



## PRESS RELEASE

**Contact:**

Rachel Bell  
Phone: 202.833.1717  
Email: [rbell@danceusa.org](mailto:rbell@danceusa.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 8, 2011

### **Lar Lubovitch and Verdery Roosevelt to be Honored by Dance/USA Pam Crutchfield to receive Champion Award**

**Washington, DC** – Dance/USA, the national service organization for professional dance, announces its awardees for 2011: **Lar Lubovitch**, renowned choreographer and founder of the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, will receive the **Dance/USA Honor**, and **Verdery Roosevelt**, long-time executive director of Ballet Hispanico, will receive the “**Ernie**.” The awards 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 annually by the Dance/USA Board of Trustees, the Dance/USA **Honor** and the “**Ernie**” are awarded to outstanding members of the national dance community. The **Honor** goes to an individual who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership in the dance field by reason of artistic excellence and/or force of vision. The “**Ernie**,” named for the late Ian (Ernie) Horvath, goes to an individual working “behind the scenes” in the dance field, who has significantly empowered artists and supported their creativity individually or as a community.

**Lar Lubovitch** will be recognized with the *Dance/USA Honor* for his extraordinary and lasting contributions to the field, including his choreography for the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, as well for television, Broadway and Olympic ice-dancing. A Chicago native, Mr. Lubovitch founded the Chicago Dancing Company in 2007. Mr. Lubovitch will join an illustrious group of past Dance/USA **Honor recipients** including Alvin Ailey, Jeraldine Blunden, William Christensen, Merce Cunningham, Alexandra Danilova, Dr. Charles “Chuck” Davis, Carmen de Lavallade, Agnes de Mille, Katherine Dunham, Martha Graham, Anna Halprin, Judith Jamison, Robert Joffrey, Bella Lewitzky, Bruce Marks, Donald McKayle, Arthur Mitchell, Tina Ramirez, Charles Reinhart, Paul Taylor, Antony Tudor, and David White.

**Verdery Roosevelt** will receive the *Ernie* for her extraordinary 31 years as executive director of Ballet Hispanico, her dedicated service on several boards and panels, and her exemplary leadership in the dance field. Ms. Roosevelt will take her place among fellow **Ernie recipients** Cora Cahan, Richard J. Caples, Sage Cowles, Martha Hill Davies, Barbara Horgan, Ian Horvath, Deborah Jowitt, John Killacky, Sali Ann Kriegsman, Richard E. LeBlond, Jr, Madeline Nichols, Norton Owen, Bessie Schonberg, and Ivan Sygoda.

In addition, Chicago dance activist **Pamela Crutchfield** will receive the *Dance/USA Champion Award* in recognition of her outstanding contributions to dance in Chicago. Ms. Crutchfield will join fellow **Champion recipients** The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation and the Meyer Foundation. The Champion Award is given to an organization, business, foundation, or individual selected by the dance community in the Annual Conference host city whose achievements, leadership, and support have sustained and/or significantly advanced dance in their home community.

(more)

Dance/USA is pleased to announce that this year's Honors Celebration will take place at the **Chicago Cultural Center**. Drawn by its beauty and the fabulous free public events, hundreds of thousands of visitors come to the Chicago Cultural Center every year, making it one of the most visited attractions in Chicago. The stunning landmark building is home to two magnificent stained-glass domes, as well as free music, dance and theater events, films, lectures, art exhibitions and family events.

### **ABOUT THE AWARDEES**



**Lar Lubovitch** founded the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company 43 years ago. In the years since, he has choreographed more than 100 dances for his New York-based company, which has performed in nearly all 50 American states as well as in more than 30 foreign countries. Born in Chicago, Lar Lubovitch was educated at the University of Iowa and the Juilliard School in New York. His teachers at Juilliard included Antony Tudor, Jose Limon, Anna Sokolow and Martha Graham. He danced in numerous modern, ballet, jazz and ethnic companies before forming the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company in 1968. Lubovitch made his Broadway debut in 1987 with the musical staging for the Stephen Sondheim/ James Lapine musical, *Into the Woods*, for which he received a Tony Award nomination. In 1993 he choreographed the highly-praised dance sequences for the Broadway show *The Red Shoes*. The final ballet from that show joined the repertoires of American Ballet Theatre and the National Ballet of Canada. For his work on that show, he received the 1993-94 Astaire Award from the Theater Development Fund. In 1996 he created the musical staging (and two new dances) for the Tony-Award-winning Broadway revival of *The King and I*. Most recently he devised the musical staging for Walt Disney's stage version of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* in Berlin. In 2004 he was honored with the Elan Award for his outstanding choreography. In addition to his work for stage, screen and television, Lubovitch has also made a significant contribution to the advancement of choreography in the field of ice-dancing. He has created dances for Olympic gold medalists John Curry, Peggy Fleming and Dorothy Hamill and has choreographed a full-length ice-dancing version of *The Sleeping Beauty*, starring Olympic medalists Robin Cousins and Rosalynn Sumners. For French Olympic skating champions Isabelle and Paul Duchesnay, Lubovitch choreographed a television project based on *The Planets* by Gustav Holst; telecast by the A&E network in 1995, the program was nominated for an International Emmy Award, a CableACE Award and a Grammy Award. In 2007, to supplement the activities (creating, performing and teaching) of the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, he founded the Chicago Dancing Company, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to present a wide variety of excellent dance and build dance audiences in his native Chicago. Initiated by Chicago-born Lubovitch (and our Chicago-based dancer Jay Franke), the Chicago Dancing Festival (CDF) was launched in cooperation with Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) and the City of Chicago.



**Verdery Roosevelt** joined the staff of Ballet Hispanico in 1978, and became executive director a year later. In partnership with Founder Tina Ramirez, she was responsible for the growth of the nation's preeminent Hispanic dance company and school from a community-based organization into a nationally recognized cultural institution. During her tenure with Ballet Hispanico, she oversaw the production of more than 50 new works for the company's repertory, working with internationally renowned choreographers and designers to realize Ramirez's vision. Under her direction, scholarship support for the Ballet Hispanico School has grown to over \$100,000 annually, while Ballet Hispanico's educational program, *Primeros Pasos*, has expanded to serve over 25,000 students around the country each year. In addition, she oversaw the purchase and dramatic expansion of Ballet Hispanico's headquarters on Manhattan's Upper West Side, as well as the establishment of working capital and endowment funds. Ms. Roosevelt served on the Board of Directors for Dance/USA, where she was Chairman from 1996 to 1998. She has been a guest speaker at various seminars and arts administration programs, including, the Kennedy Center's Vilar Symposium, the Yale School of Drama and the Bolz Center for Arts Administration at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has also served as a panelist for national, state and local arts agencies. Ms. Roosevelt was recognized for her civic leadership with a "Pacesetter Award" from Councilwoman Gale A. Brewer at New York's City Hall in 2004. She received the Arts Management Career Service Award in 2000 and a 1981 Management Achievement Award from ACUCAA, now APAP. Prior to her work at Ballet Hispanico, she was on the development staff for Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Inc. A native of Birmingham, Alabama, she graduated from the University of Alabama and received her Masters in Business/Arts Administration from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is currently the Senior Vice President of Program & Nonprofit Investments at Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone.



**Pam Crutchfield** is a passionate and active member of the Chicago dance community. She is co-founder of DanceWorks Chicago, a small company devoted to the professional development of young dancers and choreographers. In 2009, Pam received the prestigious Ruth Page Award. She is also a recipient of the Friend of River North Chicago Dance Company award and has been a volunteer in the Ann Barzel Dance Collection at the Newberry Library. Pam has underwritten the creation of new choreography for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Hubbard Street 2, River North Chicago Dance Company, Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago and Luna Negra Dance Theater. Pam is on the advisory board of numerous dance companies and served on the Hubbard Street Dance Chicago board for five years. Additionally, she served as a board member of Dance/USA, the national service organization for professional dance. Most recently Pam was an honoree of the Arts & Business Council of Chicago's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. She is currently a director at the Old Town School of Folk Music. Pam previously served on the boards of Free Street Theater and The Poetry Center of Chicago. She has a B.A. from DePaul University.

### **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](http://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](http://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 400 ballet, 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](http://www.danceusa.org)**.

###