



Dominic Walsh Dance Theater

Press/Public Contact Information:

Leigh McBurnett 713-652-3938
lmcburnett@dwdt.org www.dwdt.org

Christine Kite, PGF-USA Communications Manager
ckite@pgfusa.org 212-317-1470

Rachel Meyer of Dominic Walsh Dance Theater Wins Princess Grace Award!



Houston – (August 2, 2010) The Board of Trustees of the Princess Grace Foundation-USA (PGF-USA) and its Chairman, Hon. John F. Lehman, announced today the winners of the 2010 Princess Grace Awards and among them is Dominic Walsh Dance Theater company member Rachel Meyer. The Awards for theater, dance, choreography, and film continue the legacy of Princess Grace (Kelly) of Monaco, who anonymously helped emerging artists pursue their artistic goals during Her lifetime. This year's Awards winners represent 18 states around the country and eleven organizations that are new to partnering with the Foundation. Meyer is the recipient of a 2010 Princess Grace Award for her artistic excellence as a dancer, and she will travel to New York City as a guest of the Princess Grace Foundation-

-more-

USA, where she will receive her Award at the annual black-tie Princess Grace Awards Gala, held in the presence of HRH The Princess of Hanover, on November 10, 2010 at Cipriani 42nd Street. DWDT Founder/Artistic Director Dominic Walsh, who himself received a Princess Grace Award for Choreography in 2008, will accompany Meyer to the November gala.

The Princess Grace Foundation-USA, a public charity, was formed after the death of Princess Grace in 1982. It awards scholarships, apprenticeships, and fellowships to assist artists at the start of their careers. The Foundation cultivates a diverse group of nearly 500 artists to date who continue to advance the spectrum of performing arts with innovative, cutting-edge, and vibrant theater, dance, choreography, film, playwriting and design. Since the Foundation's inception, more than 650 Awards have been given to recipients, totaling more than \$7 million.

"I am grateful to the Princess Grace Foundation-USA for this incredible honor and for supporting my growth as an artist," says Meyer. Meyer joined Dominic Walsh Dance Theater for the 2009-2010 season, after graduating from the University of Utah Ballet Department. Since joining the company, she has danced leading roles in Walsh's *The Trilogy: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, The Afternoon of a Faun, The Dying Swan*, and *Bello*. She also danced the role of Lady Capulet in Walsh's *Romeo & Juliet*. Meyer finished her first season with the company dancing Mauro Bigonzetti's *Pression*, Vaclav Kunès' *Small Hour*, and Walsh's *I Napoletani*. In 2009, Meyer was a guest artist with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montreal in *The Nutcracker*. Most recently, she performed Walsh's *For the Two of You* and the Sugar Plum Pas de Deux on the private island of Li Galli, Italy during the summer of 2010.

"Rachel is one of these exciting young dancers with a delicious physicality and understanding of her body, combined with a profound respect of the craft. Every time she takes the stage, she is present and captivating in each role and puts a great deal of thought into her characters and situations. Yet, she seems to have the un-teachable gift of instinct, which she trusts whole-heartedly," says Walsh.

Photo credit (top): Rachel Meyer photo by Ray Tohinaka. Rachel Meyer in Dominic Walsh's *The Dying Swan* photo by Gabriella Nissen Photography.

-more-

ABOUT THE PRINCESS GRACE FOUNDATION – USA

The Princess Grace Foundation-USA is a not-for-profit, publicly-supported foundation, headquartered in New York City and founded more than 25 years ago by Prince Rainier III of Monaco in honor of his wife, Princess Grace [Kelly]. The Foundation's mission, that mirrors Princess Grace's in Her lifetime, is to support emerging artists in theater, dance and film through the awarding of scholarships, apprenticeships and fellowships. Since the Foundation's inception, more than 650 Awards have been given to recipients, totaling more than \$7 million. Some notable Princess Grace Awards recipients in Theater include: 2008 Tony® Award winner for Best Direction of a Play, Anna D. Shapiro; Pulitzer and Tony® Award winning playwright Tony Kushner; and Academy Award® winner Eric Simonson. Film recipients include: Stephen Hillenburg, creator of SpongeBob SquarePants; Greg Mottola, director of Adventureland and Superbad; and Cary Joji Fukunaga, writer and director of Sin Nombre. Dance/Choreography Awards recipients include: American Ballet Theatre's Ethan Stiefel and Jacoby&Pronk's Drew Jacoby; as well as choreographers Robert Battle and Dominic Walsh.

For more information, please visit www.pgfusa.org.

ABOUT DOMINIC WALSH DANCE THEATER

As a principal dancer with Houston Ballet for over a decade, **Dominic Walsh** received national and international praise for his interpretations of both classical and contemporary roles. Walsh burst onto the choreographic scene when he won the prestigious Choo-San Goh Award **in 1998, and he is now hailed as a leading** choreographer who is pushing the boundaries of ballet into new realms of theatricality. He won a second Choo-San Goh Award in 2007 and received a 2008 Princess Grace Award. Walsh was recently named a winner of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago's 2010 National Choreographic Competition, and he was the Audience Choice and Judge's Award winner in Ballet Austin's 2010 New American Talent Choreographic Competition.

Dominic Walsh Dance Theater, launched by Walsh in 2002, is also racking up accolades and honors and was most recently named "Best Dance Company" by the *Houston Press*. This contemporary ballet company has built a stellar reputation for taking the techniques and skills of classical ballet into more inventive territory. The company's diverse repertoire features works by Walsh and such iconic choreographers as Mauro Bigonzetti, Jiří Kylián, and Matthew Bourne and its roster includes dancers of the highest caliber. In addition to producing a Houston season of performances and educational programs that enliven the senses, the company tours the U.S. and Europe. With its unique mix of innovation and collaboration, Dominic Walsh Dance Theater is one of this country's leading contemporary ballet companies.

For more information, please visit www.dwdt.org

###