

Research Grant – Fall 2014

Faculty member: Andee Scott

Unit: School of Theatre & Dance

Project/Proposal Title: *National Tour of SOLA*

Abstract:

I am applying for travel funds to support the national tour of *SOLA, an evening of solo dances*, an evening length dance performance project that I conceived, curated, contributed to, and produced through my organization Dance Linkages, with the support of the School of Theatre and Dance. *Sola* premiered at USF in Tampa, FL, and will tour to New York University, University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Middlebury College, and Texas Woman's University in the spring of 2015, where each institution will produce the performance. I will perform my work, "*the edge of memory*," and teach master classes at each university.

Proposal:

Sola, an evening of solo dances, is a solo dance performance project that I conceived, curated, produced and participated in (both choreography and performance), that brings together 6 highly acclaimed female performers/choreographers to create an evening of solo dances that tours to each artist's home institution. The contributing artists are Pamela Pietro at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, Amy Chavasse of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Tzveta Kassabova from Middlebury College, Mary Williford-Shade at Texas Woman's University, Bliss Kohlmyer and myself, both from the University of South Florida. The premiere performance of *Sola* occurred in Tampa, FL at the University of South Florida, produced by Dance Linkages and sponsored by the School of Theatre and Dance, and will travel to New York City, Ann Arbor, MI, Middlebury, VT, and Denton, TX in 2015, where each artist's institution will produce a performance. I have also included a teaching component to the project as all of the artists teach a master class at each institution on the tour. I am asking for funding to support my travel to New York, Michigan, Texas, and Vermont in the spring of 2015 as part of the national *Sola* tour.

This project is grounded in my research as both a choreographer and performer; I perform one of the solos on the evening. My work, *the edge of memory*, integrates video, projection design and the body in motion. This piece adds to my growing body of interdisciplinary work that exploits the intersections of dance and digital arts that I have performed/presented both nationally and internationally, which supports Goal 1 of USF's strategic plan of expanding world-class, interdisciplinary research, creative research and scholarly endeavors.

Sola is the inaugural project of Dance Linkages, an organization I created in 2014 as an artist consortium dedicated to linking artists across disciplines and geographies to create, produce, and tour new work. One of the main goals of this project is to create a new model for touring dance that not only creatively responds to current issues of funding scarcity within the arts, but also provides a platform for promoting the female dance artist in a field that, while predominately populated by women, often privileges the male artist.

A driving principle of Dance Linkages is to maximize resources locally to support work nationally and globally, which is directly in line with Goal 3 of USF's strategic plan that seeks to expand "local and global engagement initiatives to strengthen and sustain healthy communities and improve the quality of life." With this project, I enhance the reputation and prestige of the greater university as I carry the name of the University of South Florida with me on tour.

I am including the publicity *Sola* has generated in Tampa as part of the supplemental materials. Creative Loafing published both a preview and a review of the performance online, and it was listed as a "Do This" in the print edition.