

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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<http://www.batesdancefestival.org>

**Bates Dance Festival Announces 2008 Training Programs
July 3 through August 9**

LEWISTON, Maine -- The Bates Dance Festival, northern New England's leading contemporary dance training and presenting program, announces its 26th season, July 3-Aug. 9, 2008. The festival includes the renowned three-week training program for dancers 18 years and older (July 19-Aug. 9), as well as the Young Dancers Workshop, a 17-day intensive training for young pre-professional dancers ages 13-17 (July 3-19). The six-week festival features workshops and performances by more than 30 internationally recognized dance artists from around the globe.

Recognized throughout the dance world for its non-competitive environment and emphasis on experimentation, the Bates Dance Festival brings more than 340 students to the Bates College campus from across the United States and overseas to study, create and perform.

Highlighting the festival's 26th season will be residencies and performances by the acclaimed New York-based troupe **Keigwin+Company**, contemporary African dance makers **Gregory Maqoma** and **Nora Chipaumire**, emerging talents **Zoe Scofield & Juniper Shuey**, **Nugent+Matteson Dance**, and **Christopher Williams** among others. Noted dance scholar Joan Frosch will present her award-winning film, "**Movement (R)evolution**" and lead "Inside Dance," an audience enrichment program held in conjunction with the main stage concert series.

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The Three-Week Professional Training Program offers 28 daily classes including modern, jazz, ballet, contemporary African, Odissi, contact improvisation, repertory, creative process, rhythm studies, dance theory, business of the arts. The festival's extensive roster of artists includes popular and frequently requested veteran teachers Victoria Marks, Colleen Thomas, Gabriel Masson, JoAnna Mendl Shaw, Chris Aiken, and Cathy Young among others.

The Young Dancers Workshop, a structured, non-competitive program designed for pre-professional dance students, features intensive study with a gifted faculty that includes modern teachers Heidi Henderson and Nicole Wolcott; veteran ballet instructors Shonach Mirk-Robles and Martha Tornay; Simonson teacher Teresa Perez; gifted hip-hop artist Jennifer Archibald; contemporary Caribbean choreographer Tania Isaac; improvisation teacher Karl Rogers; and acclaimed dance maker Larry Keigwin who will offer repertory.

Known for its' emphasis on the integral relationship between dance and music, the festival features a roster of acclaimed musicians who accompany classes and present an annual concert. This summer accompanists Tigger Benford, Rajesh Bhandari, Glen Fittin, Peter Jones, Carl Landa, Jesse Manno, John Clark Steifel, and Shamou will be in residence enlivening the environment.

A wide variety of dance-related and special workshops, films, lectures and a critically acclaimed main stage performance series of 11 concerts complement the daily class schedule.

More information about the Bates Dance Festival is available at: <http://www.bates.edu/dancefest>; by e-mailing dancefest@bates.edu; or by calling Nancy Salmon, festival registrar, at 207-786-6381.

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