



**The Kennedy Center
announces the**

11th ANNUAL LOCAL DANCE COMMISSIONING PROJECT

Award Recipients

**SARAH LEVITT & BENJAMIN WEGMAN,
KIMMIE DOBBS CHAN & ENOCH CHAN,
and ERICA REBOLLAR**

**Millennium Stage to host world premieres of recipients' works
September 8-9, 29-30, and October 6-7, 2011 at 6 p.m.**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announces the award recipients for the 2011 Local Dance Commissioning Project (LDCP). **Sarah Levitt & Benjamin Wegman, Kimmie Dobbs Chan & Enoch Chan, and Erica Rebollar** have been awarded commissions for their works based on their written and visual submissions to the LDCP last fall. The commissioned pieces, choreographed specifically for world premieres on the Millennium Stage, will be performed September 8-9, 29-30, and October 6-7, 2011, as part of the Center's FREE, daily 6 p.m. performance series.

Now in its 11th year, the Kennedy Center's Local Dance Commissioning Project (LDCP) was created to foster new dance works by local artists, and present these artists to the widest possible audience via the Millennium Stage and its Internet web-casts and archives. The project provides funds for each artist to create a new piece, a venue to premiere the work, as well as rehearsal space and technical assistance. In addition, each commissioned work receives a second showing at Dance Place in Washington, D.C. and new this season, a third showing at Theatre Project in Baltimore, MD.

Each year Washington, D.C. metro area choreographers are chosen from a pool of more than 50 applicants. Judging is based on written and visual submissions that express the choreographer's vision. Deborah Riley, Ed Tyler, and Nilimma Devi were awarded the inaugural commissions in July 2001. Past LDCP recipients have also included Meisha Bosma, Stephen Clapp, Angella Foster, Jason Ignacio, Ludovic Jolivet, Mary Lane, Gesel Mason, Karen Reedy, Laura Schandelmeier, Vincent Thomas, Aysha Upchurch,

Helanius J. Wilkins, Boris Willis, and Nejla Yatkin. A full listing of recipients can be found online at kennedy-center.org/localdance.

SARAH LEVITT & BENJAMIN WEGMAN, September 8-9, 2011:

Hammock, directed, choreographed, and performed by Sarah Levitt and Benjamin Wegman, is a dance theater work that confronts notions of rest and restlessness in today's society. Using movement, text, and an original sound design by Matt Hubbs, *Hammock* explores the ways in which we name who we are and define what we have been and will become. The piece intends to strip away the pyrotechnics of modern performance, instead focusing on the human body and the stage space they inhabit. The work will challenge audiences to question: Who am I right now? Who will I be in two minutes? What defines this immediate experience? Surrounded by the societal demands to constantly achieve, build, and consume is it possible to just exist?

Sarah Levitt and **Benjamin Wegman** are artists with the Dance Exchange, located in Takoma Park, MD. Levitt received her BA in dance from the University of Maryland, College Park and has danced in works by Robert Battle, Liz Lerman, Gesel Mason, Cassie Meador, Tzveta Kassabova, PearsonWidrig DanceTheater, and Keith Thompson. Her work has been presented by Dance Place, McDonogh School, and Artomatic, and she is the recipient of individual artist awards from the Maryland State Arts Council in Choreography (2009) and Solo Performance (2010). Wegman has taught at the American Dance Festival, University of Maryland, Towson University, International Festival of Arts and Ideas, and the Japan Contemporary Dance Network's Dance Life Festival. He co-directed the premiere of *Hidden Snow Memory* with Keith Thompson in Sapporo, Japan; and *Tour Starts Here*, a site-specific work, at the Corcoran Gallery of Art. His most recent work, *still we keep*, a day-long performance installation premiered at the National Building Museum July 2011. He has worked with numerous companies including Jeanne Ruddy Dance, Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers, Keith Thompson's dance Tactics, Headlong Dance Theater, and CityDance Ensemble, among others.

KIMMIE DOBBS CHAN & ENOCH CHAN, September 29-30, 2011:

siGHt, created by Kimmie Dobbs Chan and Enoch Chan, is an original story told as a dance opera. Performed by Deviated Theatre, the story of *siGHt* unfolds around a family of three—mom, pop, and young daughter—during a tumultuous period of their lives. The girl receives a special book from her father, and, amidst her reading adventures, magic abounds. *siGHt*, which has been underway choreographically since October 2010, involves innovative contemporary dance on folding chairs and aerial silks. For more

information on this work including a video trailer, interviews with the cast, and excerpts of choreography can be viewed at: kickstarter.com/profiles/deviatedtheatre/projects/created.

Brewing since 2008, **Deviated Theatre** is a commercially innovative nonprofit dance-theater company operating under the umbrella of the Alexandria Performing Arts Association. Co-artistic directors **Kimie Dobbs Chan** and **Enoch Chan** compose modern fairytales and pioneer new avenues of physical theater, which they call “Operas of Movement.” Their intricate productions have been known to interweave acting, singing, and contemporary dance, as well as aerial dance on circus silks and poles. Prior to *siGHt*, the Chans have created three evening-length original theatrical productions and one short. In 2010, the directors participated in a pilot program for emerging choreographers, called Forward Five, with the Dance/MetroDC organization. Their work *Sway* was a finalist in three categories at the 2010 Metro DC Dance Awards, including “Best New Work,” “Outstanding Overall Production—small venue,” and “Excellence in Lighting Design.” *Sway* was also featured on WETA’s *Around Town* as a “Best Bet” in April 2010, and performed alongside excerpts of *Aspiro* on the Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage in June 2010.

ERICA REBOLLAR, October 6-7, 2011:

Tinsel and Bone, a work choreographed by Erica Rebollar, is danced by Rebollar and three dancers to sound composed by Charlie Campagna. The piece explores various identities of movement within a person’s external, social body (Tinsel) and their internal, spiritual state (Bone). The piece layers and weaves task-like actions into the structure of highly physical dance by transforming simple phrases into exciting movements that inform or interrupt longer dance segments. Dancers work with the dynamics of body movement as it relates to ideas of superficial versus personal relations with self and audience. *Tinsel and Bone* examines dichotomies and fragmentations of physical behavior through the exploration of choreography and sound.

Born in Madrid, **Erica Rebollar** studied at the Washington School of Ballet and completed her MFA in choreography at UCLA. She has worked with First Journey Lab Indonesia, Trip Dance Theater, Namah Ensemble, Carol McDowell, Eko Supriyanto, and Sharon Mansur. In D.C., she has performed at Velocity Dance Festival, Joy of Motion’s Dance Project, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center and Dance Place. She was a three-time Lester Horton Award nominee for performance and choreography in Los Angeles, where she also produced several evenings of work, including *Flesh* and *Ajar* at Highways Performance Space. In New York, she participated in various dance festivals at Joyce Soho, DTW, Judson Church, and Tribeca Performing Arts Center. Chosen for artistic residency through Mabou Mines/Suite, she presented her work *Black Out* at PS 122, and *Wooden Mary* through Danspace at St. Mark’s Church.

The Kennedy Center Local Dance Commissioning Project will accept project applications for the 2012 Award between October 1, 2011 and January 6, 2012. Winning projects will be presented on the Millennium Stage in September/October 2012. For more information about the program, please visit: www.kennedy-center.org/programs/millennium/dancecommission

ABOUT THE KENNEDY CENTER MILLENNIUM STAGE

The Kennedy Center is the only U.S. institution that presents a free performance 365 days a year. Created in 1997 and underwritten by James A. Johnson and Maxine Isaacs, the Millennium Stage features a broad spectrum of performing arts each day at 6 p.m. Brought to the public by Target Stores, the Millennium Stage helps fulfill the Center's mission of making the performing arts accessible to everyone. In the past 14 years, more than 3 million visitors have seen 6,000 groups with performances as varied as: jazz, ballet, storytelling, popular music, modern dance, opera, choral music, tap dance, theater, chamber music, symphonic music, puppetry, stand-up comedy, and cabaret. Of the more than 43,000 performers that have appeared on the Millennium Stage, approximately 25,000 have been Washington-area artists and over 4,500 have been international performing artists representing more than 50 countries. The Millennium Stage has also hosted artists representing all 50 states, and has presented more than 15,000 artists in their Kennedy Center debuts. Since 1999, each night's performance has been broadcast live over the Internet, and more than 4,430 of these performances have been digitally archived on the Kennedy Center's website, kennedy-center.org.

FUNDING CREDITS

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