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What: Four University of Minnesota Dance Program Faculty Selected to Show Original Choreography at the Kennedy Center During the American College Dance Festival Association's National Gala in May

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Minneapolis, MN—Four University of Minnesota (U of M) Dance Program faculty were recently selected to present their original choreography at the prestigious American College Dance Festival Association's (ACDFA) National College Dance Festival Gala at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., May 16-18, 2006. They are Dance Program Director Carl Flink, Affiliate Mathew Janczewski, and Associate Professor Joanie Smith with her partner Affiliate Danial Shapiro.

This is an especially unique honor for Dance Program Director Carl Flink, because it is the first time that a U of M faculty member's choreography will also be performed by U of M students. While the University has been selected to participate in seven of the last eight biennial National Galas, U of M students have only performed works that were created by guest artist or student choreographers.

Flink's "This Bleeding Heart. . .," an octet, was adjudicated at the North Central Regional ACDFA Conference held at the University of Iowa by a panel made up of dance notables Joe Goode, Gabriel Masson and Denise Jefferson. From a field of 48 dances from 29 Universities in 10 States, "This Bleeding Heart. . ." was one of only three works invited out of the regional to perform at the Kennedy Center. Adjunct Professor Mathew Janczewski's "Quartet," created for students at Carleton College in Minnesota, was selected at the New England ACDFA regional. Professor Joanie Smith and her Shapiro and Smith Company partner Adjunct Professor Danial Shapiro set "Never Enough" on students at University of Florida Gainesville, which was selected at the Southeast ACDFA regional.

Jan Erkert, a well-respected professor from Columbia College in Chicago said of Flink's choreography, "The piece is so wonderfully layered and full of emotional impact. I am amazed at the quality of your students. They are so technically capable, but what makes them special is their gusto and fearlessness as movers." Festival adjudicator and nationally known choreographer Joe Goode remarked enthusiastically about the piece, "I thought it was a hyper-androgynous, ambi-sexual witches' coven and I wanted to be there!"

“The Nationals are a unique opportunity to promote the extraordinary training available at the U of M, the excellence of our faculty – both tenured and adjunct – and the exceptional talent and maturity of our performers,” said Flink. Multiple invitations to present work at the ACDFAs National Gala is one of several recent honors for U of M dance faculty, including a *Minneapolis Star Tribune* 2005 Artist of the Year award for affiliate Toni Pierce-Sands and her husband Uri Sands, and a ChangeMaker award for Associate Professor Ananya Chatterjea from the *Minnesota Women’s Press*.

“Through the Cowles Artist program we are bringing in guests of national stature to create work on and mentor our dancers. By nurturing local artists in our adjunct faculty we are enriching the Twin Cities dance community making Minneapolis a coveted destination for dancers and choreographers,” said Flink.

For additional information contact Nora Jenneman, dance program coordinator, at 612.624.4008 or jenne011@umn.edu. Photos of Carl Flink’s “This Bleeding Heart. . .” are also available—contact Justin Christy at 612.625.5380 or justin@umn.edu.