

May 14, 2008

**Dance/USA Awards 22 Scholarships
to the 2008 National Performing Arts Convention and Dance/USA Roundtable**

Scholarships support third round of "Access Dance/USA," a program aimed at engaging small organizations and individual artists

Dance/USA, the national service organization for professional dance, announces the selection of 22 individuals from the New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC communities who have received **Access Dance/USA scholarships** to attend the **2008 National Performing Arts Convention and Dance/USA Roundtable** being held in **Denver, CO, June 11-14**.

Access Dance/USA is a scholarship program designed to increase the reach of Dance/USA's professional development services to smaller companies and individual artists by subsidizing attendance to Dance/USA convenings (Council meetings and Roundtables). *Access Dance/USA* participants will be paired with mentors who will act as guides during the Council meeting and as references following the conference to help those new to Dance/USA get the most out of their experience.

More than sixty potential *Access Dance/USA* participants submitted applications that were reviewed by a committee of current Dance/USA Trustees and members. Funding for the scholarships was made possible by Dance/USA Philadelphia through support from the Philadelphia Cultural Management Initiative, a program of the Philadelphia Center for Arts and Heritage, funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts and administered by The University of the Arts (Philadelphia community); Dance/Metro DC (District of Columbia); and Dance/NYC through a grant from the Mellon Foundation (NYC community). Dance/USA will continue to foster opportunities in other communities for future *Access Dance/USA* scholarships.

The recipients of the scholarships are listed below:

New York

Marisa Ballaro, Ballaro Dance Company
Brittany Beyer, Battleworks Think Tank
Samir Bitar, SENS Production / Noemie Lafrance
Andrew Cowan, Shen Wei Dance Arts
Alberto Denis, Queens Academy of Arts and Dance
Carlos Durval Dos Santos Jr., Independent
Ashley Friend, The Contemporary Dance Core
Andrea Haenggi, Andrea Haenggi/ AMDat, Inc.
David Harrison, Parsons Dance
Risa Jaroslow, Risa Jaroslow and Dancers
Ani Javian, Propel-her Dance Collective
Rebecca Lazier, Terrain
Betsy Miller, Propel-her Dance Collective / Jose Limon Dance Foundation
Jorge Navarro, The New York Center for Flamenco Performing Arts / Arts Flamenco
Andrew Nembr, Tap Legacy Foundation / 23 Prime Inc. / CPD Plus
Ebonie Pittman, Mezclado Movement Group
Julie Potter, The Julliard School
Susan Simek, Complexions Contemporary Ballet
Paz Tanjuaquio, Topaz Arts

Philadelphia

Deborah Crocker, Koresh Dance Company
Michelle Stortz, Ring Dance Theater

District of Columbia

Erika Schonemann Surma, Next Reflex Dance Collective
Olu Yemisi, Olu Yemisi & Co Dancers