BESSIE AWARD RECEPIENTS PRESS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DANCE THEATER WORKSHOP, DANSPACE PROJECT AND, THE JOYCE THEATER with the 2006 BESSIES COMMITTEE ANNOUNCE THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2005-2006 NEW YORK DANCE AND PERFORMANCE AWARDS (A.K.A. THE BESSIES)

*****Please send us a copy of the tear sheet from your coverage of THE BESSIES*****

On Sunday evening, September 17, 2006, Dance Theater Workshop, Danspace Project, and The Joyce Theater with the 2006 Bessies Committee, presented the **Twenty-Second Annual New York Dance and Performance Awards (a.k.a. THE BESSIES)** for exceptional achievements of the 2005-2006 season. Established in 1983, THE BESSIES acknowledge outstanding creative work by independent artists in the fields of dance and related performance in New York City. Artists, press constituents, presenters, and producers in the fields of dance and related performance gathered at The Joyce Theater to honor their own and to celebrate the breadth and depth of ideas that make New York's contemporary performing arts community thrive.

Hosts **Bebe Miller** and **Stephen Petronio** presided over the event. Performances included a duet from **Stephen Petronio**'s *Bud*, an excerpt from **Neil Greenberg**'s *The Disco Project,* and a section from **Susan Marshall**'s *Cloudless*.

This year's award ceremony included 24 citations honoring a total of 35 individuals for achievements during the 2005-2006 season in the following categories: **Choreographer/Creator, Installation & New Media, Performer, Composer, Visual Design**, and **Special Citations,** as well as the **Susan E. Kennedy Award**. The award recipients represent a wide range of contemporary dance aesthetics created by independent artists in the performing arts community. Thanks to the generous support from Big Apple Lights, E.T.C. (Electronic Theatre Controls) and the Harkness Foundation, the honorees received cash awards along with their citations. Award recipients in the Choreographer/Creator category received $1,000 each; the Performer, Design, and Composer recipients each received $500.

Choreographer/Creator Award recipients were **Wally Cardona**, for *Everywhere* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music; **Miguel Gutierrez,** for *Retrospective Exhibitionist* and *Difficult Bodies* at Dance Theater Workshop; **Susan Marshall**, for *Cloudless* at Dance Theater Workshop; **Bebe Miller and the creative team**, for *Landing/Place* at Dance Theater Workshop; **Jennifer Monson**, for *BIRD BRAIN: A Navigation Dance Project* at Dance Theater Workshop; **Jeremy Wade**, for *Glory* at Dance Theater Workshop; **Yasuko Yokoshi**, for *What We When We* at Danspace Project; and **Jawole Willa Jo Zollar**, for *Walking with Pearl …Southern Diaries* at Dance New Amsterdam.

This year's **Performer Awards** were given to **Shani Nwando Ikerioha Collins**, for Sustained Achievement with Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE; **Roxane D'Orléans Juste**, for her Body of Work with the José Limón Company; **Hristoula Harakas**, for Maria Hassabi's trilogy *A Forest in Chelsea, Dead is Dead,* and *Still Smoking* at The Kitchen; **Benoît Lachambre**, for *FORGERIES, LOVE AND OTHER MATTERS* at Dance Theater Workshop; **Ryutaro Mishima**, for *What We When We* at Danspace Project; **Valda Setterfield** for Sustained Achievement; and **Michael Trusnovec**, for his Body of Work with Paul Taylor Dance Company.

Verdensteatret received this year's **Installation & New Media Award** for *Concert for Greenland* at P.S. 122.

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Composer Awards were presented to **Pete Drungle**, for Michael Portnoy's *The K Sound* at The Kitchen; and **Hahn Rowe** for *FORGERIES, LOVE AND OTHER MATTERS* at Dance Theater Workshop.

Visual Design Awards went to **Jonathan Belcher**, for his designs for Jeremy Wade and Reggie Wilson; **Lenore Doxsee**, for lighting design for Miguel Gutierrez's *Retrospective Exhibitionist* and *Difficult Bodies* at Dance Theater Workshop; and to **Mikki Kunttu**, for lighting design for Tero Saarinen Company at The Joyce Theater and Akram Khan Company at Lincoln Center.

Special Citations were presented to **Olga Garay**, for her long-standing commitment to performing arts presenting institutions during her career; and **Dianne McIntyre**, for her pioneering work with women, and with African-American and American spiritual traditions in dance.

The Susan E. Kennedy Memorial Award, which recognizes, encourages, and rewards arts workers who have made *supporting* artists their life's work, was awarded to **Norma Munn**.

The 2005-2006 Bessie Awards were presented by (in order of appearance):
Chloe Z. Brown, Lighting Designers (Visual Design Awards)
Brooks Williams, Composer (Composer Awards)
Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, Choreographer (Special Citation)
Georgiana Pickett and **Carla Peterson**, Executive Director of 651 Arts/Member of 2006 Bessie Committee and Artistic Director DTW (Special Citation)
Kathleen Hughes, Assistant Commissioner of the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs (Susan E. Kennedy Award)
Arcell Cabuag and **Vicky Shick,** Choreographers/Performers (Performer Awards)
Jane Comfort and **Douglas Dunn**, Choreographers (Choreographer/Creator Awards and Installation & New Media Award)

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The co-producers wish to thank JP Morgan & Co. Incorporated for providing enormous support for THE BESSIES in its early years. We would also like to thank The Harkness Foundation for Dance, The Mertz Gilmore Foundation, *The Village Voice* for long-standing support, Patsy Tarr and the JCT Foundation, *Time Out New York*, Altria Group, Inc., New York Foundation for the Arts, the Candy Jernigan Memorial Fund, Electronic Theater Controls, Inc., Big Apple Lights Corp. and numerous individuals and presenting organizations all of whom have at one time generously contributed to these awards.

Recipient bios and photographs from the evening's ceremony are available. To obtain a copy of bios and citations or digital photos, please call or email Rennica Johnson at (212) 674-8112 or rennica@danspaceproject.org. Or visit our website at www.danspaceproject.org.

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