

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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www.batesdancefestival.org/pressinfo.php

Bates Dance Festival's 'Different Voices' hail from Africa, Mexico, U.S.

LEWISTON, Maine -- Showcasing the internationalism of contemporary dance, choreographers from the United States, Africa and Mexico bring compelling styles and perspectives to the Bates Dance Festival stage with the annual "Different Voices" concert at 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Aug. 5 and 6, in Bates College's Schaeffer Theatre, 305 College St.

Tickets are \$24 for the general public and \$12 for students and seniors, and may be purchased by calling 207-786-6161 after July 5.

On the program are new works by Mexican choreographers Claudia Lavista and Omar Carrum, artistic directors of the Delfos Danza Contemporanea (Delfos Contemporary Dance). One of today's most important companies in Latin America, Delfos is known for a fully articulated, high-energy style, fast and free of constraint.

"If we want to talk of the great figures of Latin American contemporary dance, the name of Claudia Lavista is unavoidable," said a writer for Spain's Por La Danza Magazine. A dancer, choreographer and teacher, Lavista founded Delfos in 1992 with Victor Ruiz.

She has received many awards for her artistry, including the prestigious National Arts Creators Fellowship from the Mexican National Endowment for the Arts in 2008 and the title of Best Female Dancer in Mexico's National Dance Awards. She was named one of the 10 best Mexican dancers of the 20th century by a critics' organization in 2001.

Lavista has appeared in more than 70 works of dance, theater, video and opera, working with choreographers from around the globe and performing in some of the world's most prestigious theaters.

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An artist known for multilayered, deeply personal work, Carrum is a founding member of Delfos. He has been featured in more than 60 works of dance, theater, and opera. In 2000 he was named Best Male Dancer at the 21st Annual INBA-UAM National Choreographic Competition. He has received numerous awards from Mexico's national fund for culture and art, and in 2009 became the first Mexican choreographer to receive a Guggenheim fellowship.

A central figure in Mozambique's dance landscape, choreographer Panaibra Gabriel Canda has made his mark with a powerful and imaginative choreographic response to the ravages of war. He began his career as a traditional dancer but was soon lured to modern dance through a series of collaborative research projects with Dancas na Cidade in Lisbon, Portugal.

Canda is the founder of CulturArte, a Maputo-based producing and training program for performers with and without disabilities. He directs the program in cooperation with artists Ariry Andriamoratsiresy of Madagascar and Boyzie Cekwana of South Africa.

Rhode Island choreographer-performer Heidi Henderson presents a new work with her company, elephant JANE dance, which has performed at the South Bank Centre in London; the International Festival of Dance in Taegu, Korea; and Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out Festival, among other venues. Henderson has received three choreography fellowships from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts.

Emerging artists in residence at the Bates Dance Festival showcase recent works to round out the "Different Voices" program. Choreographer, performer and video artist Deborah Goffe creates daring interdisciplinary work with her company, Scapegoat Garden, a collaborative dance theater troupe based in Hartford, Conn. She has received artist's fellowships for her choreography from the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, the Greater Hartford Arts Council and the Surdna Foundation.

Quebec native Helen Simoneau has presented her work across Canada, the U.S. and in Germany and Greece. She was awarded first place for choreography and third place for performance for her solo piece "the gentleness was in her hands" at the 13th Internationales Solo-Tanz-Theatre Festival in Stuttgart, Germany.

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In addition to mainstage performances, the Bates Dance Festival offers a selection of free and low-cost events. Find additional information, including ticket prices and event locations, on the festival website: www.batesdancefestival.org.

About the Bates Dance Festival

Founded in 1982 at Bates College, the Bates Dance Festival brings together an international community of contemporary dance choreographers, performers, educators and students in a 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 a creative exchange of ideas, encourage exploration of new ground and provide the opportunity to experience a wide spectrum of dance and movement disciplines.

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