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**NEW ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS AWARDS \$400,000
IN GRANTS SUPPORTING RECONSTRUCTION AND RESTAGING OF
SIGNIFICANT AMERICAN DANCE WORKS**

(BOSTON – September 6, 2006) American Masterpieces: Dance (AMD), the dance component of a major initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) administered by New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA), has awarded \$400,000 in grants to support the reconstruction and restaging of historically significant American dance work that will tour nationally.

“We are proud to help acquaint Americans with the best of their artistic legacy in dance through American Masterpieces: Dance,” said Doug Sonntag, NEA Director of National Initiatives. “This ambitious initiative will celebrate the evolution of dance and choreography in the U.S. and bring performances of dance masterpieces to large and small communities throughout the country.”

Fourteen American dance companies received grants this year, ranging in amounts from \$20,000-\$40,000. Projects were selected from a highly competitive applicant pool, and projects include educational and interpretive components such as study guides, student performances, lectures, and exhibitions. Projects are also expected to tour, to ensure the works reach the broadest possible audience. In selecting projects, NEFA considered scale, geographic reach, and the representation of diverse ethnicities and artistic forms, as well as the historic significance of the works.

American Masterpieces: Dance was launched in December of 2005, and this is the first round of annual grants awarded. The program includes touring grants, which will support the presentation of the work created by the reconstruction grants. Touring grant recipients will be announced in July 2007.

“This first group of AMD grantees reflects a rich and varied representation of both the history and future of American dance,” said NEFA Executive Director Rebecca Blunk. “I look forward to seeing the restoration of these dances, especially since they will tour to communities across the country.”

A complete list of projects funded by AMD Reconstruction Grants is included below.

Funding for Colleges and Universities AMD funding is also available to colleges and universities, through the American Masterpieces: Dance College Component (AMDCC). AMDCC is administered by Dance/USA and supports the restaging, performance, and documentation of classic American dances of the past century that are then brought to college students and audiences in communities across the nation. The first round of AMDCC grants will be announced later this fall. Information about AMDCC is available at [http://www.danceus.a.org/programs_publications/American_Masterpieces.h tm](http://www.danceus.a.org/programs_publications/American_Masterpieces.htm)

AMD 2006 Reconstruction Grants

Artist: ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER, New York, NY

Project title: *Talley Beatty's Road of the Phoebe Snow*

Beatty had a profound influence on Alvin Ailey, and this work, for 12 dancers, stands as one of his enduring masterpieces. Set to American jazz music by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn, the work weaves a turbulent and gripping love story of young Americans from "the wrong side of the track" – literally, as the title refers to the name of a train on the Erie-Lackawanna Railroad.

Artist: COMPLEXIONS CONTEMPORARY BALLET, New York, NY

Project title: Ulysses Dove's *Dancing on the Front Porch of Heaven, Odes to Love and Loss*

Complexions, led by Artistic Directors Dwight Rhoden and Desmond Richardson, will reconstruct Ulysses Dove's *Dancing on the Front Porch of Heaven, Odes to Love and Loss* (1993). This 20-minute work, which Dove said he created as a "poetic monument over people I loved," involves six dancers and is set to Cantus in Memoriam Benjamin Britten by Estonian composer, Arvo Pärt. We believe that the beauty and emotional pulse revealed in this work will spread the appeal of Dove's choreography to new dance audiences.

Artist: DAVID GORDON, PICK UP PERFORMANCE CO(S.) New York, NY

Project title: *Trying Times*

Influenced by Balanchine's *Apollo*, *Trying Times* was made in 1982. For its 25th anniversary reconstruction, choreographer David Gordon will again collaborate with lighting designer Philip Sandstrom and visual designer Power Boothe. "This piece was/is an example of piercing boundaries between disciplines and pursuing positive movement relationships between aesthetic forms." -David Gordon

Artist: DAYTON CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY, Dayton, Ohio

Project title: *Las Desenamoradas*, choreography by Eleo Pomare

At the 40th anniversary of its creation, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company will engage choreographer Eleo Pomare to refurbish his 1967 master work, *Las Desenamoradas*. Based on Federico Garcia Lorca's "The House of Bernarda Alba," with music by John Coltrane, this 17-minute piece with 10 dancers is a dramatic, tension-filled story of a tyrannical widow and her daughters, in a house where heartless pride and sterile convention destroy love and life.

Artist: HŌKŪLANI HOLT / PA`U O HI`IAKA, Maui, Hawai`i

Project title: *Kahekilli*

Celebrating Kahekilli, one of Hawaii's most influential chiefs, this hula drama includes original choreography, chant, and music by native Hawaiian kumu hula (hula master) Hōkūlani Holt. It transports audiences into pre-contact Hawai`i through the earthbound movements and gestures of kahiko, ancient hula, accompanied by live traditional percussion instruments and chant, as well as ceremonies and cultural practices rarely performed on stage today. Through educational services and master classes, this project shares authentic Hawaiian culture through the dance protocols and cultural practices of Kahekilli's time.

Artist: JAZZ TAP ENSEMBLE, Los Angeles, CA

Project title: *American Tap Masterpieces: The Hollywood Journey-Dance, Music, Film*

Tap pioneer Lynn Dally celebrates American rhythm tap with a company of five musicians and seven dancers including legendary tap master Arthur Duncan. This

evening length program of re-creations and new inventions brings to life famous tap dances from the heyday of the 30's and 40's film musicals (Bill 'Bojangles' Robinson, Fred Astaire, Eleanor Powell, Gene Kelly, Ann Miller, Coles & Atkins and the Nicholas Brothers), along with contemporary masterworks by legendary artists Gregory Hines and Jimmy Slyde, in a vivid, highly entertaining, ever changing action portrait.

Artist: JOSÉ LIMÓN DANCE FOUNDATION, New York, NY

Project title: *The Quartet Project*

This work will be a restaging of *The Traitor* and *Lament for Ignacio Sanchez Mejias* choreographed by company founders, José Limón and Doris Humphrey, respectively. *Lament for Ignacio Sanchez Mejias* was choreographed by Humphrey in 1946 and draws its inspiration from the famous poem of the same name by Federico Garcia Lorca. Choreographed in 1954 to Gunther Schuller's Symphony for Brasses and Percussion, *The Traitor* uses the Sholem Asch's novel, *The Nazarene*, as the impetus for re-telling of the Christ and Judas story.

Artist: MARTHA CLARKE, Sherman, CT

Project title: *The Garden of Earthly Delights*

Choreographer and director Martha Clarke will reconstruct her seminal work, *The Garden of Earthly Delights*. This critically acclaimed piece, based on the painting by Hieronymus Bosch, is designed for the proscenium stage and incorporates aerial dance work. The cast of 13 will include ten dancers and three musicians who perform as part of the cast. The evening-length work consists of four sections: Eden, The Garden, The Seven Sins and Hell and captures the essence of Bosch's painting through movement and live music.

Artist: PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY, New York, NY

Project title: *Book of Beasts/Airs/Roses/Sunset/Av Ovo Usque Ad Mala (From Soup to Nuts)*

Paul Taylor will reconstruct a landmark work from his half-century as a dance innovator. The reconstruction will draw on the knowledge of current and former company members, as well as materials from the works' original creation. This work will be available for touring as part of evening-long programs that will include additional Taylor repertory.

Artist: RIRIE-WOODBURY DANCE COMPANY, Salt Lake City, UT

Project title: Alwin Nikolais' *Tent*

In a collaborative project with the Nikolais/Louis Foundation, the 1968 multimedia ballet *Tent* will be reconstructed and added to a substantial repertory of reconstructed works being kept alive for a new generation of audience members. Cited among Nikolais' most celebrated works, *Tent* includes 10 dancers who erect a canopy, which is continually manipulated to architecturally transform the stage for the dancers to move in, under, over, around, and through it. The 35-minute dance is illuminated by original slides and set to Nikolais' original electronic score.