



For Immediate Release

April 1, 2013

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**Dancers' Group and MetLife Foundation Announce
New Stages for Dance II Award Recipients**

Dancers' Group announces grants totaling \$40,100 for the **New Stages for Dance II**, administered by Dance/USA in partnership with Dancers' Group. Leadership Support for the New Stages for Dance II Initiative is provided by MetLife Foundation. The funding program is designed to increase the potential for dance companies and artists to reach new audiences, enhance production values, and leverage additional support through partnerships with Dancers' Group and collaborating theaters.

MetLife Foundation provided funding support to Dance/USA, the national service organization for professional dance, to support the New Stages for Dance program in Chicago, Philadelphia and San Francisco. Dance/USA partners are: Audience Architects in Chicago, Dance/USA Philadelphia and Dancers' Group in San Francisco.

Dancers' Group is proud to help support nine projects with theater rental grants ranging from \$1,600 to \$8,000. Grants have been awarded to artists presenting work between June 1, 2013 and October 31, 2014 in one of five San Francisco performance venues, and they are: CounterPULSE, Dance Mission Theater, ODC Theater, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and Z Space.

In addition to the grant funds that offset theater rental costs, grantees will benefit from marketing support from Dancers' Group that will help promote their public dance performances in the months leading up to their presentations. Those eligible will also receive one-on-one coaching related to contract negotiation, budgeting, union relationships, and production management from Dancers' Group.

Program Director Michelle Lynch notes, "The increased visibility that comes with presenting dance work in a new theater, for an extended run, or in partnership with another artist can be incredibly meaningful, both artistically and practically. We are honored to be able to support those artists and companies who are taking that next step."

"MetLife Foundation is proud to continue our partnership with Dance/USA on this innovative project that will help advance dance in Chicago, Philadelphia, and San Francisco. New Stages for Dance increases the chances for audiences to experience dance and connect with their local dance professionals on a more frequent basis. This is good for both the art and the local community," said Dennis White, president and CEO of MetLife Foundation.

New Stages for Dance II Grants were awarded in three categories:

- **Shared Presentation:** for performance programs in a participating theater with two dance companies or dance artists.
- **New Theater:** for a company or artist performing in a participating theater where they have not previously performed, and which has an increase in seating capacity or technical capacity from prior venues where the artist has presented.



- **Increased Performances:** for a company or artist presenting work in a participating theater and who will be significantly increasing the number of performances beyond prior years.

An advisory panel of regional specialists in the dance field reviewed the proposals and selected the grant recipients. The panel consisted of **Jack Carpenter:** Production Manager, World Arts West; **Joti Singh:** Artistic Director, Duniya Dance & Drum Company; **David Szlasa:** Production and Design Artist

The San Francisco New Stages for Dance II recipients are:

Shared Program Grants

Scott Wells and Sheldon Smith (\$4,500)

Father On

ODC Theater, December 2013

Father On will be a suite of dances on the shifting landscape of fatherhood. Scott Wells and Sheldon Smith will bring together dancers who are fathers to co-create and perform together, inspired by our journeys into fatherhood.

New Theater Grants

HERE NOW DANCE COLLECTIVE (\$1,600)

This is Dedicated...

CounterPULSE, June 2013

Here Now Dance Collective's *This is Dedicated...* emerges from a desire to share the creative process with our audience; utilize technology in an innovative way; infuse dance with community purpose; and introduce a more collaborative relationship between dancers, director and audience.

Mexico Danza (\$6,500)

Mexico de mis Amores (Mexico of my loves)

ODC Theater, September 2013

Compania Mexico Danza will illustrate the rich cultural heritage of Mexico in a lively and energetic performance entitled *Mexico de mis Amores (Mexico of my loves)*.

RAWdance (\$2,500)

RAWdance 10th Anniversary Season

Z Space, June 2014

For RAWdance's 10th Anniversary, the company is developing a new 30-minute work probing the rich history and physical interpretation of cryptography. Woven through the pattern-based vocabulary, will be a story inspired by the dramatic life and groundbreaking intellectual contributions of British mathematician Alan Turing.

Mary Armentrout (\$5,000)

the woman invisible to herself and the man who's not sure he exists yet decide to go in on an apartment

Z Space, July 2014



the woman invisible to herself and the man who's not sure he exists yet decide to go in on an apartment is Mary Armentrout's newest performance project. The piece is an exploration of the complex nature of self-identity and of how love is possible with this landscape of discontinuity and fracture.

Garrett + Moulton (\$8,000)

A Show of Hands

Lam Research Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, October 2014

Choreographers Janice Garrett and Charles Moulton, Co-Artistic Directors of Garrett + Moulton Productions, are collaborating with composer Dan Becker on the creation of a new dance theater piece, *A Show of Hands*. This evening length work explores touch and the power of the human hand to offer comfort, solace and healing.

Increased Performances Grants

Amy Seiwert's Imagery (\$3,000)

SKETCH 3

ODC Theater, July 2013

The theme for *SKETCH 3: Expectations* comes from Seiwert's feelings about the two guest choreographers, Marc Brew and Val Caniparoli. Both are dancers celebrating bodies that defy traditional expectations, and choreographers who challenge ballet's traditional parameters.

Kegan Marling (\$6,000)

Jump Ship Mid Way

CounterPULSE, June 2014

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.

Lenora Lee Dance (\$3,000)

Lenora Lee Dance's 7th Anniversary Season

Dance Mission Theater, October 2014

Lenora Lee Dance's 7th Anniversary season will feature 3 programs of interdisciplinary pieces: *Rescued Memories* (2013), *The Escape* (2012), *Reflections* (2011) and *Passages: For Lee Ping To* (2010).

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. **dancersgroup.org**

MetLife Foundation was established in 1976 to continue MetLife's longstanding tradition of corporate contributions and community involvement. Our commitment to building a secure future for individuals and communities worldwide is reflected in our dedication to empowering older adults, preparing young people and building livable communities. Since it was established, MetLife Foundation has provided more than



\$530 million in grants to nonprofit organizations addressing issues that have a positive impact in their communities. metlife.org.

Dance/USA is the national service organization for professional dance, established in 1982. Dance/USA serves a diverse national membership of over 525 dance groups working in the genres of aerial, ballet, contemporary, culturally-specific, hip-hop, ice, international, jazz, liturgical, single-choreographer and tap. Dance/USA sustains and advances professional dance by addressing the needs, concerns, and interests of artists, administrators, and organizations. By providing national leadership and services, Dance/USA enhances the infrastructure for dance creation and distribution, education, and dissemination of information.

For more info please visit:

dancersgroup.org/programs_newstages.php

MetLife Foundation

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