

# Regional Dance America, *See America Dancing!*

## **RDA/ Northeast and Mid-States Festival 2011**

Hosted by **RDA/Northeast**  
**Adjudicator: Gary Taylor**  
Pittsburgh, PA

Dance Wisconsin is proud to announce that two of its pieces will be presented at Festival this week. Both pieces premiered at *New Works*, and have been rehearsed and perfected throughout the past 10 months. Two of Dance Wisconsin's graduating high school seniors, Aly Dahmen and Emma Werner, gained experience choreographing, directing, and designing costumes for their contemporary piece *Shine*. Their piece was selected to be presented with fellow Emerging Choreographers. Ms. Dickert-Fuhrmann's poignant and timely piece *Hallelujah* is also being presented at Festival.

Every year, Regional Dance America hosts regional dance festivals throughout North America. Each festival is a venue in which to showcase performers, emerging choreographers, and it is an outstanding educational opportunity for all participants. Some of the top dance educators in the country instruct classes in modern dance, jazz, and ballet for guest dancers. Dance Wisconsin is the only honor company in Wisconsin to be a member of this prestigious organization.

Companies belonging to RDA work year round, training and preparing to present their work at Festival. Each company belonging to RDA goes through an annual adjudication process. A knowledgeable and distinguished dance professional evaluates each company's instruction techniques, student progress, and choreography. The same adjudicator critiques all companies within the same region. They also select pieces from companies that will be presented and honored at the Festival.

Festival is a great opportunity for Dance Wisconsin members and choreographers to network and meet prominent directors throughout the country. Resident Dance Wisconsin choreographer and alumnus Chelsey Dahm has had seven of her pieces selected for the Mid-States Regional Dance America and she

has received the highest choreography award from RDA the past two years for *Requiem* and *The Hunger*. Dahm also received the Emerging Choreographer Scholarship for best emerging choreography in 2006. Recognition for these pieces at RDA has aided Dahm in having her work be commissioned by *Dance Wisconsin* and *Greater Lansing Ballet Company* to choreograph new pieces.

Alumni Celia Pierquet-Flores, Ashley Dahm, Mary-Kate Hartung, and Michael Hartung have also had original choreography presented at Festival.

Dance Wisconsin alumnus Henry Wroblewski was awarded a scholarship to train with the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre through connections made during Festival.

## **Members of RDA**

There are currently eighty-seven companies and over two thousand dancers who belong to Regional Dance America. The national organization has had an enormous impact on dance and its decentralization in this country. Regional companies have grown in stature and quality nationwide. Over three hundred companies have been members of RDA. Regional companies exist in nearly every corner of the United States.

## **Members Participating**

**MidStates:** Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Ohio\*, Colorado, and the Canadian provinces of Manitoba and Ontario.

**Northeast:** Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio\*, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, D.C., and the Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, and Quebec.

\*Ohio is a swing state. Upon joining RDA, companies in Ohio may choose to either belong to the Northeast region, or the MidStates region. Once they have chosen which region they will belong to, they may not change.