**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
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# DANCE THEATER WORKSHOP, DANSPACE PROJECT, AND THE JOYCE THEATER with the 2006-2007 BESSIES COMMITTEE ANNOUNCE THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2007 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 Monday evening, September 17, 2007, Dance Theater Workshop, Danspace Project, and The Joyce Theater with the 2006-2007 Bessies Committee, presented the **Twenty-Third Annual New York Dance and Performance Awards (a.k.a. THE BESSIES)** for exceptional achievements of the 2006-2007 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.

The Masters of Ceremony for this year's event were **Justin Bond** and **Taylor Mac**. Performances included a section from **Doug Varone**'s *Boats Leaving*, an excerpt from **André Gingras**' solo work *CYP[17],* and a section from **Luciana Achugar**'s *Exhausting Love at Danspace Project*. The evening also featured a special memorial tribute to poet **Sekou Sundiata**.

The award ceremony included 25 citations honoring a total of 30 individuals and organizations for achievements during the 2006-2007 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 in the performing arts community. Thanks to the generous support from Big Apple Lights, E.T.C. (Electronic Theatre Controls), Olga Garay, 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, Composer and Special award recipients each received $500. This year's event received major support from Altria.

**Choreographer/Creator Award** recipients were **Luciana Achugar**, for *Exhausting Love at Danspace Project* at Danspace Project; **Germaine Acogny** and **Kota Yamazaki**, for *Fagaala* presented by 651 Arts at the BAM Harvey Theater; **Yoshiko Chuma**, for sustained achievement; **Emmanuel Gat**, for his concert at the Lincoln Center Festival; **Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company and artistic collaborators**, for *Chapel/Chapter* at Harlem Stage; **Mark Morris**, for *Mozart Dances* presented by the Mostly Mozart Festival at Lincoln Center; **Saburo Teshigawara**, for *Bones in Pages* at the Lincoln Center Festival; and **Doug Varone**, for *Boats Leaving* at The Joyce Theater.

**William Forsythe** received this year's **Installation & New Media Award** for *You Made Me a Monster* at the Baryshnikov Arts Center.

This year's **Performer Awards** were given to **Clifton Brown** for his work with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater during their 2007 season at New York City Center; **Nora Chipaumire** for her performances during Urban Bush Women's 2007 season at The Joyce Theater; **Adriane Fang** for her body of work with Doug Varone; **Kenneth Flak** for his performance in Andre Gingras' *CYP[17]* presented at Danspace Project; **Gino Grenek** for his body of work with Stephen Petronio; and **Karen Sherman** for her performance in Morgan Thorson's *Faker* at P.S. 122.

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**Composer Awards** were presented to **Anthony Caplan and the African Music Workshop Ensemble**, for Vincent Mantsoe's *Men-Jaro*, co-presented by 651 Arts and Danspace Project at the Kumble Theater; **Dietrich Kruger** and **Niels Lanz**, for William Forsythe's *Three Atmospheric Studies* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music; and **Zeena Parkins**, for her body of work.

**Visual Design Awards** went to **Jane Cox**, for Doug Varone's *Boats Leaving* at The Joyce Theater; **Thomas Dunn**, for DD Dorvillier's *Nottthing is Importanttt* at The Kitchen; **Jim Findlay** and **Jeff Sugg**, for Cynthia Hopkins' *Must Don't Whip 'Um* at St. Ann's Warehouse; and the design team of **Sarah Michelson**, **Parker Lutz**, and **Davison Scandrett**, for Michelson's *Dogs* at the BAM Harvey Theater.

**Special Citations** were presented to **Mary Hinkson**, for her longstanding dedication to the dance field, **Judith Jamison**, for expanding the artistic programs of the Ailey Company; and **Chez Bushwick**, for its commitment to supporting experimental dance at affordable prices.

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

The 2006-2007 Bessie Awards were presented by (in order of appearance):
**Kathy Kaufmann**, Lighting Designer and **Scott Pask**, Set Designer (Visual Design Awards)
**Charles Atlas**, Video Artist (Special Citation)
**Georgia Delano**, Dance Advocate (Special Citation)
**David Lang** Composer, Co-founder/Co-Artistic Director Bang on a Can (Composer Awards)
**Paul Matteson** and **Jennifer Nugent,** Choreographers/Performers (Performer Awards)
**Ping Chong**, Writer/Director (Susan E. Kennedy Award)
**Ronald K. Brown** and **Jawole Zollar**, Choreographers (Special Citation)
**John Jasperse** and **RoseAnne Spradlin**, Choreographers (Installation and New Media Award and Choreographer/Creator Awards)

The members of the 2006-2007 Bessie Award Committee are:
Carla Peterson, Artistic Director, Dance Theater Workshop (Co-Chair)
Laurie Uprichard, Executive Director, Danspace Project (Co-Chair)*
Martin Wechsler, Director of Programming, The Joyce Theater (Co-Chair)
Wayne Ashley, Independent Curator and Producer, Performance, Media & Technology
Elise Bernhardt, Executive Director, National Foundation for Jewish Culture
Lili Chopra, Performing Arts Director, French Institute Alliance Française
Rachel Cooper, Director, Cultural Programs and Performing Arts, Asia Society
Joan Finkelstein, Director of Dance Programs, NYC Department of Education
Vallejo Gantner, Artistic Director, Performance Space 122
Stephen Greco, Editor-at-Large, *Trace Magazine**
Iréne Hultman, Choreographer
Nicky Paraiso, Performance Curator, The Club @ La MaMa
David Parker, Artistic Director, The Bang Group
Georgiana Picket, Executive Director, 651 Arts
Yoko Shioya, Artistic Director, Japan Society
Sally Sommer, Writer/Professor, Florida State University
Ivan Sygoda, Director, Pentacle
Charmaine Warren, Performer/Writer/Lecturer
Marýa Wethers, Artist Representative, Pentacle*
Eva Yaa Asantewaa, *InfiniteBody* blog; Artistic Director, *Great Dance Podcast*
Susan Yung, Journalist/Publications, BAM

** Positions held by Bessie Committee Member through the 2006-2007 season*

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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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