

# The New York Times

## Arts, Briefly

Compiled by Allan Kozinn

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### Bessie Awards Honor A Wide World of Dance

In recent years the Bessies, or the New York Dance and Performance Awards, have become a yes-to-everything kind of institution. Yes to all dance forms, yes to all performers. Yes to **Megan Fairchild**, the New York City Ballet principal, and **Crazy Legs**, the Bronx-born break dancer, presenting an award side by side.

Such was the guiding philosophy on Monday at the Apollo Theater, where the Bessies, named for the choreography teacher Bessie Schonberg, celebrated their 30th anniversary. Two titans were honored: **Arthur Mitchell**, the founder of Dance Theater of Harlem, with a lifetime achievement award, and **Chuck Davis**, the founder of DanceAfrica, for service to the field of dance. **Stuart Singer** and **Linda Celeste Sims** were anointed outstanding performers, he for his dancing in **John Jasperse's** "Within Between," she for her work with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

The other outstanding performer awards went to **Aakash Odedra** of "James Brown: Get on the Good Foot" and **Rebecca Serrell Cyr** for her performance in **Donna Uchizono's** "Fire Underground."

The awards for outstanding production — presented by, among others, **Wendy Whelan** — went to **Okwui Okpokwasili's** "Bronx Gothic," **Akram Khan's** "Desh," Mr. Jasperse's "Within Between" and **Camille A. Brown's** "Mr. TOL E. RAnCE."

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