

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 13, 2009

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**Bill T. Jones Chosen as First “Visionaries” Speaker at New Museum on April 24**

New York, NY...The New Museum is pleased to announce that celebrated choreographer and activist **Bill T. Jones** will give the **inaugural Visionaries Series** lecture on April 24, at 7:30 p.m. The Visionaries Series at the New Museum spotlights leading international thinkers in the fields of art, architecture, design, and related disciplines of contemporary culture, whose innovations are shaping intellectual life and shining light on the future. The series is made possible by **The Stuart Regen Visionaries Fund**, established by a major gift from **Barbara Gladstone** in honor of her late son (Stuart Regen).



Photo by Jason Moran

A reception in the seventh-floor Sky Room will follow the talk. Advance tickets are strongly recommended. \$12 Members, \$15 General Public. To purchase tickets visit [newmuseum.org](http://newmuseum.org).

Bill T. Jones has received numerous awards for his groundbreaking work including: a 2007 Tony Award, 2007 Obie Award, and 2006 Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation CALLAWAY Award for his choreography for *Spring Awakening*; the 2007 USA Eileen Harris Norton Fellowship; the 2006 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Choreography for *The Seven*; the 2005 Wexner Prize; the 2005 Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement; the Harlem Renaissance Award; the 2003 Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize; and the 1994 MacArthur "Genius" Award. In 2000, the Dance Heritage Coalition named Jones "An Irreplaceable Dance Treasure." Jones began his dance training at the State University of New York at Binghamton (SUNY), studying classical ballet and modern dance. He choreographed and performed worldwide as a soloist and duet company with his late partner, Arnie Zane, before forming the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company in 1982.

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In 2008 he co-conceived, directed, and choreographed the much acclaimed *Fela!*, a musical with a book by Jim Lewis, which explores Fela Kuti's controversial life as artist, political activist, and revolutionary musician. In June 2006, Jones choreographed *Spring Awakening, A New Musical* with music by Grammy nominated singer/songwriter Duncan Sheik, directed by Michael Mayer. Jones's *Free to Dance* was a 2001 Emmy-winning documentary that chronicled modern dance's African-American roots.

Jones's interest in new media and digital technology has resulted in two collaborations with the team of Paul Kaiser, Shelley Eshkar, and Mark Downey. The first, *Ghostcatching—A Virtual Dance Installation* (1999), was produced by and premiered at the Cooper Union in New York. The second, *22* (2004), was the result of a three-year development under the auspices of Arizona State University's Institute for Studies In The Arts and Technology in Tempe, Arizona, where it premiered.

#### **FUNDING**

The Stuart Regen Visionaries Fund has been made possible by a major gift from Barbara Gladstone, in honor of her late son (Stuart Regen). Regen was founder of the leading Los Angeles gallery Regen Projects, and among the first to champion and exhibit work by such "next generation" artists as Charles Ray, Raymond Pettibon, Matthew Barney, and Catherine Opie.

Additional support for the Visionary Series is provided by the Charlotte and Bill Ford Artist Talks Fund.

#### **ABOUT THE NEW MUSEUM**

Founded in 1977, the New Museum is Manhattan's only dedicated contemporary art museum and among the most respected internationally, with a curatorial program known for its global scope and adventurousness. With the inauguration of our new, SANAA-designed building on the Bowery, the New Museum is a leading destination for new art and new ideas.

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