

## UNDER-SERVED YOUTH PERFORM CONTEMPORARY WORKS AT IRVINE BARCLAY THEATRE

Santa Ana, Calif. (February 29, 2012) – **The Wooden Floor**, an arts-based youth development organization celebrated for its progressive and pioneering dance making, showcases new contemporary dance works at its 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Concert, **Tuned In**, at the **Irvine Barclay Theatre**, May 31-June 2, 2012. The performances, now a staple of Orange County's contemporary dance calendar, are profoundly inspiring, featuring three top of their field choreographers, **Chris Yon**, **John Heginbotham**, and **Melanie Ríos Glaser**, creating new work in partnership young dancers from low-income backgrounds.

This powerful collaboration between nationally recognized choreographers and under-served youth yields work that is so original, inventive, and distinctive, it leaves audiences inspired. Patrons are often asked to leave their expectations at the door and experience contemporary dance that breaks down the stereotypes of who can ignite and create art. The performance is every bit as meaningful for the audience as it is for the dancers, winning rave reviews, with one journalist exclaiming, "It practically takes your breath away."

### About the Choreographers

**Chris Yon**, a Minneapolis based choreographer, earned his BFA from NYU in 2001. Yon's choreographies have been presented nationally and internationally at Bryant Lake Bowl, Walker Art Center, The Southern Theater, Dance Theater Workshop, Performance Space 122, La Mama, Symphony Space, The Kitchen, Danspace Project, Gershwin Hotel, CBGB's, The Knitting Factory, Philadelphia Dance Project, ODC Theater, Velocity Dance Center, Highways Performance Space, Project Art Centre (Dublin), Tangente (Montreal), and CiteDanse (Grenoble). Chris has been the recipient of the 2003 NYFA Fellowship for Performance Art and Multidisciplinary Work (shared with Justin Jones), a 2005 BESSIE Award for Performance, a 2009 SAGE Award for Choreography, and the 2011 McKnight Fellowship for Choreographers.

**John Heginbotham** dances with Mark Morris Dance Group and is a graduate of the Juilliard School. John has collaborated with such organizations as The Metropolitan Opera, English National Opera, and the Museum of Modern Art. Most recently, he created *throwaway* set to the music of the legendary French electronica duo, Daft Punk, winning honors in the *Festival Twenty Ten* DanceNOW Challenge (Dance Theater Workshop). His piece for The Wooden Floor, *Pieces of Wood*, features at its heart, the music of renowned composer Steve Reich. Performers build and topple their dance, doubling brilliantly as musicians by providing constantly shifting rhythms alongside the Los Angeles Percussion Quartet.

**Melanie Ríos Glaser**, Artistic Director for The Wooden Floor, received her BFA from the Juilliard School in 1994. She was named a Kennedy Center Fellow in 1998 and a Fulbright Scholar in Europe from 2003-2004 for her work in dance improvisation. Her work has been performed in Mexico, Central America, France, Colombia, Brazil, Philadelphia, New York, and elsewhere. Melanie has choreographed more than 30 pieces for groups that include UC Irvine's Dance Department, Group Motion Dance Theatre Company, Ballet Moderno y Folklórico de Guatemala, Ballet de Cali, her own Mosquito Dance Company and The Wooden Floor.

### Event Details

**Name:** *Tuned In*

**When:** May 31-June 2, 2012 – Performances 8pm nightly, plus a 2:30pm matinee performance on June 2

**Where:** Irvine Barclay Theatre - 4242 Campus Drive in Irvine

**Tickets:** Tickets: \$20 General Seating; \$50 Benefit Seating\*; Half price discount for children under 13 and students. Tickets on sale April 2 at 949.854.4646 and [www.TheBarclay.org](http://www.TheBarclay.org). \*Includes \$30 tax deductible contribution.

Complete details at [www.TheWoodenFloor.org](http://www.TheWoodenFloor.org)

### About The Wooden Floor

The Wooden Floor in Santa Ana is an after-school organization formed in 1983 that delivers hope and opportunity to 375 low-income youth annually. Dance education and performance are the core transformational elements through which youth change the way they think about themselves and aspire beyond the grip of the poverty cycle. In the dance studio, rigorous training, creativity, and self-knowledge lead to confidence, leadership, teamwork, well-being, and joy. Academic programs, pre-collegiate mentoring, and college scholarships ensure that students succeed in school and are college-ready. **Since 2005, 100 percent of graduates from The Wooden Floor have enrolled in college**, exceeding the national average for their peers threefold. Family Services at The Wooden Floor, including counseling, crisis intervention, and social service referrals help families overcome hardships and navigate challenges. Community support enables these year-round programs to be offered free of charge. Bringing about generational change to break the cycle of poverty in our community is the long-term goal of The Wooden Floor.