FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 20, 2015

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PHOTOS & INTERVENTION: INDIGO ORIGINAL RELEASE:
https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B6fScjurxGCLS2czY0NmMlgzX3c&usp=sharing

University of Wisconsin-Madison has an arts connection to the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade® on November 26, 2015

Madison, WI – Art-related students, faculty and guest artists of UW-Madison will be participating in the 89th Macy’s Annual Thanksgiving Day Parade. The performers will be part of the Intervention: Indigo performance project, which debuted September 13, 2015 in Brooklyn. Laura Anderson Barbata is the artist and creator of Intervention: Indigo and is best known for her collaborative social, transdisciplinary and public art projects that incorporate art, dance, stilt walking, music and design. Intervention: Indigo and Barbata will were part of the keynote event at the North American Textile Conservation Conference (NATCC) at the National Museum of the American Indian, New York City.

This is the list of people who have a UW-Madison connection that will participate in Intervention: Indigo during the parade and/or the conference (bios at end of release):

• **Laura Anderson Barbata** (UW former Arts Institute’s Interdisciplinary Artist in Residence & Honorary Fellow of Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies “LACIS” program)

• **Brooklyn Jumbies** (UW guest artists)

• **Chris Walker** (UW, Associate Professor, Dance Department)

• **Jessica Lanay** (UW, M.A. – Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies, 2011)

• **Augusta Brulla** (UW, B.S. – Art and Communication Science & Rhetorical Studies, December 2015)
Barbata also worked with UW-Madison faculty, Associate Professor Mary Hark and Professor Jennifer Angus, and M.A. student Hannah Bennett (Barbata’s residency teaching assistant) who provided additional research for Intervention: Indigo (all from Design Studies Department, School of Human Ecology). Bennett also created some of the indigo paper and textiles.

*Intervention: Indigo* performers with a UW-Madison affiliation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>UW-Madison Affiliation</th>
<th>Indigo-Sept. debut</th>
<th>Indigo-NATCC</th>
<th>Indigo - Macy’s Thanksgiving Parade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laura Anderson</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Artist in Residence – Spring 2015</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbata</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brooklyn Jumbies</td>
<td>Guest Artists – Spring 2015</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Walker</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Dance Department</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Lanay</td>
<td>M.A. – Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies (2011)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augusta Brulla</td>
<td>B.S. – Art and Communication Science &amp; Rhetorical Studies (Dec. 2015)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Intervention: Indigo* is to remind viewers of the global impacts of the crisis impacting the lives of people of color living in the United States. Indigo in this case represents absolute truth, wisdom, justice and responsibility in various cultures around the world. All the performers are wearing hand woven indigo textiles from Burkina Faso, Guatemala and the United States. Performers are inspired by Moko Jumbies (stilt walkers) along with dances from Africa, Mexico and the Caribbean.

**UW-Madison Connection:**
Before Laura Anderson Barbata was the UW-Madison Arts Institute’s Interdisciplinary Artist in Residence, her traveling exhibition *Transcommunality*, was shown at the UW-Madison Ruth Davis Design Gallery in the School of Human Ecology (SOHE) in the fall of 2014. For her residency in spring 2015, the Design Studies Department (SOHE) was the host department, with Associate Professor Carolyn Kallenborn as the lead faculty. The co-sponsoring departments included the Departments of Dance, Art, and Theatre and Drama; Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies (LACIS) program; and the Ruth Davis Design Gallery.

During her semester-long residency, she taught a course “Community Arts Practice” that focused on activism and collaboration. She guided students and worked with over 50 community and campus groups for a culminating project called STRUT! where over 400 people participated in the procession around Madison’s Capitol Square area.

**Barbata Residency Video:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTd19Ws7LZg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTd19Ws7LZg)

**STRUT! Video:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPyucNAvlr0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPyucNAvlr0)

As guest artists of the residency, members of the Brooklyn Jumbies performed twice in Madison and taught stilt-walking workshops at UW and at various community centers in Madison. Barbata and the Brooklyn Jumbies have collaborated numerous times for eight years.

During the spring residency, Chris Walker, dance professor and artistic director of First Wave, collaborated with Barbata and the Brooklyn Jumbies on *Moonshine*, educational outreach and STRUT! He also performed with them during the *Intervention: Indigo* debut.

**Brooklyn Jumbies & Moonshine (includes Chris Walker) Video:**
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=YgJiZwRcmAo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YgJiZwRcmAo)

Jessica Lanay is currently based in New York City. She graduated from UW-Madison with a master of arts in Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian studies (2011). While she was at UW, Chris Walker was one of her mentors and dance professors. Her former advisor, Alberto Vargas (Associate Director of LACIS) introduced her to Barbata this summer who invited her to participate in *Intervention: Indigo*. During the keynote event at NATCC, she will have a lead role.

Augusta Brulla, one of Barbata’s students during the spring residency, is continuing to work with her former professor. She is currently a senior at UW-Madison studying art and will be graduating in December 2015. Brulla is a Flamenco dancer and danced during STRUT!

In addition, Jarana Beat will also be part of the parade. Jarana Beat is a world music band that incorporates dance and activism and is based in New York City.

**Short Biographies:**

**Laura Anderson Barbata:** [www.lauraandersonbarbata.com](http://www.lauraandersonbarbata.com)

Born in Mexico City, Laura Anderson Barbata is a transdisciplinary artist best known for her collaborative social and public art projects including *Moko Jumbies*. This project has been performed in numerous venues internationally since 2001. In 2011 she presented *Intervention: Wall Street*, conceived as a response to the economic crisis of 2008 caused by major financial institutions. The roots of her work come from stilt dancing traditions around
the world. In the spring of 2015, she was the UW-Madison Arts Institute’s Interdisciplinary Artist in Residence and is an Honorary Fellow of UW-Madison’s Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies (LACIS) program.

Barbata currently lives and works in Brooklyn and Mexico City. She is a professor at the Escuela Nacional de Escultura, Pintura y Grabado La Esmeralda of the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes in México and a member of del Sistema Nacional de Creadores, FONCA-CONACULTA, México. Her work has received several awards and grants including by the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes in México, Sistema Nacional de Creadores de Arte and the Fondo Nacional de la Cultura y las Artes, México. Her work is included in numerous renowned private and public collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Museo de Arte Moderno in Mexico City and Landesbank Baden-Württemberg in Stuttgart, Germany.

The Brooklyn Jumbies: www.brooklynjumbies.com

Brooklyn Jumbies Inc. is an organization whose sole purpose is to heighten the community's cultural awareness of African and African-Caribbean culture. The Brooklyn Jumbies perform stilt dancing, which is one of the numerous cultural elements of the African and Caribbean diaspora. The founding members of Brooklyn Jumbies are Ali Sylvester and Najja Codrington who still perform with the organization.

Since 2007, the Brooklyn Jumbies have worked closely with Barbata presenting collaborative and outreach projects in Mexico and the United States – including collaborating with Zancudos de Zaachila (traditional stilt dancers from Oaxaca). With Barbata they have performed in various museums, including the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Texas, Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York, Centro Nacional de las Artes in Monterrey and Museo de la Ciudad de México.

Chris Walker

Chris Walker is an associate professor of dance and artistic director of the First Wave program at UW-Madison. He is also a choreographer and dancer with the National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica, and co-founder/artistic director of NuMoRune Collaborative – an ensemble of dancers, choreographers, storytellers and musicians, who come together under a united artistic vision to create collaborative works. He is the recipient of numerous scholarships and awards including the New York-Thayer Fellowship, GOJ PM Award, and was most recently awarded the prestigious UW-Madison Romnes Fellowship.

In February 2014, Walker was selected to present the annual Philip Sherlock Lecture in Kingston, Jamaica and recently along with Assistant Professor Monika Lawrence and the National Dance Theater Company of Jamaica, presented a lecture performance titled “Nettleford’s NDTC: Folk Origins and Contemporary Aesthetics” during the Rex Nettleford Arts Conference, October 14-17, 2015 in Kingston, Jamaica. Walker has shown excerpts of his research Facing Home (A Phobia) in cities nationally and internationally including New York, Toronto, Kingston (Jamaica), and Chicago among others. “FACING HOME: Love & Redemption in collaboration with Kevin Ormsby is set to tour in Toronto (November 26-29, 2015), Kingston (March 2016) and George Town, Cayman Islands (March 2016). On Thanksgiving Day, Walker will perform his mythical, subversive ‘mas’ character ‘JusLuv’ in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade.
Jessica Lanay

Jessica Lanay graduated from UW-Madison in 2011 with a master of arts in Latin American and Caribbean studies with honorable mention. While at UW-Madison, she focused on interdisciplinary studies including dance, art history and ethnic studies. While attaining her bachelor of arts in art history (Agnes Scott College) she worked at the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University. She has studied the African diaspora in Mexico, Brazil and Cuba. She is originally from Key West, Florida.

Lanay currently works for the Poets & Writers Magazine in New York City where she is building a emerging career as a poet and short fiction writer. She is currently participating in a performance lab at Jack Theater in Brooklyn with playwright Virginia Grise and recently published work in the literary journals *Five Quarterly* and *Duende*.

Augusta Brulla

Augusta Brulla will be graduating from UW-Madison in December 2015 with a bachelor of science in art along with communication science and rhetorical studies. She has been on the Dean’s List, School of Education, from spring 2012-2015. Her primary focus is drawing, painting, and book arts, but enjoys exploring many mediums. She has been studying Flamenco dancing for more than ten years under the instruction of Tania Tandias and performs regularly at festivals and schools around Wisconsin. Brulla was raised in Madison and went to Madison West High School.

Jarana Beat (not affiliated with UW-Madison, but they are integral part of Intervention: Indigo): [http://jaranabeat.com](http://jaranabeat.com)

Jarana Beat is a world music band that incorporates dance and activism. With Afro-Amerindian Mexican sounds, they blend the origins of Mexican music with contemporary elements and draw from other cultures in the New York scene that share the same roots. In 2015, the band received the Mexican Music Award for Best Contemporary Folk Band.

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**UW-Madison Arts Institute’s Interdisciplinary Arts Residency Program**

The UW-Madison Arts Institute has hosted artists in residence since 1995 and formally launched the Interdisciplinary Arts Residency Program (IARP) in 1999. The IARP enables the Arts Institute to support extended residencies for the benefit of all arts departments and programs of UW-Madison through its interdepartmental and interdisciplinary approach. While in residence, artists teach an interdisciplinary course for university credit, present at least one free public event and participate in community outreach activities. The program gives students exposure to working artists, provides course credit and strengthens programmatic ties among individual departments, programs and other campus and community arts entities. The program also provides opportunities for the community to meet and exchange ideas with world-renowned artists.

To learn more, please visit: [artsinstitute.wisc.edu/iarp.htm](http://artsinstitute.wisc.edu/iarp.htm)

**UW-Madison Arts Institute Overview – “The Voice of the Arts”**

As a division of the UW-Madison, the Arts Institute speaks for and on behalf of the collective voice and vision of the arts. We advance the arts as an invaluable resource to a vital
university, and we promote all forms of artistic expression, experience, and interpretation as fundamental paths to engaging and understanding our world. The Institute’s programs and initiatives include, but are not limited to, the Interdisciplinary Arts Residency Program, the Madison Early Music Festival, the Wisconsin Film Festival and the Arts on Campus website.

Arts Institute: www.artsinstitute.wisc.edu
Arts on Campus (arts calendar): www.arts.wisc.edu
Social Media: @uwmadisonarts (facebook, instagram, pinterest & twitter)

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