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**Jessica Lang Dance Performing Live at Mesa Arts Center  
Thursday, Nov. 20**

**For immediate release:**

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**Mesa, AZ** – Choreographer Jessica Lang, who was recently recognized with a Bessie Award for Best Emerging Choreographer, will bring her company, Jessica Lang Dance (JLD) to perform an evening of contemporary dance in Mesa Arts Center's Piper Theater at 7:30 p.m. on November 20. Tickets are available at the Mesa Arts Center Box Office, at [mesaartscenter.com](http://mesaartscenter.com) or by calling 480-644-6500.

Lang is known for seamlessly incorporating striking design elements with beautifully choreographed contemporary pieces. Judith Mackrell of *The Guardian* said of her, **“Lang was formerly a dancer with Twyla Tharp, and like Tharp she has the gift of cramming together an eclectic range of colours and ideas without losing thought with her individual sensibility.”**

Based in New York City, the ballet-influenced contemporary dance company was founded in 2011, as Lang transitioned from freelance choreography to having a company of her own. Hailed as "a master of visual composition" by Dance Magazine, Lang seamlessly incorporates striking design elements and transforms classical ballet language into artfully crafted, emotionally engaging contemporary works.

JLD is in residence at the Del E. Webb Center for the Performing Arts in Wickenburg through November 10, while Lang puts the finishing touches on their new full-length piece, *The Wanderer*. With music to Schubert's song cycle *Die schöne Müllerin*, the evening-length work will make its world premiere at BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music) as part of the prestigious 2014 Next Wave Festival in December.

While in Mesa, JLD will offer free dance master classes to students in dance programs at Arizona State University, Glendale Community College, Grand Canyon University and Scottsdale Community College.

Since the company's inception, marked by Lang's receipt of a Joyce Theater Artist Residency supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, JLD has made rapid success performing at

renowned venues and festivals throughout the country including Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, New York City Center's Fall for Dance Festival, the Kennedy Center Concert Hall, the Joyce Theater and the Winspear Opera House in Dallas, TX where the company's performance was chosen as the best dance event of 2013.

JLD has received numerous grants and funding from organizations including the Jerome Robbins Foundation, the O'Donnell-Green Music and Dance Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Japan Foundation New York and the Foundation for Contemporary Arts.

Mesa Arts Center is located at One East Main Street in downtown Mesa.

**Editor's Note:** Images are available for download via Mesa Arts Center's online Press Room at <http://www.mesaartscenter.com/index.php/misc/about/press-room/login>. Password is macmedia.

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#### **ABOUT MESA ARTS CENTER**

The Mesa Arts Center mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant. Owned and operated by the City of Mesa, Arizona's largest arts center is recognized as an international award-winning venue. The unique and architecturally stunning facility is home to four theaters, five art galleries, and 14 art studios and an artist cooperative gallery. For more information, visit [mesaartscenter.com](http://www.mesaartscenter.com).