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**Rubberbandance Group Premieres at the
Bates Dance Festival**

July 14, 2007

LEWISTON, Maine – Kicking off the 25th Anniversary season Victor Quijada's Montreal-based **Rubberbandance Group** (RBDG) performs an evening of new works. **Rubberbandance Group** is a collection of world-class dancers from contemporary, and breakdance backgrounds that unite to investigate human relationships through an innovative mix of hip hop dynamics and contemporary classicism. RBDG brings to the stage fresh and inventive works that marry explosive hip hop physicality with the subtlety of contemporary storytelling. The music is baroque, Prokofiev, tango, riff or rap, while the choreography blends ballet, contemporary and hip-hop dance styles. The festival presents Rubberbandance Group at 8 p.m. Saturday, July 14, in Schaeffer Theatre, 305 College St., Bates College.

Founder and director, Victor Quijada was introduced to dance on the streets of California, where he began breakdancing at the age of eight. After completing more formal dance training at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts, he spent two years working with his mentor Rudy Perez' Performance Ensemble. Victor went on to work with Twyla Tharp Dance and Eliot Feld Ballet in New York City and in the summer of 2000, moved to Montreal to join Les Grands Ballet Canadiens. In 2002 after years of exploring dance and theatre from urban, classical and contemporary angles he formed Rubberbandance Group.

In 2003 Quijada received both the Bonnie Bird North American Award and the Peter Darrell Choreography Award (UK). He has created work for Peter Boal & Company (NYC), Transitions Dance Company

(London), Chamber Dance Project (NYC), and notably Self Observation Without Judgement for Scottish Dance Theatre, which won the 2004 National Dance Award for Best Modern Repertory. A finalist in the 2004 American Choreography Awards for Hasta La Proxima, his work was also featured in the K-OS music video "Man I Used To Be," which won the 2005 Much Music Video Award for Best Rap Video.

Since its inception, RBDG has been a sought after guest at both Hip Hop and contemporary dance festivals throughout North America, Europe, and recently in Japan as a Canadian representative at EXPO 2005. A well-known member of the Montreal dance community and resident company at Usine C in 2003 and 2004, Rubberbandance Group is best known for the innovative site-specific work "Slicing Static" (Best Dance Production of 2004 - Montreal Mirror). Other highlights include performances at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Bumbershoot Music and Arts Festival, the Fall for Dance Festival at City Center in New York City, Breakin' Convention at Sadler's Wells in London, ACT Festival 2004 at the Rotterdamse Schouwsberg in Holland, and URB Festivaali at Kiasma in Helsinki, Finland. In 2007 Victor Quijada and Anne Plamondon were named artists-in-residence at the Place des Artes in Montreal.

In addition to main stage performances, the festival offers a selection of free and low-cost events. Complete information is available at the website.

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