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## **Gemma Bond, Ronald K. Brown, and John Heginbotham awarded 2017-2018 New York City Center Choreography Fellowships**

**August 14, 2017/New York, NY**—Arlene Shuler, New York City Center President and CEO, today announced **Gemma Bond, Ronald K. Brown,** and **John Heginbotham** as recipients of City Center’s 2017-2018 Choreography Fellowships.

Initiated in 2011, the Choreography Fellowship provides choreographers with 150 hours of free studio space, a generous stipend, and administrative support from the City Center staff in areas such as fundraising, marketing, and touring—essential components to their continued success.

"Supporting artists at various stages in their careers has always been an important part of the Fellowship. Gemma, Ron, and John are not only at different stages of development as choreographers but they also represent different approaches to creating dance. We're honored to add them to the list of influential artists who have animated this building with their creative gifts," said President and CEO Arlene Shuler. "We know how valuable space, time, and administrative support are for busy artists, and we're thrilled that City Center can serve as a constant home base for them throughout the year."

Inaugural Fellow and Artistic Director of Gallim Dance Andrea Miller recalls the constant burden of whether a rental space would be suitable for her dancers. "Being able to let go of the energy that goes into that, and fully invest it in the work we were doing—it definitely was a turning point for our company," she said.

Past City Center Choreography Fellows include Kyle Abraham, Brian Brooks, Camille A. Brown, Michelle Dorrance, Liz Gerring, Beth Gill, Jessica Lang, Gabrielle Lamb, Emery LeCrone, Pontus Lidberg, Rashaun Mitchell, Silas Riener, Pam Tanowitz, Shen Wei, and Reggie Wilson.

Special thanks to the Mertz Gilmore Foundation for its support of this program.

### **2017-18 New York City Center Choreography Fellows**

**Gemma Bond** was born in Bedfordshire, England, and began her ballet training with Sylvia Bebb. She trained at the Royal Ballet School and joined The Royal Ballet rising to the rank of first artist. Since joining American Ballet Theatre in 2008, Bond has danced works ranging from Ashton to Balanchine, Morris to Tharp, and created featured roles in works by Alexei Ratmansky and Liam Scarlett, among others. Bond got her first taste of choreography at 13 when she competed in the Royal Ballet’s Sir Kenneth MacMillan Choreographic Competition. From 2010 to the present, she has created three new ballets for ABT’s Choreographic Institute as well as works for Atlanta Ballet, New York Theatre Ballet, Intermezzo Ballet Company, and the Hartt School. Her choreography has been performed at the prestigious Erik Bruhn Competition, the Youth America Grand Prix Gala, the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y, The Joyce, Jacob’s Pillow Dance. Bond has also worked on commercial projects with 1stAveMachine. In 2014, she was awarded the fellowship grant from the New York Choreographic Institute (an affiliate of New York City Ballet) and she has also received grants from the Virginia B. Toulmin foundation. Her upcoming projects include a world premiere commission from Ballet Sun Valley to take place in Sun Valley, Idaho in August of 2017, and a spring 2018 world premiere commission from the Washington Ballet. Bond is the recipient of a 2017 Princess Grace Choreography Fellowship.

**Ronald K. Brown** (Founder/Artistic Director) founded EVIDENCE, A Dance Company in 1985. He has worked with Mary Anthony Dance Theater, Jennifer Muller/The Works, and other choreographers and artists. Brown has set works on Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, Cleo Parker Robinson Ensemble, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Jennifer Muller/The Works, Jeune Ballet d’Afrique Noire, Ko-Thi

Dance Company, Philadanco, Muntu Dance Theater of Chicago, Ballet Hispanico TU Dance, and MalPaso. He won an AUDELCO Award for his choreography in Regina Taylor's award-winning play *Crowns*, received two Black Theater Alliance Awards, and a Fred & Adele Astaire Award for Outstanding Choreography in the Tony Award winning Broadway and national touring production of The Gershwin's *Porgy & Bess*, adapted by Suzan Lori Parks, arrangement by Diedre Murray and directed by Diane Paulus. Brown was named Def Dance Jam Workshop 2000 Mentor of the Year and has received; the Doris Duke Artist Award, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts Choreographers Fellowship, New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship, United States Artists Fellowship, a "Bessie" Award, and The Ailey Apex Award. Brown is a member of Stage Directors & Choreographers Society.

Originally from Anchorage, Alaska, **John Heginbotham** graduated from The Juilliard School in 1993, and was a member of Mark Morris Dance Group from 1998–2012. In 2011, he founded Dance Heginbotham, which has been presented and commissioned by Bard College, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Jacob's Pillow Dance, The John F. Kennedy Center, The Joyce Theater, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, among others. In 2016, Dance Heginbotham toured to Southeast Asia with DanceMotion USA<sup>SM</sup>, a cultural diplomacy initiative of the US Department of State, produced by BAM. In February 2017, the Company premiered *Lola* at The Kennedy Center, performed with the world-renowned violinist Joshua Bell and the National Symphony Orchestra. Active as a freelance choreographer, Heginbotham's recent projects include *Candide* (Orlando Philharmonic, 2016); *Oklahoma!* (Bard Summerscape, 2015); *Angels' Share* (Atlanta Ballet, 2014); Isaac Mizrahi's *The Magic Flute* (Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, 2014), and *Peter and the Wolf* (Guggenheim Works and Process, 2013). Heginbotham was the recipient of the 2014 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award. [www.danceheginbotham.org](http://www.danceheginbotham.org)

**New York City Center** (Arlene Shuler, President & CEO) has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city since 1943. For nearly 25 years, City Center's Tony-honored Encores! series has been "an essential New York institution" (*The New York Times*). In 2013, City Center launched the Encores! Off-Center series, which features seminal Off-Broadway musicals filtered through the lens of today's innovative artists. Dance has also been integral to the theater's mission from the start and programs like the annual Fall for Dance Festival remain central to City Center's identity. Home to a roster of renowned national and international companies including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (City Center's Principal Dance Company) and Manhattan Theatre Club, New York City Center was Manhattan's first performing arts center, founded with the mission of making the best in music, theater, and dance accessible to all audiences. That mission continues today through robust education and community engagement programs which bring the performing arts to over 9,000 New York City students each year and the expansion of the theatrical experience to include pre-show talks, master classes, and art exhibitions that offer an up-close look at the work of the great theater and dance artists of our time. [www.NYCityCenter.org](http://www.NYCityCenter.org)

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