

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

ALUMNAE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2014

PRESENTED TO



Joanna Mendl-Shaw '69

JOANNA MENDL-SHAW, CLASS OF 1969, we honor you today with the Alumnae Achievement Award. This award is presented to alumnae whose accomplishments and service to society exemplify the values and virtues set forth by the College.

As a director and choreographer you have repeatedly challenged convention, reinventing how audiences and dancers conceive movement and performance. You founded your first dance company, DanceWorks Northwest, soon after graduating from Mount Holyoke and are the recipient of two choreographic fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts. After earning an MFA and teaching dance at several institutions, you studied movement analysis— intrigued by the connection between dancers and athletes. Your curiosity led to experiments with unconventional dance venues and, in 1997, a unique collaboration between Mount Holyoke's dance department and equestrian program.

Captivated by the bond of physical movement and intuition between horses and humans, you founded The Equus Projects/Dancing With Horses, a dance company that develops site-specific works with local horses. Described as “visually arresting” and “a hypnotic piece of form and movement,” the company's performances have been featured across the US and around the world.

You are also a leader in arts advocacy, co-founding the Gender Project to study disparities in opportunities for men and women dancers. You urge colleagues to pursue socially engaged artistic endeavors, and you help performers discover new revenue streams and fundraising models through the organization Economic Revitalization for Performing Artists.

For your restless and intelligent curiosity about human movement and artistic expression, and for continuing to push the boundaries of modern dance, the Alumnae Association is honored to present you, on your forty-fifth reunion, with the Achievement Award.

CYNTHIA L. REED '80
PRESIDENT
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

JANE E. ZACHARY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE