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## **Warner Theatre Raises \$25k to Purchase Dance Floor for Performing Arts Center Complex**

*Purchase allows theatre to expand innovative dance programming*

Torrington, CT – The Warner Theatre announced that it will be installing a new portable dance floor in the arts organization's 300-seat Nancy Marine Studio Theatre. The new dance floor will allow the organization to expand program offerings in the facility and is made possible through funds raised during the Warner's 2009 Spring Fling Fundraising Auction held last May that netted \$18,000 for the floor. Additional funds, including \$2,000 from the Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation and facility rental fees paid by Nutmeg Ballet associated with an upcoming dance presentation made purchasing the dance floor possible.

The premiere performance utilizing the new floor will be *IMPACT: A Dance Collaboration* on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at 8pm in the Warner's Nancy Marine Studio Theatre. *IMPACT* will be an evening of contemporary Dance performed by The Nutmeg Ballet in cooperation with SYREN Modern Dance and MOMIX and will feature guest choreographers: Barry Hughson, Joan Kunsch, Victoria Mazzarelli, Timothy Melady & Brian Simerson.

"The purchase of a dance floor is the catalyst for utilizing the Nancy Marine Studio Theatre as a venue to premiere innovative, intimate dance works and expand the Warner's current dance programming," says Warner Executive Director, James Patrick. Currently, the theatre rents portable dance floors as needed. For the past two years, the Warner has hosted big band community dances in the Fall and Spring. These dances feature the Governor's Foot Guard band and have sold out each time that they have been offered. Owning a portable floor will allow the theatre to offer patrons more community dances, other dance programming and host community dance recitals as well as augmenting dance classes presented through

the Warner's on-site school for the performing arts, the Warner Theatre Center for Arts Education.

The dance floor is expected to generate fundraising dollars this year when it is used as part of the Warner Theatre's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Fling Fundraising Gala which takes place in the Nancy Marine Studio Theatre on April 24<sup>th</sup> and will feature dinner and dancing to the music of the Shaded Soul Band.

For tickets to **IMPACT: A Dance Collaboration** or the Warner's **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Fling Fundraising Gala** call the Box office at 860-489-7180 or buy online at [www.warnertheatre.org](http://www.warnertheatre.org).

### ABOUT THE WARNER THEATRE

Built by Warner Brothers Studios and opened in 1931 as a movie palace (1,772 seats), the Warner Theatre was described then as "Connecticut's Most Beautiful Theatre." Damaged extensively in a flood, the Warner was slated for demolition in the early 1980s until the non-profit Northwest Connecticut Association for the Arts (NCAA) was founded and purchased the theatre. The Warner reopened as a performing arts center in 1983, and restoration of the main lobbies and auditorium was completed in November 2002. In 2008, the new 50,000 square foot Carole and Ray Neag Performing Arts Center, which houses a 300 seat studio theatre, 200 seat restaurant and micro-brewery and expansive school for the arts, was completed. Today, the Warner is in operation year-round with more than 160 performances and 100,000 patrons passing through its doors each season. Over 10,000 students, pre K—adult, participate in arts education programs and classes. Together, with the support of the community, the Warner has raised close to \$17 million to revitalize its facilities. NCAA's mission is to preserve the Warner Theatre as an historic landmark, enhance its reputation as a center of artistic excellence and a focal point of community involvement, and satisfy the diverse cultural needs of the region. To learn more about the Warner Theatre, visit our website: [www.warnertheatre.org](http://www.warnertheatre.org).

