



New England
Foundation
for the Arts

National
Dance
Project

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**NEW ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS ANNOUNCES
\$240,000 IN TOUR GRANTS
FOR CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANIES**

(Boston, MA - December 29, 2008) National Dance Project (NDP), a program of the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA), has designated **\$240,000** to support U.S. tours of six contemporary dance projects in the 2009-10 season. Allocated up to \$40,000 each, projects were selected from a highly competitive pool of applicant projects representing artistry based both in the U.S. and abroad. Those chosen will enhance the range and reach of NDP-funded projects throughout the U.S.

These six tours, listed below, are in addition to touring activity of projects by fifteen dance artists and companies that received NDP production grants in July 2008. Together, these program components will provide up to \$840,000 of dance touring funding during the 2009-10 season.

The full list of all 21 NDP projects receiving touring subsidy for 2009-10 is available online at: http://www.nefa.org/grantprog/ndp/ndp_grantees.html. Since its inception in 1996, National Dance Project has awarded over \$15.5 million of funding.

2009-10 NDP TOUR GRANTS TOTALLING \$240,000

Big Dance Theater/Annie-B Parson and Paul Lazar (New York, NY) for *Comme Toujours Here I Stand*

Big Dance Theater (BDT) teams up with video artist Jeff Larson to re-invent Agnes Varda's 1961 classic New Wave film *CLEO FROM 5 to 7* for the stage. Capturing the spirit of the film for contemporary times, BDT creates an intimate portrait of a woman shadowed by death, while caught up in the breezy pleasures of the day: shopping, visiting, strolling. Cleo's afternoon comes alive via the intersection of three rolling walls, decidedly low budget video, and BDT's innovative use of dance as staging.

Cynthia Oliver/ COCo. Dance Theatre (Urbana, IL) for *Rigidigidim De Bamba De: Ruptured Calypso*

Cynthia Oliver's *Rigidigidim De Bamba De: Ruptured Calypso* is an evening-length multidisciplinary dance theatre project on the nature of calypso dancing as an agent of Afro-Anglo Caribbean identity across geographical, national and aesthetic borders. *Rigidigidim* explores "rupture" as a means to physically articulate the ways Caribbean people negotiate their identities within and outside the region of their "belonging." *Rigidigidim's* international cast of artists layer myth, history, the spoken word, and calypso dancing to deliver calypso's subversive truth telling, innuendo and rawness to raucous and downright unrespectable levels.

Grupo de Rua (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) for *H2 and H3 North American Tour*

This North American tour will include "H2" (2005, the name was said to be shorthand for hip hop) and "H3" (2008). The first, with twelve performers, was deemed the "most refreshing, challenging and ultimately most satisfying work presented in Edinburgh" by *The Guardian*. The second, with nine dancers, is more minimalist, with a window projected on the wall reflecting the supposed rehearsal space where the performance was taking shape. This "breaking-in the personal space" was considered an unusual twist in hip hop.

Lula Washington Dance Theatre (Los Angeles, CA) for 30th Anniversary Tour: *Ode to the Sixties, Songs of the Disinherited, and We Wore the Mask*

Lula Washington Dance Theatre (LWDT) is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2010 by touring *Songs of the Disinherited*, a masterpiece by Donald McKayle, the poignant *Ode To The Sixties* by Lula Washington, and *We Wore The Mask*, Lula's feast of expressive movement.

Margaret Jenkins Dance Company (San Francisco, CA/Guangzhou, China) for *Other Suns*

Other Suns is a cross-cultural trilogy created by the Margaret Jenkins Dance Company in collaboration with the Guangdong Modern Dance Company, of Guangzhou, China, and resident choreographer Liu Qi. Marking the 35th anniversary of her company, Artistic Director Margaret Jenkins has created *Other Suns* in San Francisco and China with a cast of nearly 20 dancers. Investigations of symmetry and asymmetry in both cultures reveal many balances and imbalances in our world; *Other Suns* examines that fragile place. The work features a score by composer Paul Dresher and visual design by Alexander V. Nichols.

Wayne McGregor | Random Dance (London,UK) for *Entity*

An hour-long breathtaking trip through a soundscape created by Coldplay and Massive Attack collaborator Jon Hopkins and award-winning composer Joby Talbot (*The Divine Comedy*), *Entity* is a staggering blend of bodies, lights, technology and film performed by Wayne McGregor | Random Dance (Resident Company, Sadler's Wells, London) that marks McGregor (Resident Choreographer, The Royal Ballet) at the cutting edge of contemporary culture. Technically astonishing, emotionally uncompromising and hard-hitting, McGregor's work breaks boundaries and defies categorization.

NEFA's National Dance Project Production and Touring grants are generously supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Community Connections Fund of the MetLife Foundation.

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 communities, 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.

NEFA administers nine grantmaking programs that support the performing arts, public art, and Native American artists. NEFA also leads projects and initiatives that range from the analysis of the impact of the creative economy to the creation of online tools which link and advance the regional, national, and international cultural community. For further information, please visit www.nefa.org or call [617] 951-0010.

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