

For Immediate Release
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Dancers' Group Announces 2015 Lighting Artists for Dance Grant Recipients

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

SAN FRANCISCO—Dancers' Group, a hybrid service and presenting organization in the San Francisco Bay Area, announces the 8th annual grant awards to support lighting designers working in the field of dance. The **Lighting Artists in Dance (LAD)** program 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.

"Dancers' Group is pleased to announce these grant awards that provide needed funds to an amazing range of dance projects," says Executive Director Wayne Hazzard. "Illumination may be one of the more appropriate metaphors for the arts and how the selected artists will bring their projects to fruition."

The 2015 grantees are:

Jack Beuttler, lighting designer for **GERALDCASELDANCE**
Rogelio Lopez, lighting designer for **Nina Haft & Company**
Jose Maria Francos, lighting designer for **Deep Waters Dance Theater/Amara Tabor-Smith**
Gabe Maxson, lighting designer for **Paufve Dance/Randee Paufve**
Darl Andrew Packard, lighting designer for **FACT/SF**
Dennis Randolph, lighting designer for **Los Lupeños de San Jose**
Patrick Toebe, lighting designer for **dawsondancesf**
Allen Willner, lighting designer for **Scott Wells & Dancers**
Alexander Zendzian, lighting designer for **James Graham Dance Theatre**

A panel of regional specialists in the dance field reviewed the proposals and selected the grant recipients. The panel consisted of lighting designers **Jack Carpenter** and **Matthew Cohen**, and **Margaret Jenkins**, choreographer and artistic director of Margaret Jenkins Dance Company.

The LAD program 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:

2015 Recipients

Jack Beuttler, lighting designer for **GERALDCASELDANCE**

(Awarded: \$2,000)

Project Name: *Splinters in Our Ankles*

Performance Timeframe: December 2015

Venue: ODC Theater, SF

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unify strengthen amplify

Splinters in Our Ankles is a choreographic response to the collective cultural amnesia that imbues the Phillipine folk dance, *Tinikling*. In a radical departure from how this beloved traditional dance has historically portrayed Filipino culture, the work breathes life into the dance's violent colonial roots, highlighting colonized bodies and performed resistance. It unpacks the turmoil and shame, illuminating these egregious omissions that are key elements of Filipino/Filipino-American identity.

Rogelio Lopez, lighting designer for **Nina Haft & Company**

(Awarded: \$1,000)

Project Name: *King Tide*

Performance Timeframe: November 2015

Venue: Ellen Webb Studio, Oakland

King Tide is a performance about water, balance and extremes. Through movement, we are tuning our bodies to be weather vanes, responding to changes in the natural world. Our bodies are water. Are we not subject to the same forces and cycles as our watersheds? How can we embody fragility and resilience? What can we learn from our bodies about climate change? *King Tide* premieres at Ellen Webb Studio in November 2015, where we will immerse audiences in an intimate experience of water.

Jose Maria Francos, lighting designer for **Deep Waters Dance Theater/Amara Tabor-Smith**

(Awarded: \$2,000)

Project Name: *EarthBodyHOME*

Performance Timeframe: September 2015

Venue: ODC Theater, SF

EarthBodyHOME is an evening-length multi media dance theater piece inspired by the life, work and legacy of Cuban artist Ana Mendieta. Mendieta was well known for her enigmatic "Earth Body" works, inspired by Afro Cuban Santeria and Taino mythologies. Choreographer Amara Tabor-Smith creates a ritual-based performance piece bringing these myths to life in a dream-like allegory of exile, spiritual longing, patriarchy in the art world, and a spirit's return to mother earth.

Gabe Maxson, lighting designer for **Paufve Dance/Randee Paufve**

(Awarded: \$1,000)

Project Name: *Strangers Become Flowers*

Performance Timeframe: February 2016

Venue: ODC Dance Commons, SF

Strangers Become Flowers is a new evening length dance based on a Norwegian fairy tale about the kindness of strangers and how we might reinvent ourselves with someone we have just met. *Strangers Become Flowers* is created by choreographer Randee Paufve, with lighting designer Gabe Maxson, costumer Keriann Egeland, sound designer Teddy Hulsker, and a diverse ensemble of powerhouse dancers including Anna Greenburg, Juliana Monin, Rogelio Lopez, Andrew Merrell, Elizabeth Randall, Nadia Oka, Mechelle Tunstall.

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

(Awarded: \$1,000)

Project Name: *JuMP 2015 commissioning program*

Performance Timeframe: October-November 2015

Venue: ODC Theater, SF

FACT/SF will present two new works as part of its JuMP 2015 commissioning program. One work, *Remains*, by Charles Slender-White, takes as its subject the Romani Diaspora and explores the representations of Roma people in popular Western culture. The second work (as yet untitled), by choreographic duo Lauren Simpson and Jenny Stulberg, continues their multi-year project of taking inspiration from notable still life paintings by prominent American artists. JuMP 2015 is co-produced by ODC Theater.



Dennis Randolph, lighting designer for **Los Lupeños de San Jose**

(Awarded: \$1,000)

Project Name: *Antaño*

Performance Timeframe: September 2015

Venue: Mexican Heritage Plaza Theater, San Jose

Antaño is Los Lupeños de San Jose's first self-sponsored dance concerts in over two years at the Mexican Heritage Plaza Theater. It will be the debut evening for award-winning choreographer and new Artistic Director Samuel Cortez and the entire concert will consist of eight new dance suites including original choreographies set for Los Lupeños.

Patrick Toebe, lighting designer for **dawsondancesf**

(Awarded: \$1,000)

Project Name: *RITE 2016*

Performance Timeframe: May 2016

Venue: YBCA Forum, SF

RITE 2016 is a reimagining of Igor Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* score in which Gregory Dawson will explore themes of change, sacrifice, community, and death, as seen through the eyes of a gay, black man who lived through the AIDS epidemic of the 1980s and 90s. A multidisciplinary work, Dawson intends this project to be a timely statement on the shifting attitudes towards the gay community, as well as an educational experience for a generation that may be unaware of the history of AIDS.

Allen Willner, lighting designer for **Scott Wells & Dancers**

(Awarded: \$2,000)

Project Name: *Double Booked*

Performance Timeframe: January-February 2016

Venue: CounterPulse, SF

Double Booked will be a unique dance event sparking the work of three renowned Bay Area choreographers - Amy Seiwert, Shinichi Iova-Koga and Scott Wells. The performance will juxtapose Ballet, Butoh and Modern (contact improvisation) in a provoking and entertaining format. The choreographers will collaborate with each other and one case of dancers. *Double Booked* will be a rare experience of collaboration, performance and cross-pollination for the audience, choreographers and performers.

Alexander Zendzian, lighting designer for **James Graham Dance Theatre**

(Awarded: \$1,000)

Project Name: *Homeroom*

Performance Timeframe: December 2015

Venue: ODC Theater, SF

Homeroom is an evening of three duets between James Graham and Sebastian Grubb. JGDT has developed this project for the past two years, working with issues of general interpersonal relationships, American Male dynamics, and the personal relationship between Graham and Grubb.

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 a 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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