

NEW DIRECTOR OF DANCE/NYC TO STRENGTHEN INDUSTRY

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Washington, DC – Dance/USA, the national service organization for the professional dance field, announces the appointment of Lane Harwell as director of Dance/NYC (www.dancenyc.org).

Harwell is a native New Yorker who brings a substantive and dynamic background in dance advocacy, management, practice and scholarship. Most recently, he was the director of development at New York's arts-wide advocacy group, the Alliance for the Arts. Harwell's lifelong history in the arts also includes training at the School of American Ballet, a performance career with American Ballet Theatre Studio Company, and experience working in diverse theater and service contexts—from the mobile arts education laboratory Mister Artsee to local dance groups dre.dance and Neta Dance Company. Harwell attended the Professional Children's School while performing with ABT. He holds a BA in Philosophy from Princeton University and an MA in Performance Studies from the University of California at Berkeley. Harwell is currently pursuing an MBA at Columbia Business School, focusing on the application of for-profit management approaches to the nonprofit sector.

"Dance/NYC is the city's leading dance advocacy organization—the voice, guide and infrastructure architect for all local dance artists, audiences and managers within the creative economy," says Harwell. "I am thrilled to continue helping dance to lift and inspire our evolving city. Representing the largest local dance community in the country, Dance/NYC also has the unique capacity to participate in the national conversation about dance."

Andrea Snyder, president and executive director of Dance/USA, led the search process. "With the able assistance of a search committee composed of members of the Dance/NYC Advisory Committee, I am thrilled to welcome Lane to the Dance/USA family. His vision, energy, knowledge and passion will make a great contribution towards advancing Dance/NYC's mission and services to address the significant needs of the local dance community."

Harwell's appointment was warmly greeted by a number of influential leaders in New York:

"This is an excellent appointment," said Randall Bourscheidt, president of the Alliance for the Arts. "Lane has a great knowledge of the field of dance and its importance to the cultural life of New York. He knows dance as a dancer and a company member, and he has broadened his understanding of New York's cultural community. He will bring his skills as a manager and fundraiser, his compassion for dancers, and his love of the city to this important organization."

(more)

"Dance/NYC—and by extension, the artists it serves—has found a smart, dedicated and vibrant young leader to shape its future," says Christopher Pennington, executive director of Jerome Robbins Foundation and the Robbins Rights Trust.

"I am delighted that Lane Harwell has been appointed director of Dance/NYC," said Meyer Feldberg, dean emeritus of Columbia Business School. "He will bring leadership and energy to the role as well as the technical and managerial skills that he is studying at Columbia Business School."

Harwell will begin serving as director of Dance/NYC on Monday, September 27, 2010. He succeeds Michelle Burkhart, who effectively served the dance community in this role from 2008.

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