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Contact:

Soriya K. Chum, Manager of Public Programs
212.941.9280, ext. 3
schum@aaartsalliance.org

Asian American Arts Alliance Names 2017 Jadin Dance Award Recipient Shoey Sun

*\$4,500 professional development award supports a professional,
early-career, Asian American choreographer.*

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Asian American Arts Alliance has administered its fourth cycle of the Jadin Wong Dance Award for an Emerging Asian American Choreographer; Shoey Sun has been selected as the 2017 Choreography Fellow. Jeffrey Cirio was selected to receive a Note of Exceptional Merit.

Shoey will receive a \$4,500 cash grant as well as a package of professional development opportunities in dance. The fellowship is granted to an Asian American dancer/choreographer who is age 30 or under and based in New York City. The fellowships are supported by a grant from the Jadin Wong Educational Fund in the New York Community Trust.

Shoey was selected in an open application process by a high-level review panel, composed of respected leaders in the field of dance. The panel included:

- Dana Tai Soon Burgess, Artistic Director of Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance
- Emily Cachapero, Director of Artistic and International Programs, Theatre Communications Group
- Phil Chan, Arts and Culture Director, IVY
- Kara Gilmour, Director of Community Action, Gibney Dance
- Georgina Pazcoquin, Principal Dancer, New York City Ballet

“The Alliance is honored to administer this prestigious fellowship in memory of Jadin Wong,” said Andrea Louie, executive director of the Asian American Arts Alliance. “Jadin Wong’s courage, perseverance, and dedication to empowering Asian Americans in the performing arts deeply embodies the values of the Alliance, and we hope that those who have benefited from her generosity can be inspired and encouraged by Jadin’s own story and career.”

The Jadin Wong Award is a tribute to the life and work of renowned Chinese American actress, dancer, and comedienne Jadin Wong (1913–2010). Since her teenage years, Ms. Wong had been a pioneer and innovator for Asian American performing arts, performing in venues throughout America, Europe, and Asia and founding her own arts management company which specializes in representing Asian American talent, paving the way for future Asian American performers. She established the Jadin Wong Educational Fund at the New York Community Trust to support aspiring artists, musicians, and dancers of Asian descent.

The Jadin Wong Educational Fund at The New York Community Trust has been underwriting this award since 2014. The dance award is given on alternate years to a dancer. To read more about Jadin Wong, please visit: <http://www.nycommunitytrust.org/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/BioBrochures/jadin%20wong.pdf>

2017 Jadin Dance Award in Choreography recipient Shoey Sun was born in China and started piano lessons at the age of 4. She moved to Houston, TX when she was 8, where her parents encouraged her take dance lessons with renowned Chinese dancer/actress, Zhou Jie at J&L Dance School. Falling in love with dance, she continued her studies at Princeton Ballet School and Pennsylvania School of Performing Arts when her family moved to the East Coast.

Going against the grain, Shoey decided to pursue a major in Political Science with a minor in Chinese Language at New York University. During her time at NYU, she co-founded EPIC Motion Dance, an extracurricular hip hop dance team that has evolved to an artist-run entity now celebrating its 10th year, and has been a nurturing home to over 150 dancers.

After graduation, Shoey pursued her dance/choreography career full-time. She is featured in shows for Icona Pop, Pharrell, McQ by Alexander McQueen, APAP Dance Festival, and has studied and worked with choreographers Rhapsody James, Fatima Robinson, Brice Mousset, Dana Foglia, Nadine Bommer, and more.

In 2015, she co-founded | vessels |--a project based movement-theatre company--with long-time collaborator Kris Seto. Their work has been featured in Mare Nostrum Element's Emerging Choreographers Series, White Wave Dance Festival, Idaco NYC dance festival, New York Fashion Week, and INSITU Dance Festival. | vessels | is a recipient of the 2018 CUNY Dance Initiative grant.

Shoey is a dance lecturer at LaGuardia Community College. She is also a lover of photography and design. Her work with her dance company | vessels |, along with longtime dance collaborator Kris Seto, can be seen on their website www.vesselsmove.com/

207 Jadin Dance Award, Note of Exceptional Merit recipient Jeffrey Cirio started his ballet training at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet and went on to train at Boston Ballet. He has won numerous ballet competitions world-wide, including a gold medal at the Helsinki International Ballet competition and a bronze medal at the USAIBC. He was also awarded the coveted Princess Grace Award and was nominated for the 2014 UK National Dance Award. He joined Boston Ballet in 2009, and was promoted quickly through the ranks, becoming a principal dancer in 2012. Cirio has performed numerous classical, neo-classical, and contemporary roles for Boston Ballet and in worldwide galas. He also danced at the 2014 Kennedy Center Honors in Washington, D.C., honoring Patricia McBride. Cirio joined American Ballet Theatre in 2015 as a soloist and was promoted to principal dancer after only one season with the company. He was also nominated for the 2017 Benois de la Danse award. Cirio's latest efforts have been in the area of choreography. After creating a work for Boston Ballet II, he was commissioned to create two pieces for Boston Ballet, "of Trial" and "fremd." He has created pieces for Ballet Academy East, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Joffrey Ballet's Winning Works Program, and for the Erik Bruhn Competition. In 2015, Cirio, along with his sister, Lia Cirio (principal at Boston Ballet) formed a new company, Cirio Collective, which is a summer project that brings together dancers and choreographers (and other art forms) to work and perform in a residency environment. Cirio Collective performed "MiniM" at Vineyard Arts Project and Cape Dance Festival for their inaugural year. This year, the Collective's third season, brings them to New York City for the Joyce Ballet Festival. It is the Collective's aim to continue collaboration with other dancers, choreographers, musicians, and additional art forms to imagine, work and create. www.ciriocollective.com

Asian American Arts Alliance is dedicated to strengthening Asian American arts and cultural groups through resource sharing, promotion, and community building. Since 1983, the Alliance has sought to unify, promote and represent the artistic and cultural producers of one of New York City's fastest growing ethnic populations. The organization is a diverse alliance of artists, organizations, and arts supporters who believe that working together as a panethnic, multidisciplinary community is essential to nurturing the development of artists and arts organizations and to providing meaningful and innovative ways for civic engagement in society. www.aartsalliance.org

The New York Community Trust is a community foundation, helping New Yorkers achieve their charitable goals and making grants that respond to the needs of our City. www.nycommunitytrust.org

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