

News Release

GroundWorks Dancetheater to Perform in Chagrin Falls on April 15 **“Chagrin Arts” Series Continues with a Showcase of Contemporary Dance**

March 19, 2008 – Chagrin Falls, Ohio – The Chagrin Foundation for Arts & Culture presents GroundWorks Dancetheater as the final program of its “Chagrin Arts” winter series, on Tuesday, April 15, 2008. The region’s most talked about professional contemporary dance company and hailed as one of “25 to watch” nationally by *Dance Magazine*, Groundworks Dancetheater will perform at 7:30 p.m. at the newly opened Performing Arts Center of Chagrin Falls High School, 400 East Washington Street. The program includes “Latitude” by Artistic Director David Shimotakahara with live music accompaniment by Hal Walker, the virtual one-man band from Kent, Ohio; a new work by Artistic Associate Amy Miller; and the popular “Always” by New York guest artist Gina Gibney, set to the music of vocal legend Patsy Cline.

The program has been conceived and coordinated by David Shimotakahara, who will feature “Latitude,” one of his signature dance performances. Artistic Director for GroundWorks, Mr. Shimotakahara has been a member of the Atlanta Ballet, Boston Repertory Ballet, Kathryn Posin Dance Company, and the Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, and has performed with and served as Principal Dancer for the Ohio Ballet from 1983 until 1999, under the direction of Heinz Poll. Winner of the Cleveland Arts Prize 2000 for Dance and a five-time recipient of the Ohio Arts Council Individual Fellowship in dance, Mr. Shimotakahara has served on advisory and dance panels for The Carlisle Project, the Ohio Arts Council, the Illinois Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts and has choreographed for opera and theater with The Cleveland Opera, Great Lakes Theater Festival, and The Dallas Theater Center.

Amy Miller, Artistic Associate, has danced with GroundWorks since its inception in 1998. She received her training at the Joffrey Ballet School and The Dance Institute at The University of Akron. Ms. Miller performed with dance project New Steps from 1991-1997 and served as Principal Dancer with the Ohio Ballet from 1991-2001, where she performed works by Paul Taylor, Jose Limon, and Anthony Tudor.

Gina Gibney graduated with an MFA in dance from Case Western Reserve University and founded Gina Gibney Dance in 1991, reforming the company as an all-female ensemble in 1997. Her choreography has been widely presented throughout the United States including at the Guggenheim Museum, Yale Repertory Theater, Central Park SummerStage, The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland Public Theatre, L’Agora de la Danse (Montreal), Gibraltar Point Center for the Arts (Toronto), and as guest artist with GroundWorks.



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“The Chagrin Foundation for Arts & Culture is thrilled to partner with GroundWorks Dancetheater and present renowned, regional talent as part of our ‘Chagrin Arts’ winter series. Through this performance and our entire Chagrin Arts programming, we continue to fulfill our mission to build a vibrant arts and entertainment district in Chagrin Falls,” notes Christina Thoburn, Executive Director of the Foundation.

Tickets for GroundWorks Dancetheater may be purchased through the Chagrin Valley Little Theatre box office at 440-247-8955; online at www.cvlto.org; or in person, Monday through Saturday from 1-6 p.m., at 40 River Street. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$10 for students. A discount of 10% is offered for the purchase of six or more tickets.

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Attachment1: Biography, David Shimotakahara

Attachment 2: Image, GroundWorks Dancetheater_1 (photo credit: Dale Dong)

Attachment 3: Image, GroundWorks Dancetheater_2 (photo credit: Dale Dong)

For more information or to schedule an interview with Christina Thoburn or GroundWorks Dancetheater, call 440-247-9700.

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