



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DANCE THEATER WORKSHOP, DANSPACE PROJECT, AND  
THE JOYCE THEATER with the 2007-2008 BESSIES COMMITTEE  
ANNOUNCE THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2008 NEW YORK  
DANCE AND PERFORMANCE AWARDS (A.K.A. THE BESSIES)**

**\*\*\*Please send us a copy of the tear sheet from your coverage of THE BESSIES\*\*\***

On Monday evening, September 15, 2008, Dance Theater Workshop, Danspace Project, and The Joyce Theater with the 2007-2008 Bessies Committee, presented the **Twenty-Fourth Annual New York Dance and Performance Awards (a.k.a. THE BESSIES)** for exceptional achievements during the 2007-2008 season. Established in 1983, THE BESSIES acknowledge outstanding creative work by independent artists in the fields of dance and related performance in New York City. Artists, press constituents, presenters, and producers in the fields of dance and related performance gathered at Spiegelworld to honor their own and to celebrate the breadth and depth of ideas that make New York's contemporary performing arts community thrive.

The Masters of Ceremony for this year's event were **Terry Dean Bartlett** and **Katie Workum**. Special site-specific performances included an excerpt from **Adrienne Truescott's** *genesis, no!* and sections from **Ursula Eagly's** *The Garden of Earthly Delights*. The evening also featured a live musical performance by **The Dang-it Bobbys**, appearances by members of **Circus Amok**, and the music of **DJ Crazy Cuban** (aka Alberto Denis).

The award ceremony included 24 citations honoring individuals for achievements during the 2007-2008 season in the following categories: Choreographer/Creator, Installation & New Media, Performer, Composer, Visual Design, and Special Citations. The award recipients, who represent a wide range of contemporary dance aesthetics in the performing arts community, each received cash awards along with their citations.

**Choreographer/Creator Award** recipients were **Back to Back Theatre**, for *Small Metal Objects* at the Staten Island Ferry Terminal; **Nora Chipaumire**, for *Chimurenga*, at Dance Theater Workshop; **Doug Elkins**, for *Fraulein Maria* at Joe's Pub; **Juliette Mapp**, for *Anna, IKEA and I* at Danspace Project; **Maguy Marin**, for *Umwelt* at The Joyce Theater; **Tom Pearson** and **Zach Morris**, for *Vanishing Point* at Danspace Project; **Susan Rethorst**, for *208 East Broadway, Part 2: Suitcase Dreams* at Danspace Project; and **Meg Stuart**, for her body of work.

**David Michalek** received this year's **Installation & New Media Award** for *Slow Dances* at the Lincoln Center Festival.

This year's **Performer Awards** were given to **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** for outstanding ensemble during its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary season at City Center; **Hilary Clark** for her body of work; **William Isaac** for his performance in Karole Armitage's *Connoisseurs of Chaos* at The Joyce Theater; **Jodi Melnick** for her body of work; **Leah Morrison** for her performances in Trisha Brown's *If You Couldn't See Me* and *I Love My Robots* at The Joyce Theater; and **Layard Thompson** his body of work.

**Composer Awards** were presented to **Kris Bauman**, for Tom Pearson and Zach Morris' *Vanishing Point* at Danspace Project; **Zeena Parkins**, for sustained achievement; and **Nitin Sawhney** for his work on Akram Khan's *zero degrees* at City Center.

**Visual Design Awards** went to **Aaron Copp**, for Jonah Bokaer's *False Start* co-presented by Danspace Project and The Abrons Arts Center at The Abrons Arts Center; **Joe Lavasseur**, for his season of work; and **Richard Siegal**, **Antoine Seigneur-Guerrini**, **Phillip Bußman** and **Norbert Pape**, for Richard Siegal's *As If Stranger* at Danspace Project.

**Special Citations** were presented to **Jennifer Dunning**, for her service to dance as an author and *New York Times* dance critic; **Deborah Jowitz**, for her longstanding dedication as a chronicler of the dance community; and **Laurie Uprichard**, for her contributions to contemporary dance and performance through her leadership at Danspace Project.

The members of the 2007-2008 Bessie Award Committee are:

Nolini Barretto, Producer, Sitelines Series, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council

Barbara Bryan, Executive Director, Movement Research

Lili Chopra, Performing Arts Director, French Institute Alliance Française

Rachel Cooper, Director, Cultural Programs and Performing Arts, Asia Society

Boo Froebel, Associate Producer, Lincoln Center Festival

Vallejo Gantner, Artistic Director, Performance Space 122

Stephen Greco, Executive Director, Dance Theater Workshop (committee chair)

Trajal Harrell, Choreographer and Editor, *Movement Research Performance Journal*

Judy Hussie-Taylor, Executive Director, Danspace Project (Co-Producer)

Irène Hultman, Choreographer

Denise Jefferson, Director, The Ailey School

Isabel Lewis, Choreographer

Brad Learmonth, Director of Programming, Harlem Stage

Brian McCormick, Journalist

Nicky Paraiso, Curator for Performance - The Club, La MaMa ETC

David Parker, Artistic Director, The Bang Group

Carla Peterson, Artistic Director, Dance Theater Workshop (Co-Producer)

Martin Wechsler, Director of Programming, The Joyce Theater (Co-Producer)

Eva Yaa Asantewaa, *InfiniteBody* blog; Producer and Host, *Body and Soul* podcast

*Positions held by Bessie Committee Member through the 2007-2008 season*

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The co-producers wish to thank JP Morgan & Co. Incorporated for providing enormous support for The Bessies in its early years. We would also like to thank P.S. 122 and SpiegelWorld for their generous contributions to this year's event, as well as The Harkness Foundation for Dance, The Mertz Gilmore Foundation, *The Village Voice* for long-standing support, Patsy Tarr and the JCT Foundation, *Time Out New York*, Altria Group, Inc., New York Foundation for the Arts, The Candy Jernigan Memorial Fund, Electronic Theater Controls, Inc., Big Apple Lights Corp., and numerous individuals and presenting organizations all of whom have at one time generously contributed to these awards.

Recipient bios and photographs from the evening's ceremony are available. To obtain a copy of bios and citations or digital photos, please call or email Rennica Johnson at (212) 674-8112 or [rennica@danspaceproject.org](mailto:rennica@danspaceproject.org). Or visit our website at [www.danspaceproject.org](http://www.danspaceproject.org).

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