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Contact:

Hélène Lesterlin (Curator, Dance, EMPAC at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)

press inquiries: 518.276.3918 / lesteh@rpi.edu (do not publish)

general inquiries: 518.276.3921 / dancemovies@rpi.edu (please publish)

DANCE MOVIES COMMISSION launched by EMPAC for the creation of new works of dance for the screen

Troy, NY -- EMPAC – the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute – announces the launch of the EMPAC DANCE MOVIES Commission, a new commissioning program to support the creation of new works in the field of experimental dance for the screen.

Through the DANCE MOVIES Commission, EMPAC is specifically targeting artists based in North America and South America to encourage the development of the genre of dance film and video. The DANCE MOVIES Commission will fund several projects per year with awards in the range of \$8,000 - \$50,000. The deadline to submit artist proposals is February 1, 2007, with applications available on the EMPAC website: www.empac.rpi.edu.

As construction on the EMPAC facility continues apace, and the opening planned for 2008, the program of EMPAC is growing. Establishing itself on campus and nationally as a unique university-based arts center for innovation, research and performance, EMPAC is already presenting performances, lectures, and screenings on the campus of Rensselaer.

With the announcement of the *Jaffe Fund for Experimental Media and Performing Arts* in June 2006 for new commissions and performances, EMPAC took the initiative to create a commissioning program in the cross-disciplinary genre where dance meets the technologies of the moving image. EMPAC's Commission will be the first major commissioning program available to dance film artists in the US, and is likely to have a significant national impact, as there are currently very few commissioning or grant programs nationally that target dance films.

DANCE MOVIES as a genre

The works supported by the DANCE MOVIES Commission are experimental works for the screen which vary widely in content and form, yet are united by the fact that the image on the screen was crafted by, or in collaboration with, a choreographer or movement-based artist.

Dance works for the screen span a large range, include film, video, and other audio-visual formats, and tend to be from 2 minutes to 30 minutes in duration. Some of the works may be narrative-driven, using the conventions of filmic story-telling; some may be abstract works; some may not even feature "dance" as is generally defined, but contain a powerful sense of how movement unfurls in time; some may take advantage of tools such as computer processing, motion capture, simulation, animation, image processing, and post-production technologies; and some may extend the confines of the single screen to multiple screens or projections.

However the artists create or present their work, the defining characteristic of these works remains that they are audio-visual works made by dance artists, with all the richness and potential of that specific medium meeting the choreographic eye. The EMPAC DANCE MOVIES Commission was not created to support documentaries, feature-length films, or commercial films that feature dance.

Currently, these commissions are funding awards and do not have a residency component. Once EMPAC is open as a building in 2008, the artists may have access to EMPAC's spaces and technology to create their works as part of the Artist-in-Residence program. The possibilities of how a dance film team could use EMPAC's facilities include use of EMPAC's unique spaces, digital or theater technology, and professional video and audio editing, mixing and mastering suites.

DANCE MOVIES COMMISSION information

The EMPAC DANCE MOVIES Commission is a competitive open proposal process, where eligible artists will be able to submit a project proposal. The initial proposals will be reviewed and a small number of artists will be invited to submit a detailed proposal to an international panel. The panel will assess the quality and feasibility of the proposed project and will submit its recommendations to EMPAC. The commissions will be awarded by EMPAC after review. All selection decisions are final.

The selection panel members are Magne Antonsen (Norway), Gaelen Hanson (USA), Bob Lockyer (UK), Silvina Szperling (Argentina), Johannes Goebel (EMPAC Director) and H el ene Lesterlin (EMPAC Dance Curator).

Upon awarding of the commission, the artist or collaborative team has one year to complete the project, at which point it will be premiered at EMPAC, and shown at dance film festivals around the world, credited as an EMPAC DANCE MOVIES Commission.

For more information on EMPAC and the DANCE MOVIES Commission, or to download the guidelines and application form, please visit the EMPAC website:

<http://www.empac.rpi.edu>

To download press ready images of EMPAC and a press kit:

<http://www.empac.rpi.edu/presskit/press.html>

Please contact H el ene Lesterlin with any further questions (518.276.3918 / lesteh@rpi.edu)