the field, **convening & networking**, and building **leadership** among dance professionals.

Learn more about Dance/USA and our branch offices by visiting our website, www.danceusa.org.

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