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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Auditions for Champlain Summer “Dance Parade” – March 28 and 29

Burlington, VT: (March 18, 2009) Burlington City Arts and the city’s Champlain 400 International Waterfront Festival will hold auditions for dancers who would like to participate in the planned July 11th parade and pageant. Auditions will be held between 10am and 2pm on Saturday and Sunday, March 28th and 29th in Burlington. People of all ages and abilities are encouraged to audition.

French choreographer and parade guest artist Heddy Maalem will be in town to lead the Burlington auditions. Maalem’s dance company performed “The Rite of Spring” in Burlington last fall as part of a world-wide tour that included the Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival and New York’s Joyce Theater. Maalem has been contracted by the city to help lead the July events, as part of the international partnership that is being developed between Vermont, Quebec, and France.

After spending the week of March 23rd in Burlington, Maalem will return in early June to work for the following five weeks with local dancers to produce a culminating performance

piece that will follow the July 11th twilight parade. Inspired by the Samuel de Champlain history and festival themes of “border crossing,” “first encounter,” “discovery,” and “cultural appropriation,” Maalem plans to work with dancers, extras, horses, and music including Dvorak’s New World Symphony.

People wishing to audition may contact Program Coordinator Jackie Liebman at Burlington’s Champlain festival office (802-264-0766 or Jackie.liebman@gmail.com).

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