

ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET

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ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET AWARDED GRANTS FROM THE NEW ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS AND THE SCHUBERT FOUNDATION Honored with Santa Fe Mayor's Award for Excellence in the Arts

As the company approaches its milestone 20th anniversary, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet has further cemented its national presence with recent recognition from three prestigious arts funding organizations: the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, The Schubert Foundation, and the Santa Fe Mayor's Award for Excellence in the Arts.

The **New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project (NDP)** supports the creation of new dance works that will tour the United States. Out of 124 competitive applications, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet was one of 18 recipients selected by a panel of national dance leaders. NDP's production grant in the amount of \$92,000 was awarded in support of ASFB's newest commissioned work, *Silent Ghost*, by Alejandro Cerrudo. The award is used to support the creation of the new work, general operating support, and touring expenses, covering costs such as the choreographer's fee, costumes, music, technical equipment, and travel.

First commissioned by ASFB in 2012, Alejandro Cerrudo is currently choreographer-in-residence at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. On working with ASFB for this second commission Cerrudo said: "The dancers of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet are open to anything...and that's a valuable thing. It takes pressure off of the choreographer and encourages you to go for it, to try new things, to not play it safe." *Silent Ghost* received its first public showing in Santa Fe on July 10, 2015 and in Aspen on July 18, 2015.

The Schubert Foundation supports non-profit professional theater and dance companies through the awarding of unrestricted grants for general operating support. The Foundation awards grants to those organizations that have made significant contributions to the field and demonstrate a record of administrative strength, fiscal stability, and development of new work and artists. After an extensive application process, ASFB was selected to receive a grant in the amount of \$10,000 in May 2015.

The **Santa Fe Mayor's Award for Excellence in the Arts** honors the contributions that individuals, organizations, and businesses have made to the Santa Fe arts community. ASFB was nominated by artist James Posch, with the support of actress Ali MacGraw, Bob Martin from The Lensic Performing Arts Center, and Ivan Barnett of Patina Gallery. "As a Santa Fe resident, artist and gallery owner for more than two decades, I have personally watched the evolution of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet with pride," wrote Patina. He continued: "Watching the company spread its wings in a way that serves our community at large is stunning; its outreach programs have enriched our lives and contributed to the well-being of us all." Mayor Javier Gonzales will

present the award to ASFB at the annual Mayor's Awards dinner and ceremony on October 15, 2015.

Please contact Jessica Moore (jessica@aspensantafeballet.com) with any photo or interview requests with funding organizations and/or Aspen Santa Fe Ballet directors.

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Aspen Santa Fe Ballet

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's bold vision – top global choreographers, distinctive groundbreaking works, and virtuoso dancers – has fostered a jewel of a dance company in the American West and beyond. ASFB's unique pioneering spirit arises from a paired set of home cities: Aspen, nestled high in the Rocky Mountains, and Santa Fe, gracing the majestic Southwestern plateau.

Since its founding in 1996 by Bebe Schweppe, the company has served as a prestigious incubator and a showcase for choreographic invention to popular and critical acclaim. The performing troupe forms the core of a multifaceted arts organization with activities in both Aspen and Santa Fe. Repeat engagements at the Joyce Theater, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Kennedy Center, Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, the American Dance Festival and the Harris Theater for Music and Dance have built a national reputation. The company has also toured internationally to Brazil, Canada, France, Greece, Guatemala, Israel and Italy.

A respected arts presenter, ASFB curates high-quality dance programming for home audiences. Dance education is a priority, with well-established ballet schools training children and adults in both markets. An outreach program steeped in Mexico's rich folkloric culture fortifies community connections. Premier funders such as the National Endowment of the Arts, the Joyce Foundation, the Wolf Trap Foundation, Dance St. Louis and The Princess Grace Foundation have supported ASFB's growth. In 2010 the Joyce Theater Foundation conferred upon Artistic Director Tom Mossbrucker and Executive Director Jean-Philippe Malaty the Joyce Theater Award in honor of their pioneering and innovative model for American dance.

Learn more about Aspen Santa Fe Ballet at www.aspensantafeballet.com.