

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BATES DANCE FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES
25th ANNIVERSARY SEASON
July 7-August 12, 2007**

LEWISTON, Maine – Celebrating 25 years of offering contemporary dance training, commissioning and performance, the Bates Dance Festival announces its 25th Anniversary season from July 7 to August 12, 2007. The five-week Festival will feature workshops and performances by more than 30 internationally recognized dance artists from throughout the United States and abroad. It takes place on the campus of Bates College in Lewiston, Maine.

Highlighting the 2007 Anniversary Festival will be workshops and main stage performances by the award-winning **David Dorfman Dance**, Montreal-based hip hop company **Rubberbandance Group**, **Bridgman Packer Dance**, **BoánDanz Action**, **PearsonWidrig DanceTheater** as well as renowned choreographers **Danny Buraczeski**, **Sean Curran**, **Rennie Harris**, **Liz Lerman**, **Bebe Miller** and **Doug Varone** who will present new solo works for a **25th Anniversary Gala performance on July 28**. The season features innovative contemporary works that blend dance, video, live music and spoken word to address perspectives on the body, community, and the environment and themes of political activism, the impact of technology and cultural change.

Recognized throughout the contemporary dance community for its non-competitive environment and emphasis on experimentation, the Bates Dance Festival will offer its renowned **Professional Training Program**

July 21-August 12 which brings together more than 180 dance students, 18 years and older for three weeks of intensive training with foremost veteran dance educators and exceptional choreographers. Teaching artists on the 2007 roster include Art Bridgman & Myrna Packer; Rennie Harris; Liz Lerman; Dianne McIntyre; Bebe Miller; Doug Varone. They will offer workshops in creative process and performance. Students have the opportunity to choose from 32 daily classes and enjoy a wide variety of evening workshops, films, lectures and performances to complement their daily class schedule.

The 2007 faculty will also feature popular modern teachers David Dorfman, Lisa Race, Heather McArdle, Heidi Henderson, and the San Francisco-based teacher and performer Kathleen Hermesdorf, accompanied by musician Albert Mathias. PearsonWidrig DanceTheater, known for their evocative site-specific and community-based works will create a new work in celebration of the 25th Anniversary. Jazz master Danny Buraczeski will teach jazz technique and restage his masterwork *Swing Concerto*. Cuban's pre-eminent contemporary choreographer, Marianela Boán will teach composition and repertory. A member of the Julliard and Alvin Ailey faculty, JoAnna Mendl Shaw will teach making dances and teacher's toolkit. Also on the 2007 Anniversary schedule are ballet technique by Rachel List; contact improvisation with Nancy Stark Smith; expressive anatomy and the embodied brain by Glenna Batson; yoga and Pilates by Blossom Leilani Crawford; business of the dance by national arts consultant Kim Konikow; and music for dancers and the moving voice by renowned composer Robert E. E. The acclaimed roster of musicians accompanying the classes includes Peter Jones, Jesse Manno, Gilles Obermayer, Mike Vargas, Glen Fittin and Shamou who will also present the annual **Musician's Concert** on **July 31**. Noted dance scholar, Suzanne Carbonneau will lead "Inside Dance," an audience enrichment program held in conjunction with the Bates Dance Festival Main Stage Concert Series.

The **Bates Dance Festival Young Dancers Workshop**, two weeks of intensive training for pre-professional dancers ages 13-17, will take place **July 7-21**. A structured, non-competitive program, the 2007 Faculty features eight master teachers: modern teachers Michael Foley and Colleen Thomas; Shonach Mirk-Robles, a former principal dancer with Bejart's Ballet of the Twentieth Century; veteran ballet instructor Martha Tornay; hip-hop artist Jennifer Archibald; Simonson jazz teacher Katiti King; improviser Karl Rogers; and West African teachers Marilyn Middleton Sylla and Sekou Sylla, principal dancer and drummer with Les Ballets Africains, the national dance company from the Republic of Guinea. Evening activities include dance-related and special workshops, performances, films and lectures.

About the Bates Dance Festival

Founded in 1982 at Bates College in Maine the Bates Dance Festival brings together an international community of contemporary dance choreographers, performers, educators and students in cooperative community to study, perform and create new work. The Festival serves as an annual destination for artists, students and audiences to engage in a full range of dance activities and performances that foster creative exchange of ideas, encourage exploration of new ground and provide the opportunity to experience a wide spectrum of dance/movement disciplines.

More information about the Bates Dance Festival, its training programs, schedules, workshops and performances is available at <http://www.batesdancefestival.org>; by emailing dancefest@bates.edu or by calling the Festival Registrar at 207-786-6381.

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