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**APAP|NYC 2019 Honors Carmen de Lavallade, The Joyce Theater,
Kaisha Johnson of Women of Color in the Arts and
David J. Fraher of Arts Midwest;
New APAP Board Members Announced**

January 8, 2019 - The Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP) honored artists, visionaries and advocates in the performing arts at its annual gathering, [APAP|NYC 2019](#), taking place at the New York Hilton Midtown. On Monday, January 7, 2019, APAP hosted its Annual Awards Ceremony, in celebration of those individuals and organizations that have demonstrated a significant impact on the industry and communities they serve both in the US and abroad.

“We are proud to recognize and honor the contributions of these influencers in our industry,” said Mario Garcia Durham, president and CEO of APAP. “Each has paved the way for others, whether through institutional or individual endeavors, establishing an important model for others to follow.”

“Throughout my career, I have personally witnessed the transformative power of the arts. I am honored to be receiving the Award of Merit from a community and organization that shares my commitment to ensuring that access to the arts is paramount,” said Carmen de Lavallade, APAP 2019 Award of Merit honoree.

Winners are nominated by their peers for having had a significant impact on the industry and on communities worldwide.

On January 7, APAP members voted in new 2019 board members: Jamie Grant, CEO, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts (St. Paul, MN); Christopher Heacox, Executive Director, Jay and Susie Gogue Performing Arts Center, Auburn University (Auburn, AL); Kendra Whitlock Ingram, Executive Director, Newman Center for the Performing Arts, University of Denver (Denver, CO); Muriel Borst Tarrant, Cultural Artist, Director, Playwright (Jersey City, NJ).

This year’s APAP Award recipients include:

**THE SIDNEY R. YATES AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ADVOCACY ON BEHALF
OF THE PERFORMING ARTS:**

Kaisha Johnson, Co-Founder and Founding Director, Women of Color in the Arts (WOCA)

THE WILLIAM DAWSON AWARD FOR PROGRAMMATIC EXCELLENCE AND SUSTAINED ACHIEVEMENT IN PROGRAMMING:

The Joyce Theater (Linda Shelton, Executive Director and Martin Weschler, Former Director of Programming)

THE AWARD OF MERIT FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN PERFORMING ARTS:

Carmen de Lavallade, Legendary Dancer, Choreographer and Actress

The winner of APAP's FAN TAYLOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THE FIELD OF PROFESSIONAL PRESENTING

David J. Fraher, President and CEO, Arts Midwest

Presented by Laurel Canan, President, NAPAMA, this year's NAPAMA (North American Performing Arts Managers and Agents) award recipients are:

NAPAMA PRESENTER OF THE YEAR:

Todd Wetzel, Assistant Vice Provost for Student Life at Purdue University and Executive Director of Purdue Convocations

NAPAMA LIZ SILVERSTEIN AWARD FOR AGENT-MANAGER OF THE YEAR:

Jerry Ross, President, Harmony Artists

BIOGRAPHIES

Kaisha Johnson – Yates Award

Kaisha Johnson is the Co-Founder and Founding Director of Women of Color in the Arts (WOCA), a national service organization dedicated to creating racial and cultural equity in the performing arts field. As a staunch advocate for racial and cultural equity on and off the stage, Kaisha S. Johnson co-founded WOCA to help amplify the voices of arts administrators of color with the intent of cultivating a diverse and inclusive field, as varied in voice and perspective as the communities it serves. Most recent to her position at WOCA, Ms. Johnson served for over a decade as a program director at the Center for Traditional Music and Dance, a non-profit dedicated to building cross-cultural awareness by nurturing and presenting the performing arts traditions of New York's immigrant communities. In this capacity, she curated and produced culturally-specific work for the stage, worked to help organize immigrant artist communities, advocated for the preservation and presentation of diverse cultural traditions and worked to affirm the value of cultural diversity as an essential component of the United States' national identity.

Having traveled extensively throughout Latin America and The African Diaspora working with arts organizations and artists, Ms. Johnson has created a niche in the performing arts world. With a commitment to facilitating multi-cultural programming through an equitable lens, she also serves as an arts consultant, providing assistance in curation, program development, community engagement, and organizational systems

analysis. Ms. Johnson has also served as an adjunct instructor at the City University of New York in the non-profit management program and currently at the Center for Bronx Nonprofits. Kaisha is also a proud fellow with the Intercultural Leadership Institute and the APAP Leadership Fellows Program.

With 20 years experience as an arts manager, Ms. Johnson has formerly held positions at JazzReach and Herbert Barrett Management. A 20-year resident of Harlem, New York, she got her start in the performing arts in her hometown of Houston, Texas as a classically-trained violinist. Ms. Johnson holds a Bachelor's degree in music from Hampton University, a Master's in music business administration from New York University and has done post-graduate work in ethnomusicology at Hunter College at the City University of New York.

The Joyce Theater, (Linda Shelton, Executive Director and Martin Weschler, Former Director of Programming) – Dawson Award

The Joyce Theater Foundation (“The Joyce”), a non-profit organization, has proudly served the Dance community for over three decades. One of the only theaters built by dancers for dance, The Joyce has garnered a well-deserved international reputation for cultivating and honoring emerging and established dance artists whose work represents a wide range of aesthetic interests. Since opening in 1982, The Joyce has provided a home for more than 400 U.S.-based and international companies and by offering an annual 45 to 48-week season which, each year, allows more than 150,000 audience members to experience diverse, popular and challenging performances.

The Joyce's invaluable commitment to artists and audiences extends beyond the immense volume of work taking place on its stage. In an effort to make dance accessible to audiences throughout New York City, The Joyce has also expanded its reach beyond its Chelsea home through off-site presentations at venues ranging in scope from Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater, to Brooklyn's Invisible Dog Art Center, and to outdoor programming in such spaces as Hudson River Park.

The mission of The Joyce Theater Foundation is to serve and support the art of dance and choreography, to promote the richness and variety of the art form in its fullest expression, and to advance the public interest in, and appreciation of, dance and the allied arts of music, design, and theater.

The Joyce's programs embrace the entire spectrum of movement styles and traditions, from the time-honored to the untried, and are designed to encourage, sustain, and educate a diverse audience.

Carmen de Lavallade – Award of Merit

An accomplished actor, dancer and choreographer, **Carmen de Lavallade** has amassed more than six decades of professional experience in the arts.

The Los Angeles native made her debut at the age of 17 with the Lester Horton Dance Theater in the role of Salome, and she appeared in four films, including *Carmen*

Jones (1954) with Dorothy Dandridge and *Odds Against Tomorrow* (1959) with Harry Belafonte. In 1954, she made her Broadway debut in *House of Flowers*, written by Truman Capote with music by Harold Arlen. Her dance career includes having ballets created for her by Lester Horton, Geoffrey Holder, Alvin Ailey, Glen Tetley, John Butler, and Agnes de Mille.

Ms. de Lavallade succeeded her cousin Janet Collins as the principal dancer with the Metropolitan Opera and was a guest artist with American Ballet Theatre. She has choreographed for Dance Theatre of Harlem, Philadanco, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and the productions of *Porgy and Bess* and *Die Meistersinger* at the Metropolitan Opera. She has also had an extensive acting career performing in numerous off-Broadway productions, including *Death of a Salesman* and *Othello*, taught movement for actors at Yale, and became a member of the Yale Repertory Company and the American Repertory Theatre at Harvard.

Ms. de Lavallade and her late husband, Geoffrey Holder, are the subjects of the film *Carmen and Geoffrey* (2005), which chronicled their 60-year partnership and artistic legacy. Her most recent work includes 651 ART's *FLY: Five First Ladies of Dance* (2009), *Step-Mother* by Ruby Dee (2009), *Post Black* by Regina Taylor (2011), and the Broadway production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* (2012). Most recently, she toured a dance/theater work about her life entitled *As I Remember It*, which premiered in June 2014.

Lauded by numerous institutions, Ms. de Lavallade has received numerous awards and accolades including the 2017 Kennedy Center Honors, an honorary doctorate of Fine Arts from the Juilliard School, and designation by the Dance Heritage Coalition as one of America's Irreplaceable Dance Treasures. Now in her eighties, Carmen de Lavallade continues to inspire generations of artists and audiences alike.

David J. Fraher - Fan Taylor Award

David Fraher has been executive director of Arts Midwest since January 1984 when he joined the Affiliated State Arts Agencies of the Upper Midwest and successfully led that organization through a merger with Great Lakes Arts Alliance, forming Arts Midwest in July 1985. Prior to his position at Arts Midwest, David had been the executive director of the Wyoming Council on the Arts and had worked as a consultant for the Western States Arts Foundation in Santa Fe where he designed and developed the Western States Book Awards project.

He has been active as a panelist and trustee for numerous arts organizations over the past twelve years, including terms on the boards of Western States Arts Foundation, BOA Publishing, Inc., and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. He has also served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and the Pew Charitable Trusts. David has a degree in creative writing from SUNY at Brockport, New York and has taken graduate studies at Ohio University in Athens.

See more about the conference at APAPNYC.org, [@APAP365](https://twitter.com/APAP365), [#APAPNYC](https://twitter.com/APAPNYC) and facebook.com/APAPNYC. APAP membership information can be found at

APAP365.org. APAP|NYC is also an integral part of JanArtsNYC, the most comprehensive annual celebration of the performing arts around the globe and annual convergence of 14 major performing arts industry forums and public festivals.

About APAP, the Association of Performing Arts Professionals

APAP, the Association of Performing Arts Professionals, based in Washington, D.C., is the national service, advocacy and membership organization dedicated to developing and supporting a robust, performing arts presenting field and the professionals who work within it. Our 1,600 national and international members represent leading performing arts centers, municipal and university performance facilities, nonprofit performing arts centers, culturally specific organizations, foreign governments, as well as artist agencies, managers, touring companies, and national consulting practices that serve the field, and a growing roster of self-presenting artists. As a leader in the field, APAP works to effect change through advocacy, professional development, resource sharing and civic engagement. APAP is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization governed by a volunteer board of directors and led by President & CEO Mario Garcia Durham. In addition to presenting the annual APAP|NYC conference - the world's leading forum and marketplace for the performing arts (Jan. 4-8, 2019) - APAP continues to be the industry's leading resource, knowledge and networking destination for the advancement of performing arts presenting.

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