

## **Michelle Dorrance Receives First Princess Grace Award for Tap Choreography To Create Work for Chicago Human Rhythm Project**

CHICAGO—The Princess Grace Foundation-USA has announced the 2012 Princess Grace Awards, including the first such award for tap choreography in its 30-year history to tap artist Michelle Dorrance. Dorrance's award will support the creation of a new work for [Chicago Human Rhythm Project](#) (CHRP)'s ensemble [BAM!](#), which will premiere as part of CHRP's Windy City Rhythms program, its annual celebration of National Tap Dance Day, in May 2013.

Dorrance will create her multigenerational work in February at CHRP's new [American Rhythm Center](#), a shared, affordable and sustainable education, rehearsal and administrative facility for several leading Chicago arts organizations, located in the historic Fine Arts Building in downtown Chicago, opening September 10, 2012.

[Michelle Dorrance](#) is one of the most sought-after tap dancers of her generation. She teaches, choreographs and performs throughout the U.S. and abroad, directs her company Dorrance Dance and is proud to celebrate her one-year anniversary performing in the Off-Broadway production *STOMP*. Dorrance is one of only seven tap dancers and the first tap choreographer to receive this recognition from the Princess Grace Foundation. She will accept her award at the 30th Anniversary Princess Grace Awards ceremony in New York on October 22, 2012.

### **About Chicago Human Rhythm Project**

Founded in 1990, [Chicago Human Rhythm Project](#) (CHRP) builds community by presenting American tap dance and contemporary percussive arts in world-class and innovative performance, education and community outreach programs. During the last 22 years, CHRP has produced multiple community-based collaborations involving shared revenue programs, concerts and touring opportunities, including:

- annual National Tap Dance Day concerts, featuring an array of tap and percussive dance artists
- a shared revenue program designed to assist Chicago's budding tap community to build capacity through audience development, created in 2001
- Thanks 4 Giving, another innovative shared revenue program launched in 2005 as part of its annual Global Rhythms concerts at the Harris Theater, through which CHRP has partnered with more than 100 Chicago-based nonprofits to raise funds for a wide variety of service agencies
- participation in the 5th Anniversary Beijing International Dance Festival, assembling 70 artists to represent the United States
- the establishment of the American Rhythm Center, a shared, affordable and sustainable education, rehearsal and administrative facility for several leading Chicago arts organizations located in the historic Fine Arts Building in downtown Chicago

CHRP's vision is to establish the first global center for American tap and percussive arts, which will create a complete ecosystem of education, performance, creation and community in a state-of-the-art facility uniting generations of diverse artists and the general public.

### **Funding**

CHRP is supported by The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Target, The Boeing Company, The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince, The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, The Chicago Community Trust, The Arlen and Elaine Cohen Rubin Charitable Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City, The Jeanette & Jerome Cohen Philanthropic Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City, National Endowment for the Arts, Illinois Arts Council, City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, Arts Work Fund for Organizational Development, Live Marketing, Charter One Foundation, The James S. Kemper Foundation, Dr. Scholl Foundation, Arts Midwest, The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation, The Judd A. and Marjorie Weinberg Family Foundation, L&L Hardwood Flooring, So Danca, People's Gas, The Service Club of Chicago, The Walmart Foundation and generous individual donors.

### **About the Princess Grace Foundation–USA**

The Princess Grace Foundation-USA is a not-for-profit, publicly supported foundation, headquartered in New York City and founded 30 years ago by Prince Rainier III of Monaco in honor of his wife, Princess Grace [Kelly].

The Foundation's mission, that mirrors Princess Grace's in Her lifetime, is to support emerging artists in theater, dance and film through the awarding of scholarships, apprenticeships and fellowships. Since the Foundation's inception, more than 750 Awards have been given to recipients, totaling more than \$9.5 million. Some notable Princess Grace Awards recipients in Film include: Cary Joji Fukunaga, director of *Sin Nombre* and *Jane Eyre*; Stephen Hillenburg, creator of *SpongeBob SquarePants* and Greg Mottola, director of *Paul*, *Adventureland* and *Superbad*. Theater recipients include: 2008 Tony® Award winner for Best Direction of a Play, Anna D. Shapiro; Pulitzer and Tony® Award winning playwright Tony Kushner; and 2006 Academy Award® winner Eric Simonson. Dance/Choreography recipients include: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Artistic Director Robert Battle; American Ballet Theatre's Gillian Murphy, Isabella Boylston and Sarah Lane; as well as choreographers Kyle Abraham and Camille A. Brown. For more information about the Princess Grace Awards program, please visit [pgfusa.org](http://pgfusa.org). Media Contact: Christine Kite, 212.317.1470, [ckite@pgfusa.org](mailto:ckite@pgfusa.org)

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