ANDREA SNYDER TO RECEIVE DANCE/USA TRUSTEES AWARD DURING 2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 25, 2011
Rachel Bell
Phone: 202.833.1717
Email: rbell@danceusa.org

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Washington, DC – Dance/USA, the national service organization for professional dance, announces the selection of Andrea Snyder to receive the Dance/USA Trustees Award. The award will be given on Friday, July 15, 2011 during the Dance/USA Honors Celebration, which is part of the Dance/USA Annual Conference being held July 13-16 in Chicago, IL.

Presented at the discretion of the Dance/USA Board of Trustees, the Trustees Award recognizes an outstanding professional whose work has special significance to the field.

"On behalf of the Dance/USA Board and the entire membership, I extend our enormous gratitude to Andrea Snyder for her brilliant and inspiring leadership of Dance/USA and the entire professional dance field for over 11 years," reflects Paul King, Dance/USA board chair and co-founder of White Bird. "The Board wishes Andrea the very best for her future endeavors. She will always be a cherished member of the Dance/USA family."

"Andrea has been a wonderful support as I step into the position of Executive Director of Dance/USA," notes Amy Fitterer, Dance/USA executive director. "I am thrilled that she will be receiving this award and look forward to honoring her at the Chicago conference this summer."

Andrea Snyder will receive the Trustees Award in recognition of her commendable leadership in the dance field throughout her career, including her tenure as Executive Director at Dance/USA, assistant director for the Dance Program at the National Endowment for the Arts, and her dedicated service to the field. Ms. Snyder will take her place among fellow Trustees Award recipients Alan M. Kriegsman, Dr. Richard Gibbs, and Rena Shagan.

ABOUT THE AWARDEE

Andrea Snyder joined Dance/USA as president and executive director in February 2000; she will complete her tenure in June 2011 to become a certified personal/executive coach for arts leaders. She came to Dance/USA after creating the National Initiative to Preserve America's Dance (NIPAD) grants program for The Pew Charitable Trusts, which she directed from 1993 to 2000, and serving as assistant director of the National Endowment for the Arts Dance Program through the "arts wars" of 1987 to 1993. Previously she held a broad range of positions across the dance field: booking agent for Sheldon Soffer Management; executive director of Laura Dean Dancers and Musicians; administrator of the New York University Tisch School of the Arts Dance Department; associate administrator for the Cunningham Dance Foundation; and assistant to Director Muriel Topaz of the Dance Notation Bureau.

Snyder has served on many state arts council grant panels, as well those for Arts International, the Capezio/Ballet Makers Dance Foundation and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. She is the immediate past chair of the Performing Arts Alliance, the national advocacy organization for the performing arts, and she remains a member of the 2005 inaugural Dance Magazine Board of Advisors. From 1995-2008, she was moderator of The John F. Kennedy Center's contemporary dance post-performance artist/audience discussions.

Snyder began as a dancer and technique teacher after graduating from The American University, and later earned an M.A. in Arts Management from NYU. She has served as an adjunct professor in arts administration at The American University; and lectured on dance at the Florida State University (FSU) in NYC program. Snyder is also an alumna of the James P. Shannon Leadership Institute and recipient of the 2001 Congress on Research in Dance Award. A comprehensive chapter in Renata Celichowska's recent book, Seven Statements of Survival, profiles Snyder's life/career in dance.

ABOUT THE 2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Dance/USA's 2011 Annual Conference takes place in Chicago, IL from Wednesday, July 13 through Saturday, July 16 at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place. Design It. Dance It. Be the Architect of your Future, this year's conference theme, is the perfect opportunity to examine and share new approaches and models, identify areas of challenge and need, and inspire new thinking.

With a special focus on management, artistry, technology and audience engagement, these four dynamic program envelopes will provide experiential hands-on learning paired with examples of successful new models that reflect our field's entrepreneurial spirit, leading to a vibrant future for dance. Registration is available online at www.danceusa.org.

The Honors Celebration is included in the Annual Conference registration fee. Individuals not attending the Conference who wish to attend the Honors Celebration may purchase a ticket by registering online at www.danceusa.org.

ABOUT DANCE/USA

Dance/USA is the national service organization for the professional dance field. We believe that dance is essential to a healthy society, demonstrating the infinite possibilities for human expression and potential, and facilitating communication within and across cultures. Dance/USA sustains and advances professional dance by addressing the needs, concerns, and interests of artists, administrators and organizations. By providing services and national leadership, Dance/USA enhances the infrastructure for dance creation, education and dissemination.

Established in 1982, Dance/USA is a membership organization serving a broad cross-section of professional dance (currently over 420 ballet, contemporary, modern, ethnic, jazz and tap companies, dance service and presenting organizations, individuals, and related organizations). With an informed understanding of local dance communities and an eagle-eye view of dance nationally, we occupy a unique position in the field. By working primarily in the interests of our membership, Dance/USA strengthens the dance field as a whole and the performing arts field in general. Dance/USA's priorities include advocating for dance, providing information & research on the field, convening & networking, and building leadership among dance professionals.

Learn more about Dance/USA and our branch offices by visiting our website, www.danceusa.org.

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