

For Immediate Release

RONALD BROWN RECEIVES 2010 LESTER HORTON LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Idyllwild, California (February 11, 2010)...Ronald Brown, Idyllwild Arts Academy adjunct faculty, is the recipient of the 2010 Lester Horton Lifetime Achievement Award by the Dance Resource Center. Each year, the DRC presents the Lester Horton Dance Awards -- celebrating Southern California's dance community and those who keep it thriving. The Horton Awards recognize professionals -- from performers to writers to choreographers to photographers -- who enhance the dance community in a myriad of ways.

Idyllwild Arts Academy Dance department Chair Ellen Rosa stated, "Ron is an asset to the dance department here at Idyllwild Arts Academy and he is a favorite among the dance majors. His teaching manner is stern yet gentle and he challenges the students to reach for technical goals. Ron is also a wonderful choreographer and his dance pieces have a unique artistic quality."

Mr. Brown began training in classical ballet studying at the Ballet Russe of Cleveland, the Akron Chamber Ballet and the School of American Ballet. Later, he explored the modern disciplines of Jose Limon, Martha Graham, and Lester Horton. Presently, Ronald has found the joy of movement in West African Dance under the guidance of Nzingha Camara.

Ronald's professional credits include performing with such notable companies as the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Alvin Ailey II, Dianne McIntyre's Sounds In Motion, UCLA Dance Company, JazzAntigua and Malathi Iyenger & Rangoli Dance Company.

He has taught extensively throughout the United States at California State University Long Beach, UCLA Department of World Arts & Cultures, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles County High School for the Performing Arts, Crossroads School for Arts & Sciences and the Lula Washington Dance Theater. In 1995, Ronald received funding from the UCLA Department of World Arts & Culture to research the Vodou culture in Haiti.

In 2005, Ronald was a recipient of the Certificate of Appreciation Award from the City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs & Lula Washington Dance Theater. Presently, Ronald is adjunct dance faculty at Idyllwild Arts Academy teaching modern and African dance, as well as faculty with Santa Monica College, Chaffey College and local dance studios.

The awards are named after American dancer and choreographer Lester Horton. Mr. Horton made Los Angeles a centre for dance at a time when most American attention was focused on New York. He was greatly influenced by the Japanese performer Michio Ito as well as by

Native American cultures.

In the 1930s, Horton founded his own company, the Lester Horton Dancers. At the time, it was one of the few interracial organizations in the United States. Horton disbanded his company in the 1940s to start a theatre academy for dance. Alvin Ailey and longtime Idyllwild Arts Summer Program dance teacher Bella Lewitzky were among Horton's many students who had successful careers in dance.

For more information on Idyllwild Arts Academy visit www.idyllwildarts.org. Press inquiries for Idyllwild Arts can be directed to Jeff Hocker at 760-320-5272 or jhocker@idyllwildarts.org.