

SBDA 10th Annual Lifetime Achievement Award Press Release



For Immediate Release

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What: Santa Barbara Dance Alliance's Tenth Annual Lifetime Achievement Award

Where: Center Stage Theater, 751 Paseo Nuevo, Santa Barbara

When: Presented at "New Works" on Friday, January 12, 8 pm. "New Works" also on Saturday and Sunday, January 13, 14, at 8 pm each night.

Who: Mayor Marty Blum will present the award to SUMMERDANCE Founder Dianne Vapnek and manager Laurie Burnaby.

Public information number: For tickets to "New Works" call Center Stage Box Office, 805 963-0408 or visit online at www.centerstagetheater.org. For information on Santa Barbara Dance Alliance Lifetime Achievement Award call 805 966-6950 or online at www.sbdancealliance.org.

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David Bazemore



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Karen Monson

Santa Barbara Dance Alliance will recognize SUMMERDANCE with the

presentation of its tenth annual Lifetime Achievement Award at Center Stage Theater as part of the "New Works" concert on Friday, January 12, 8 pm. Mayor Marty Blum will honor SUMMERDANCE founder Dianne Vapnek and manager Laurie Burnaby for the festival which ran from 1997 through 2006.

For ten years SUMMERDANCE presented an annual festival which reached thousands of new dance fans through creative and dynamic programming of touring artists in performance, workshops and on film and contributed to the dance world at large through commission of new works. SUMMERDANCE guests over the years included stars of modern dance, tap, and flamenco - most notably Hell's Kitchen with Mikhail Baryshnikov and Robert Battle, Doug Varone and Dancers, Hubbard Street Dance, Urban Tap, and Carlota Santana. In 2003 the festival created an intensive youth residence program. In November 2006, SUMMERDANCE announced its closing chapter with the end of the summer festival and commitment to supporting dance in new ways. In all nearly 40,000 enjoyed the festival's programs and a thousands more throughout the world can see the festival's legacy of seven new commissions created with SUMMERDANCE support.

Dance Alliance board member and former Arts Commission Executive Director Patrick Davis praises Ms. Vapnek and Ms. Burnaby's achievement:

"SUMMERDANCE has moved the dance community forward several steps and these two women, as a dynamic duo, have produced a decade of amazing performances that emphasized community access and involvement. Their "dance is for everyone" approach has created new audiences for dance; provided incredible workshop and training opportunities; and most importantly has made Santa Barbara one of those rare arts communities that commissions new work".

Each year, the 200 members of Santa Barbara Dance Alliance chose the Lifetime Achievement awardee by ballot. The list of previous honorees reads as a "Who's Who" of our creative community with names of respected artists, teachers and advocates for dance: Julie McLoed, Kay Fulton, Steven Lovelace, and many more.

For tickets to New Works and information, call Center Stage box office at 805 963-0408 or visit online at www.centerstagetheater.org. Santa Barbara Dance Alliance supports dance and dance education in our community. For information on Santa Barbara Dance Alliance's Lifetime Achievement award and membership, call James Buchanan, 805 966-6950 or see www.sbdancealliance.org.

Bios and history:

Dianne Vapnek – founder, director of Summer Dance, studied Russian Ballet, tap, character dance as a child in Massachusetts and with the Connecticut Ballet Co. She taught dance at the University of Georgia, where she also received her Masters Degree, and taught modern dance privately. In Santa Barbara she founded and has supported UCSB Dance Department's guest artist program for the last 15 yrs. In 1996 she followed her dream for Santa Barbara by creating Summer Dance.

Laurie Burnaby has been Managing Director of SUMMERDANCE Santa Barbara since its inception in 1997. After moving to Santa Barbara in 1982, she taught at

the Dance Warehouse and began to choreograph and perform with the Santa Barbara Dance Alliance, Santa Barbara City College, Rep West and Improv Inc. Most notable was her duet work with Margaret Tedesco, which spanned six years. In 1991 she was awarded an Individual Artist Award for choreography. For the past 16 years she has been a dedicated practitioner and teacher of Ashtanga yoga.

SUMMERDANCE Santa Barbara has announced they will no longer continue after 10 years of bringing cutting edge contemporary dance performances and classes to Santa Barbara. This chapter will close with a great feeling of accomplishment. SDSB brought emerging dance companies to create work, perform and educate dance audiences, including: Mikhail Baryshnikov with Hell's Kitchen Dancers, Doug Varone and Dancers, ASzURe & Artists, Robert Battle, krumpers from 'Rize," Brian Brooks, Doug Elkins, Urban Tap, Richard Move, Hubbard St. Dance, Dendy and Company, SBSD Kids Connection and many more.

DANCE COMPANIES IN RESIDENCE WITH SUMMERDANCE Santa Barbara:

- 1997 Doug Varone and Dancers
- 1998 Doug Varone and Dancers, Doug Elkins Dance Company
- 1999 Doug Elkins Dance Company, Flamenco Vivo, Carlota Santana
- 2000 Doug Elkins Dance Company, Dendy Dance & Theater, Tere O'Connor Dance
- 2001 Urban Tap, Doug Varone and Dancers
- 2002 Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Richard Move
- 2003 Rosenzweig, Donlon Dance Company, Larry Keigwin
- 2004 Keigwin + Company, Brian Brooks Moving Company, Doug Elkins (SD Kids Connection begins)
- 2005 ASzURe & Artists, Brian Brooks Moving Company, Urban Tap
- 2006 Doug Varone and Dancers, ASzURe & Artists,

Hell's Kitchen Dance with Mikhail Baryshnikov and Robert Battle

NEW WORKS CO-COMMISSIONED DURING SUMMERDANCE Santa Barbara:

- Doug Varone and Dancers: *Bel Canto, Ballet Mecanique, Sleeping With Giants, The Ruin of Language, LUX*
- Doug Elkins Dance Company: *Wholly Matrimony*
- Keigwin + Company: *Mattress Suite, Urban Birds*
- Brian Brooks Moving Company: *Pinata, Again/Again*
- Tamango's Urban Tap: *Bay Mo Dilo*