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Dancers' Group Announces 2013 Lighting Artists for Dance Award Recipients

Supporting the progress of lighting design for dance in the San Francisco Bay Area.

SAN FRANCISCO—Dancers' Group, San Francisco's leading dance service organization, announces the sixth annual grant awards to support lighting designers working in the field of dance. The **Lighting Artists in Dance (LAD) Award** provides lighting designers, working with choreographers and dance companies, access to funds that will support their artistic collaborations, which culminate in the creation of dance performances taking place in the Bay Area.

"To our knowledge no other program in the United States is giving out grants to support lighting designers and their dance partners," says Executive Director Wayne Hazzard. "These projects look to deepen a creative partnership that audiences will then experience as a dynamic movement and light collaboration."

The 2013 grantees are:

Lighting designer **Darl Andrew Packard** with **FACT/SF**;
Lighting designer **David Szlasa** with **Hope Mohr Dance and Christian Burns**;
Lighting designer **Jack Carpenter** with **Randee Paufve**;
Lighting designer **Jerry Lee Abram** with **Kegan Marling**;
Lighting designer **Jose Maria Francos** with **Dohee Lee**;
Lighting designer **Patty-Ann Farrell** with **Lenora Lee Dance**;
Lighting designer **Stephanie Anne Johnson** with **Anne Bluententhal and Dancers**.

A panel of regional specialists in the dance field reviewed the proposals and selected the grant recipients. The panel consisted of **Allen Willner**, lighting designer; **Matthew Royce**, lighting designer and production manager; and **Jo Kreiter**, artistic director, Flyaway Productions.

The LAD Award is not intended to underwrite general production costs, but rather to support projects that encourage an active interaction between lighting designers and their dance partners.

A total of \$12,000 was awarded to the following lighting/dance projects:

2013 Recipients

Darl Andrew Packard, lighting designer for **FACT/SF**

(Awarded: \$2,000)

Project Name: *INVIDIOUS*

Performance Timeframe: Winter, 2013/2014

Venue: San Francisco Private Residence

INVIDIOUS is an immersive and intimate performance experience for both artist and audience. Considering some darker realities of the American dream, FACT/SF will present four distinct dances site-specifically inside of an actual home. We will use domestic lights, purchased equipment, and lighting gadgetry created out of household items to frame the movement and bring the house to life.

David Szlasa, lighting designer for **Hope Mohr Dance and Christian Burns**

(Awarded: \$2,000)

Project Name: *the invisible material of attention*

Performance Timeframe: October 2014

Venue: Joe Goode Annex

the invisible material of attention will be a duet between Hope Mohr and Christian Burns in collaboration with lighting designer David Szlasa, who will develop a portable, interactive lighting environment that the dancers manipulate. Interaction with Szlasa's lighting environment will be integral to Burns' and Mohr's navigation among various kinds of awareness including observation, contact, dialogue between energetic state and static form, and personal dialogue.

Jack Carpenter, lighting designer for **Randee Paufve/Paufve Dance**

(Awarded: \$2,000)

Project Name: *Soil*

Performance Timeframe: October 2013

Venue: Hillside Swedenborgian Church, El Cerrito

Randee Paufve, in collaboration with lighting designer Jack Carpenter, presents *Soil*, a solo show performed by Randee with choreography by Kate Weare (NYC), Gregg Bielemeier (Portland, OR) and Paufve. *Soil* marks a return to the solo form that launched Randee's career, with the aim of exposing the raw, hot vitality of an artist smashing against stereotypes of aging dancers, up-ending the roles of choreographer/performer/audience and embodying the unpredictability of transformation.

Jerry Lee Abram, lighting designer for **Kegan Marling**

(Awarded: \$1,000)

Project Name: *Jump Ship Mid Way*

Performance Timeframe: June 2014

Venue: CounterPULSE, San Francisco

Jump Ship Mid Way is an evening length dance-theater work about growing up during the AIDS crisis and looking for role models amongst a dying generation. At its core, it interweaves stories from two men: one from conservative upstate New York as he plunges into the queer underground scene; the other a liberal Bay Area native detaching himself from a community reeling from AIDS. The work will be presented for two weeks during gay pride month at CounterPULSE in 2014.

Jose Maria Francos, lighting designer for **Dohee Lee**

(Awarded: \$2,000)

Project Name: *MAGO*

Performance Timeframe: Multiple dates through September 2014

Venue: Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco

MAGO is an interdisciplinary project inspired by Korean traditions and mythology. Through and exploration of the myth of Mago, and Lee's story, the piece unfolds in six chapters. The work itself will be a cleansing/purging ritual, and an intensely personal journey of birth, self-discovery, confrontation and action. *MAGO* will feature indoor and outdoor, site-specific public rituals for each of the four season at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA), culminating in an installation/performance premiere at the YBCA Forum.

Patty-Ann Farrell, lighting designer for **Lenora Lee Dance**

(Awarded: \$1,000)

Project Name: *Rescued Memories: New York Stories*

Performance Timeframe: November 2013

Venue: de Young Museum, San Francisco

Rescued Memories: New York Stories will be a new 30-minute interdisciplinary work in which dance, memory, martial arts, multi-screen video projection, text and music collide in a visual and aural landscape, a meditation on one woman being propelled into the unknown by courage and faith to risk her life and everything she has for freedom. There will be two world premiere performances, November 8th & 9th, 2013, at the de Young Museum as part of their 2013 Artist Fellows Program.

Stephanie Anne Johnson, lighting designer for **Anne Bluententhal and Dancers**

(Awarded: \$2,000)

Project Name: *Skywatchers*

Performance Timeframe: October & December 2013

Venue: Community Housing Partnerships in San Francisco

Skywatchers is a multi-disciplinary performance project that will take place in San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood. Working in partnership with the Community Housing Partnership (CHP) and in collaboration with formerly homeless residents, Anne Bluententhal and Dancers along with Stephanie Anne Johnson (lighting designer), Gretchen Jude (sound artist), and Melanie DeMore (singer/composer) will create three site-specific performances foregrounding the talents and stories of CHP residents/participants.

About Dancers' Group

Dancers' Group promotes the visibility and viability of dance. Founded in 1982, we serve San Francisco Bay Area artists, the dance community and audiences through programs and services that are as collaborative and innovative as the creative process. As the primary dance service organization for the second largest dance community in the country, Dancers' Group's many programs help artists produce work, build audiences, and connect with their peers and the community.

For more info please visit:

dancersgroup.org

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