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**LIED CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS AND INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS
SYMPOSIUM WIN NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS GRANT
\$25,000 Grant Awarded**

Lincoln, NE— (May 19, 2010) The Lied Center for Performing Arts and the Interdisciplinary Arts Symposium (IAS) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) have been awarded an Artistic Excellence grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for their activities in 2010-11. The grant is in the amount of \$25,000. With these funds, the Lied Center and IAS will explore new perspectives on diversity via a series of performances and educational activities - onstage and off, within the university and across the community.

“The Lied Center is very honored to be recognized at a national level for its programs of artistic excellence and diversity. This grant award supports the Lied Center in presenting cutting edge works that expand the spectrum of arts experiences,” said **executive director Bill Stephan**.

The Lied Center and IAS started working together in the 2009-10 season, when they collaborated on a series of exciting events. Events included Modern Dance Week, during which the Lied Center presented Paul Taylor Dance Company and IAS brought in David Dorfman Dance. Renowned dance critic Marcia Siegel delivered a free lecture about the two companies, and also took part in a multitude of sessions with UNL students as part of this special week.

“I am thrilled that, after only one season, our new Interdisciplinary Arts Symposium has received such wonderful recognition. We are deeply grateful to the NEA, the Hixson-Lied endowment, and to the Lied Center whose collaboration has meant so much to us. This grant from the NEA will help us continue to provide opportunities for enhanced understanding and appreciation of cutting-edge performing arts for the University and the community”, said **Rhonda Garelick, Director of the Interdisciplinary Arts Symposium (IAS)**.

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For the 2010-11 season, IAS focuses on “technology, prosthetics, and the body in performance” showcasing artists who stretch, alter, or question the limits of the physical body through technology. Guests include award-winning choreographer Jody Sperling, who enhances her body via film, electricity, and other tools. Sperling will deliver a public lecture and master classes with UNL students and her company Time Lapse Dance will perform at the Lied Center in September.

In October, as part of the IAS/Lied partnership, the Lied Center is bringing **AXIS Dance Company**, one of the country’s most acclaimed and innovative ensembles to include performers with physical disability. AXIS will deliver a public performance and conduct a variety of outreach activities, including sessions with local schools and Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. AXIS will offer the unique opportunity for community members to audition to take part in the piece “Light Shelter” choreographed by David Dorfman, which they will perform on the Lied stage with the company.

“We are so excited to be able to offer opportunities for our local community members to perform on stage alongside professionals in the field”, said Petra Wahlqvist, Director of Community Engagement and Learning at the Lied Center.

Tickets to the AXIS performance will be available as part of a season ticket package on May 28 with single tickets available for sale on August 16. Patrons can receive a free ticket to Time Lapse Dance if they place their season order by July 16.

Heidi Latsky’s Dance Company GIMP, featured at the National Endowment for the Arts, National Summit at the Kennedy Center in July 2009, will perform on the Lied Main stage later in October, another IAS offering this season. The ensemble also offers an aerial duet (featuring one able-bodied dancer and one double amputee who together seem to take flight). By showcasing dancers with prosthetic limbs, muscular dystrophy, and other significant challenges creating stunning and elaborate movement, GIMP challenges all of our preconceptions of what a ‘normal’ body might be. The company will also conduct workshops and outreach activities with UNL students and the local community.

Internationally acclaimed **French artist ORLAN**, another IAS guest, will exhibit her “Harlequin’s Coat” project in Fall 2010 at the Sheldon Museum This exhibition, which blends biotechnology, fashion, film and design, and which will travel nationally, showcases ORLAN’s use of the harlequin’s patchwork motif as a metaphor for ethnic diversity and multiculturalism. A catalogue, entitled “Fabulous Harlequin: ORLAN and the Patchwork self”, forthcoming from the University of Nebraska Press and edited by Rhonda Garelick and Sheldon Director Jorge Daniel Veneciano, will accompany this exhibit, featuring articles by scholars from Spain, France, India, Taiwan, and the United States. ORLAN will work with UNL students during her 10 day residency.

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The Lied Center and IAS will provide a free lecture-demonstration series to accompany the performances and educational outreach opportunities, featuring renowned scholars who will provide a deeper knowledge of the artist and the art form from an international and historical perspective. One of the featured speakers is **respected dance critic Joan Acocella of *The New Yorker***.

A portion of the NEA Grant for Artistic Excellence will also go to support a mainstage presentation of the internationally acclaimed **Harlem Gospel Choir** in its Lied Center debut. The ensemble is famous for traveling the globe, sharing its joy of faith through its music with the finest singers from Harlem's Black Churches and the greater New York City area.

INFORMATION AND TICKETS

For more information about Lied performances and programs, see www.liedcenter.org. For more information about IAS performances and programs, please contact Program Assistant Kenneth Seidel at kan@huskers.unl.edu.

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ABOUT THE LIED CENTER

The Lied Center for Performing Arts is a state-of-the-art performing arts facility. The Lied Center, opened in 1990, is Nebraska's "Home for the Arts." The facility offers major regional, national and international events designed to attract, entertain and inspire a statewide audience. The Lied Center and its programs are made possible through the generous 2010-11 season support of Christina Hixson and the Lied Foundation Trust, Friends of Lied, Ameritas and Union Bank.