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**Dance Heritage Coalition Names 12 New Dance Treasures to List of 100**

Twelve distinguished dance figures join the Dance Heritage Coalition's list of "America's Irreplaceable Dance Treasures." These new honorees were nominated by a national survey and vote in 2012 and were confirmed by the Dance Heritage Coalition (DHC) Board of Directors. The 12 figures are celebrated online along with the initial list of 100 in an Online Exhibition of Dance Treasures, through a grant funded by the National Endowment for the Arts.

"America's Irreplaceable Dance Treasures: The First 100" was created by the DHC in 1999 from nominations submitted nationwide and vetted by a panel of experts; the Treasures formed the basis of the DHC's traveling exhibition curated by Norton Owen and Lynn Garafola, which visited seven locations from 2004 to 2009. With the closing of the touring exhibit in 2009, the commemorative materials have been expanded and collected on the DHC's website. <http://danceheritage.org/treasures.html>. A separate webpage is devoted to each of the Treasures, with essays, resource lists and curated visual materials. New pages for the 12 honorees have now been added to the online exhibition, which was launched in July 2012 and continues to grow.

Rosemary Candelario, assistant professor of dance at Texas Women's University, said, "The Dance Heritage Coalition's "100 Treasures" online exhibition is an invaluable resource for my undergraduate dance classes. The new essays, in particular, give students an excellent introduction to a variety of dance styles and artists, while the selected resources provide suggestions for those who want to learn more. Highly recommended!"

Nominations and votes were solicited in spring 2012 with the original intention of adding 10 new Treasures to the original 100. However, in recognition of extremely close voting and in honor of the year 2012, it was decided to bring the number up to 12. The honorees are:

**Jacques d'Amboise**  
**Jane Dudley**  
**Garth Fagan**  
**Frederic Franklin**  
**Loie Fuller**  
**Carmen de Lavallade**  
**Michael Jackson**  
**John Martin**  
**Sophie Maslow**  
**Daniel Nagrin**  
**The Rockettes**  
**Maria Tallchief**

Additional information about the honorees is included at the end of this document.

The list of “America’s Irreplaceable Dance Treasures” encompasses individuals, organizations, and dance styles, and is intended to heighten public interest in the magnificence and richness of America’s dance heritage and the imperative to document and preserve it for future generations. The online exhibition devoted to the Treasures is intended as an educational resource to improve dance literacy, as a tribute to the achievements and legacy of American dance, and as a sampling of the best in dance history and critical writing.

Imogen Smith, who coordinated the commissioning and editing of the essays, reflected, “One of the most exciting aspects of the exhibition is that it brings together contributors from many parts of the dance history field. We have essays by senior academic scholars, advanced students launching their careers, working dance critics, current or former dancers and choreographers, and dance archivists and librarians. The writers were not only passionate about their own topics but eager to explore the works of their colleagues and discover new voices.”

Libby Smigel, executive director of the Dance Heritage Coalition, added, “By transforming our traveling exhibition into a web resource, we can make it available to far more users, as well as expanding the range of materials we can present. The site also serves to point students and researchers toward the vast resources for dance that are not online but are available in archives and libraries. We are encouraging people to deepen their searches and discover the riches of print and archival collections.”

## **The 12 new Treasures:**

**Jacques d’Amboise** - A principal dancer with New York City Ballet who performed seminal roles in Balanchine works, he brought all-American exuberance and athleticism to classical ballet, and as founder of the National Dance Institute he has introduced dance and the arts to generations of public school children. <http://www.danceheritage.org/damboise.html>

Essay by Kirsten Wilkinson

**Jane Dudley** - American dancer, choreographer, and teacher who created roles in some of Martha Graham’s major works and performed with the New Dance Group and the Dudley-Maslow-Bales Trio; many of her own dance works deal with issues of social protest, and she was an influential early teacher of Graham’s technique and choreography. <http://www.danceheritage.org/dudley.html>

Essay by Maureen E. Maryanski

**Garth Fagan** - Choreographer and founder of Rochester-based Garth Fagan Dance, he has developed a roster of dancers renowned for their grace and strength, and his celebrated choreography combines aspects of ballet, modern, and Afro-Caribbean dance. <http://www.danceheritage.org/fagan.html>

Essay by Kate Mattingly

**Frederic Franklin** - English-born star of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo and former director of the National Ballet of Washington; one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century’s most beloved ballet performers, he continued to perform in character roles well into his 90s, and he has aided the survival and spread of ballet through his successful restaging of classics and his role as artistic advisor to American dance companies. <http://www.danceheritage.org/franklin.html>

Essay by Jack Anderson

**Loïe Fuller** - Developing a sensational form of theatrical dance that incorporated elaborate costumes and lighting to create a harmonious aesthetic effect, she inspired visual artists, contributed to the birth of modern dance, and pioneered multi-media dance productions.

<http://www.danceheritage.org/fuller.html>

Essay by Jody Sperling

**Carmen de Lavallade** - Dancer, actress and choreographer, she performed in works by Alvin Ailey, Lester Horton, and many others, as well as on Broadway and in films, television and opera, often collaborating with her husband Geoffrey Holder. Still performing in 2012, she is celebrated for her strong presence and sensual quality of movement. <http://www.danceheritage.org/delavallade.html>

Essay by Genie Guerard, coming soon

**Michael Jackson** - The pop star who created the best-selling album of all time (“Thriller”), he has long been recognized as an exceptional dancer who combined elements from various vernacular dance styles to create a signature vocabulary and stage persona; his choreographed music videos broke ground in the development of this form. <http://www.danceheritage.org/jackson.html>

Essay by Carrie Stern, coming soon

**John Martin** - America’s first major dance critic, he was influential in championing the modern dance movement and aiding its widespread acceptance, as well as educating general audiences in how to look at dance. <http://www.danceheritage.org/martin.html>

Essay by Nichole Arvin, coming soon

**Sophie Maslow** - Modern dancer, choreographer and teacher, her works explored American society, using folk music, texts, and cultural references to address the crisis of the Great Depression, her Jewish heritage, and other social and political issues with warmth, humor, and deep engagement.

<http://www.danceheritage.org/maslow.html>

Essay by Lynn Brooks

**Daniel Nagrin** - American dancer, actor, choreographer, teacher, and author whose career encompassed modern and jazz concert dance, Broadway musicals and films; his works expressed concern for social issues and perceptive studies of human behavior. <http://www.danceheritage.org/nagrin.html>

Essay by Nicole Topich

**The Rockettes** - Iconic dance troupe of Radio City Music Hall, they have carried on the tradition of precision dance from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, performing tightly choreographed routines in impeccable synchronicity, and presenting one of the most visible and recognizable images of dance in popular culture through their yearly participation in the Radio City Christmas Spectacular.

<http://www.danceheritage.org/rockettes.html>

Essay by Darryl Kent Clark

**Maria Tallchief** - A Native American prima ballerina, she was one of the first dancers recognized worldwide as an exemplar of distinctively American classical ballet; an early star of New York City Ballet and wife of George Balanchine, who created important works for her, she later founded Chicago City Ballet.

<http://www.danceheritage.org/tallchief.html>

Essay by Tara Davis

# DANCE HERITAGE COALITION

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Founded in 1992, the Dance Heritage Coalition is the sole national non-profit organization dedicated to documenting, preserving, and creating access to materials documenting America's dance legacy.

[www.danceheritage.org](http://www.danceheritage.org)

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