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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dance/USA Bids Farewell to Long-Time Director of Research

Washington, DC – Dance/USA, the national service organization for professional dance, announces the departure of long-time Director of Research John Munger.

“This relationship of about 20 years has been the highlight of my career,” says Munger. “I have had the privilege of working with so many wonderful professionals in the field. I’m grateful to so many people including staff, Board, and members, for many years of learning, adventure and joy.”

Munger will leave his position effective December 31, 2010. Having started with Dance/USA in 1989, the transition brings to a close his career as a budget consultant, survey contractor, and ultimately as Research Director. He affirmed that he has “the highest confidence in Dance/USA’s Research Associate, Victoria Smith, who will step up to the title of Manager of Research in January. She and I have worked together for two and a half years, and I believe she is deeply qualified to tackle this transition.”

During his tenure, Munger brought the Dance/USA research department from a scattered handful of limited membership surveys to its status today as the premier source for hard data about professional dance in the United States. He built Dance/USA’s National Company Roster from a listing of large dance companies to its current state of all known nonprofit dance companies in the U.S. with budgets greater than \$100,000 (296 companies at press time); published *Dancing for Dollars in the Millennium*, a landmark study of the financial health of the dance field from 1990-1999; executed dancemaker censuses in New York, NY, Washington, DC, Chicago, IL, Birmingham, AL, and the state of Minnesota; led Dance/USA’s involvement in the Performing Arts Research Coalition (PARC), which provided both survey tools that were unified across the performing arts disciplines and conducted a ground-breaking survey of audience members across the nation.

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“The Dance/USA board, staff and members are forever grateful to John for his comprehensive, persistent, and valuable contribution to raising awareness of and making the case for useful dance research. His unique perspectives and personal style brought data gathering, analysis and reporting to a place of wonder and appreciation. We will miss him and wish him well as he embarks on the next chapter of his life,” commented Dance/USA Executive Director Andrea Snyder.

In the next phase of his career, Munger, now 65, looks forward to increased service to his beloved Minnesota dance community and to part-time work with contracted projects, whether locally, regionally or nationally. He also continues to teach technique for Zenon Dance Company and School, to perform character roles such as Doctor Coppelius with Continental Ballet of Bloomington, MN, and to create his own work.

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 350 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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