FOR IMMEDIATE MEDIA RELEASE

Announcing the Virtual Edition: 2021 ISPA Awards Recipients

Virginia Braden OAM, Camille A. Brown, Rika lino, and Dr. Margo Kane, C.M.

Award Presentation to be held during the Virtual Edition: 2021 ISPA Congress, Imagine the Arts on Thursday, January 14, 2021 and Friday, January 15, 2021

New York, NY, USA (December 14, 2020)– On behalf of the Board of Directors, the International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA) announces the recipients of the Virtual Edition: 2021 ISPA Awards. The first ISPA Award was presented in 1975 to Beverly Sills. Since then, ISPA has continued to recognize outstanding individuals for their contribution to the arts and their communities. The 2021 award recipients are as follows (biographies attached):

**Distinguished Artist Award**
Presented to artists who have made an outstanding contribution of talent, artistry, dedication, and service to the world of the performing arts.

**Camille A. Brown** (Choreographer, Dancer, and Director)
Nominating Statement: “Camille Brown is an extraordinary choreographer and dancer, storyteller and educator. A powerful voice that is being heard louder now and into the future.”

**Margo Kane, C.M.** (Founder and Artistic Managing Director, Full Circle: First Nations Performance)
Nominating Statement: “Margo has been and continues to be a mentor, leader, and inspiration to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists from across Canada and around the world.”

**International Citation of Merit**
Presented for unique lifetime achievement which has enriched the international performing arts. This award is not for performance but rather for distinguished service working within the profession.

**Rika lino** (Founder, Sozo Media)
Nominating Statement: “The definition of this award is also the definition of Rika lino. She is a thought leader. She is a change-maker. Rika strives to be the best leader she can be.”

has demonstrated transformative leadership in the performing arts.
Angel Award Recipient

Presented to an individual or organization which has demonstrated a significant and lasting contribution to the support of the performing arts which transcends the boundaries of one country or institution, and merits international recognition.

Virginia Braden OAM

Nominating Statement: “Virginia deserves to be honoured for her work in artist management but more significantly, she is an active advisor in the arts, a confidant to many and wise counsel to all.”

"While we received many worthy nominations, the Board was unanimous in their endorsement on the 2021 awardees. We are delighted that, for the first time, all the recipients are women.” said ISPA Chief Executive Officer David Baile.

The awards will be presented at a virtual ceremony to be held during the Virtual Edition: 2021 ISPA Congress, Imagine the Arts, on Thursday, January 14, 2021 and Friday, January 15, 2021. The ceremony will be hosted by Heena Patel, MELA Arts Connect.

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[BIOGRAPHY OF THE AWARD RECIPIENTS]

Camille A. Brown

2021 Distinguished Artist Award Recipient

CAMILLE A. BROWN is a prolific Black female choreographer, who is reclaiming the cultural narratives of African American identity.

She is a 2020 Dance Magazine Award recipient and 2020 Obie Award Winner for Sustained Excellence in Choreography. She is a Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellow, Audelco Award recipient, five-time Princess Grace Award winner, Guggenheim Fellow, Jacob’s Pillow Dance Award recipient, USA Jay Franke & David Herro Fellow, TED Fellow, and Doris Duke Artist Award recipient.

Her Bessie award winning company, Camille A. Brown & Dancers (CABD), tours nationally and internationally and is now featured on Google Arts & Culture. As a 2020 Emerson Collective Fellow, Ms. Brown is building the “Social Dance for Social Change” virtual School- “The School that Camille A. Brown Built” to provide opportunities for dance education, cultural engagement, and mentorship during the pandemic and beyond.

Broadway and Off-Broadway theater & television credits include: Tarell Alvin McCraney’s Choir Boy (Tony and Drama Desk nominations), Tony Award-Winning Broadway revival, Once On This Island (Drama Desk, Outer Critics, and Chita Rivera Nominations), Toni Stone (Drama Desk, Lortel nominee, Audelco nominee), Emmy Award- Winning Jesus Christ Superstar Live on NBC, Broadway’s A Streetcar Named Desire, The Fortress of Solitude (Lortel Nomination), BELLA: An American Tall Tale (Lortel, Audelco winner), Much Ado About Nothing (Audelco winner, SDCF finalist) for Shakespeare in the Park, among others.
Ms. Brown’s TED-Ed talk, “A Visual History of Social Dance in 25 Moves” was chosen as one of the most notable talks of 2016 by TED Curator, Chris Anderson, and has over 15 million views on Facebook and counting.

Ms. Brown is the choreographer of The Metropolitan Opera’s Porgy & Bess. She will make her feature film debut in the soon-to-be-released Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom- directed by George C. Wolfe (Netflix).

Brown will make her directorial debut with the Broadway revival of, for colored girls who have considered suicide/ when the rainbow is enuf , Fire Shut Up In My Bones for The Metropolitan Opera (co-directed with James Robinson), and Ain’t Misbehavin’ at Westport Country Playhouse.

Margo Kane, C.M.

2021 International Citation of Merit Recipient

Cree-Saulteaux performing artist, Margo Kane is the Founder and Artistic Managing Director of Full Circle: First Nations Performance. For over 40 years she has been active as an actor, performing artist and community cultural worker. Her desire to share artistic performance that has meaning for her people is the catalyst for her extensive work, travels and consultation within Indigenous communities across Canada and abroad. Moonlodge, her acclaimed one-woman show, an Indigenous Canadian classic, toured for over 10 years nationally and internationally. The Sydney Press (AU) during The Festival of the Dreaming praised it as being ‘in the top echelon of solo performance.’ She developed and runs the annual Talking Stick Festival which will celebrate its’ 20th Anniversary in Vancouver in 2021.

She has been active in developing International exchanges in order to contribute to and establish regional, national and International touring of Indigenous works. As Chair of IPAA – Indigenous Performing Arts Alliance, she encourages more development of Intertribal performance exchanges within Canada and abroad.

She has received numerous awards and honors including an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from the University of the Fraser Valley, the Order of Canada from the Governor-General.

Rika Iino

2021 Patrick Hayes Award Recipient

Rika Iino (she/her) is the founder of Sozo Media, a collective of creative companies: Sozo Artists, a dynamic roster of artists in dance, music, spoken word, new media and film focused on innovation and social justice; Sozo Impact, a non-profit organization dedicated to incubating work by BIPOC artists and producers; and Sozo Vision, a consultancy which partners with institutions to design social impact-facing programs and strategies, with clients ranging from Yale University to The Apollo Theater. Rika’s work as producer/manager spans two decades and hundreds of live and digital projects with artists and organizations globally. Rika plays an active role in arts advocacy and leadership development across the industry including work with Creative & Independent Producer Alliance, Association for Performing Arts Professionals, and International Society for the Performing Arts. Rika was raised in Japan, spent formative years at Phillips Exeter Academy and studied music at Mozarteum in Austria before
graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Columbia University. She is based in Oakland, CA.

www.sozomedia.com

Virginia Braden OAM
2021 Angel Award Recipient

After holding a number of arts management positions, Virginia established her firm Arts Management Pty Limited in 1979, providing personal management for over a hundred and fifty Australian and international conductors, instrumentalists, singers, directors and designers. The firm also undertook a range of projects in all fields of the performing and visual arts. She handed over Arts Management to new owners in 2008 and is now working as a freelance consultant. She has provided career advice and mentoring to a wide range of performing artists, arts managers and others over a number of years.

Virginia served as Deputy Chairman (1999-2000) and then Chairman (2000-2003) of the International Artist Managers’ Association. She was a Director of Opera Australia 2010-2017 and the National Institute of Dramatic Art 2010-16. She continued as a member of the NIDA Audit, Finance and Risk Committee until May 2018. In 2013-2015 she undertook a review for the Board of the Sydney International Piano Competition of Australia, making recommendations for the wide reaching update of the Competition and then implementing them. She is currently Chairman of the Board of the Sydney International Piano Competition, a Director of the Board of Pinchgut Opera and a member the Freelance Artists Relief Fund of Australia, set up to assist singers who have lost all work due to Covid-19.

She is an Honorary Life Member of the International Artist Managers’ Association and the Australian Music Centre and was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for services to Arts Administration in 2010.

Photos of Award Recipients: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/b6xz28nam5hlzk9/AAAd212xxzED-cRNv6kor3Jqa?dl=0

About ISPA: The International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA) is a global association of more than 500 arts management leaders from 56 regions, who come together with the shared goal of strengthening and developing the arts internationally. We achieve this by building leadership ability, by recognizing and discussing field-wide trends and new developments, and by deepening global exchange through the arts. ISPA members include presenters, performing arts organizations, artist managers, competitions, funders, consultants and other professionals working in the performing arts. Founded in 1948 by Patrick Hayes, 2019 marked ISPA's 70th Anniversary.

About ISPA Awards: As a leadership network, ISPA is committed to recognizing excellence in the performing arts globally. There is an annual call for award nominations. All nominations are reviewed by the Nominating Committee Members and then a slate of nominees is recommended to the Board of Directors for approval.

For more information on the ISPA Awards, visit www.ispa.org/page/awards_landing

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