

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Foundation Established Dedicated to Preserving the Legacy of Anna Sokolow

Lorry May is pleased to announce the establishment of the SOKOLOW DANCE FOUNDATION, an institution committed to preserving the extraordinary legacy of Anna Sokolow, one of the most influential modern dance choreographers of the 20th century. Ms. May is considered the leading authority on the Sokolow repertory, having been associated with the choreographer for over 3 decades as a world-renowned dancer, reconstructor, and co-artistic director of the performing company, Anna Sokolow's Players' Project.

The Sokolow Dance Foundation has these 3 primary objectives:

- ☑ To create an extensive video archive by acquiring Sokolow repertory from both the private and public sectors
- ☑ To educate students from elementary school through and beyond college about Sokolow's contributions to 20th century modern dance
- ☑ To make repertory available for public performances.

The archival arm of the foundation will be open to the public for viewing and research, thereby conserving the Sokolow legacy for future generations. Forty new videos have been added to the archive over the past year; and the foundation is also planning to reclaim choreography that presently has no video record. For example, *Time+* (1968) will be reconstructed through the memories of original dancers from the Pennsylvania Ballet, Anna Sokolow's Players' Project, photographs, and archival writings, and Dancefusion, a Philadelphia-based dance company, will perform the finished ballet. Videos of this *Time+* reconstruction will be made available to national dance archives. This Dancefusion project is sponsored by a Dance Advance grant, funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Education is an essential element in preserving the Sokolow legacy. Workshops, residencies, master classes, and lectures on Sokolow's life and work are available for students of all ages. Also, Ms. May has developed *The Sokolow Etude Program*, a format designed to allow students to experience master choreography first hand. For example, *The Rooms Etude*, created and filmed as part of the American Dance Legacy Institutes' initiative, The Dance Legacy Volumes, has been introduced into the curriculum standards for the public schools of both North and South Carolina.

The third objective of The Sokolow Dance Foundation is to reconstruct ballets for professional dance companies, college dance ensembles and individual artists who wish to perform the work. The foundation will lease all contracts, royalty arrangements and licensing fees and will provide reconstructors and coaches for all national and international reconstructions.

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