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**DANCING THROUGH THE BRONX**  
**Dancing in the Streets' Site-Specific Dance Festival**  
**JOANNA HAIGOOD, Artistic Advisor**

Bronx, NY (7/21/15)— On **Friday, August 21, at 6 pm**, and **Sunday, August 23, 2015, at 3 pm**, two Bronx parks will come alive with site-specific dance performances curated by **Joanna Haigood**, the Artistic Advisor for **DANCING THROUGH THE BRONX**, Dancing in the Streets' second annual site-specific dance festival that introduces new audiences to contemporary dance while drawing attention to the following two green spaces in the Bronx:

○ **Fri, August 21, 6 pm / Owen Dolen Park:**

- **Arthur Aviles** will take over Owen Dolen Park with *Ritual Dance*—a contemplative work in which up to 30 dancers will move in unison throughout the park, creating a sound score using their hands as a musical instrument—clapping and patting their bodies.
- **David Thomson's** work for three women—Omagbitse Omagbemi, Jodi Bender and Emmanuelle Phuon—will explore narrative portraiture through a voyeuristic lens.

○ **Sun, August 23, 3 pm / Hayden Lord Park:**

- **Marsi Burns** will create a work for 12-16 intergenerational dancers and community members who will interact with the park's multiple textures and terrains, including its stone ledges, brick slopes, and a rolling lawn.
- **Shizu Homma** will choreograph and perform a stark and silent solo, creating an intimate experience in a public setting.
- **Monifa Kincaid's** solo will respond to the Gaudí-inspired park. She will use the park's architecture as a springboard for her choreography, and incorporate the colors of its murals into her costume and props.
- **Rebecca Lloyd-Jones** will play with the theme of "seen/unseen," using one of the park's stone walls as a screen from which three-five dancers will emerge and travel through the park only to retreat behind the screen, making their presence known through sounds and objects that they will hurl from behind the wall.

The six choreographers began working with **Joanna Haigood** in a Site-Specific Dance Incubator (produced by Dancing in the Streets) that she led on June 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. With Haigood's guidance, the choreographers explored the complexities and creative opportunities of site work through the process of creating 3-minute site-specific works for BAAD!'s dressing room, supply closet, stairwells, and other nooks and crannies of its Neo-Gothic building.

**THE ARTISTS:**

- **Joanna Haigood (Artistic Advisor)** has been creating site-specific work for 35 years. Her many awards include a Doris Duke Artist Award, a U.S. Artist Award, and a Bessie (for *Paseo*,

a site-specific work commissioned by Dancing in the Streets). Haigood is the Founding Artistic Director of the San Francisco-based Zaccho Dance Theatre through which she created many aerial and site-specific works, including *Invisible Wings* at Jacobs Pillow and *The Picture Project* in partnership with the Walker Art Center and Dancing in the Streets.

- **Arthur Aviles** is a Bessie Award-winning dance pioneer who rose to international acclaim when he danced with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company. Aviles received the NYC Mayor's Arts Award for his artistic leadership of BAAD! and an honorary doctorate from his alma mater Bard college.
- **Marsi Burns** is a Bronx-based dancer, choreographer, and dance educator. She is a member of Margie Beals Improvisation Dance Group, and has performed her own and others' site-specific works in multiple NYC and Tri-State indoor and outdoor venues, including Lincoln Center Out of Doors, Dance Theater Workshop, Joyce Soho, and BAAD!.
- **Shizu Homma** has been experimenting with Butoh-influenced movement for the past 14 years. Her work has been shown in multiple New York venues, including BAAD!, Dixon Place, Judson Church, Joyce Soho, and La Mama.
- **Monifa Kincaid** is a Brooklyn based choreographer for M.A.K. Dance Company who has worked in various genres, ranging from contemporary dance to rhythm tap. She has performed with Nia Love/Blacksmith's Daughter Dance, Barbara Duffy and Company, and New Tap Dance Orchestra/Brenda Bufalino, among others.
- **Rebecca Lloyd-Jones** is a Bronx-based choreographer and dancer who has performed locally and internationally with multiple artists, including Leah Stein and Merián Soto. Her work is interdisciplinary and has been shown throughout NY, Philadelphia, and Montreal.
- **David Thomson** received a Bessie for sustained achievement in dance for his work with multiple choreographers, including Trisha Brown, Jane Comfort, Remy Charlip, Ralph Lemon, Tere O'Connor and Marina Abramović. His own work has been shown at The Kitchen, Danspace Project at St Mark's Church, DTW, among others.

#### THE PARKS:

- **Hayden Lord Park** is a small park that was inspired by Gaudi's artwork in Barcelona's Park Güell. Located between two Bronx Pro buildings, the park has transformed a formerly under-utilized urban space into an oasis for community gatherings, art making, and quiet contemplation.
- **Owen Dolen Park** is the hub of the re-burgeoning Westchester Square. It is located on the site of the historic Village Green, which was the center of the thriving 17<sup>th</sup> century Westchester Village.

#### PRESENTING PARTNERS:

- **Dancing in the Streets** presents FREE adventurous dance, interdisciplinary, and site-specific performances in unexpected public places. Since moving to the South Bronx in 2011, Dancing in the Streets is applying its 31-year legacy towards developing free public programs in the Bronx that expand the cultural conversation, nurture artists, build community, and reclaim, revitalize, and draw attention to the borough's unknown architectural, natural, and cultural treasures.
- **BAAD! The Bronx Academy of Arts & Dance:** In October 2013, BAAD! moved from the Banknote building in Hunts Point to the Gothic revivalist building on the property of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Westchester Square, where it is continuing its 16-year legacy of nurturing and presenting the work of established and emerging artists with a special focus on work by

and about women, people of color, and the LGBTQ community.

- **The Bronx Pro Group** up is a neighborhood-based firm dedicated to community development through affordable housing investments, since 1988. Its mission is to develop quality housing that is both affordable and sustainable. Through its relationships with local not for profit partners, Bronx Pro has created Hayden Lord Park as part of a larger initiative to use art to create welcoming, healing, and collaborative residential environments.
- **Westchester Square BID:** Framed as the Main Street of the Bronx, the Westchester Square BID mixes mom and pop ventures with regional outlets, creating an intimate feel that's tangible to the working class neighborhood that overlaps it. The keys to its success are community events, including free public performances taking place throughout the year.

**DANCING THROUGH THE BRONX** is sponsored by The Bronx Pro Group, and has received generous support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Mertz Gilmore Foundation.

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**DANCING IN THE STREETS**

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