

VCU Dance news

V i r g i n i a C o m m o n w e a l t h U n i v e r s i t y

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VCU Dance NEXUS 2007-2008

Richmond, VA – VCU Department of Dance and Choreography announces its 2007-2008 dance season: **VCU Dance NEXUS**, made possible in part by funding graciously provided by the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation; the Elmwood Fund, VCUarts; and the Virginia Commission for the Arts. With a stunning array of performances, film screenings, guest artist residencies and master classes, **this season promises all the energy and explosive creativity of a national festival.**

Four nationally-recognized artists culled from *Dance Magazine's* "25 to Watch" will visit VCU Dance and Richmond for a series of one-week teaching and performance residencies. **Tania Isaac Dance** (Philadelphia) performs **October 12 & 13**, and Ms. Isaac will also set work on VCU dancers, to be performed in VCU Dance NOW in March. *The New York Times* praised Isaac for "**holding the stage with complete command.**" **January 25 & 26, Miguel Gutierrez and the Powerful People** (New York) bring Gutierrez's critically-acclaimed work to Richmond. "**There are people who are born to make art, to make us think, to make us question what we do, and Miguel is one of those people,**" says *The Brooklyn Rail*.

Also from the "25 to Watch," **Erika Randall** (Boulder, CO) visits in September for a teaching residency, and **Meisha Bosma** (Alexandria), arrives in February to teach and set work on the dance majors for performance in VCU Dance NOW.

In two seven-week residencies, VCU Dance welcomes national and international dance professionals **Heidi Weiss (Berlin, Germany)** in fall, 2007, and **Daniel Gwartzman (New York, NY)** in spring, 2008, both of whom will teach and set work on dance majors, to be performed in the VCU Dance NOW concert in late March.

For 2007-2008, VCU Dance also presents three **Senior Project Concerts**, a **Student Concert** (entirely student-run and curated!), and **VCU Dance Now**, a concert of work by guest artists and VCU Dance faculty. The multi-disciplinary **Salon** and the **Dance on Camera** film screening round out a thrilling season.

FALL 2007

Dance on Camera Screening

This evening of dance films created by international artists represents an intriguing range of approaches to the hybrid art form of videodance.

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Grace Street Theater, 8:00 PM \$5

Tania Isaac Dance

Tania Isaac Dance is a physically explosive, sensual marriage of Modern and Caribbean esthetics: part personal documentary and part social commentary.

Friday & Saturday, October 12 & 13, 2007

Grace Street Theater, 8:00 PM \$20

Salon

An informal showing of new student works in a range of disciplines, with post-performance discussion facilitated by VCU Dance faculty member Martha Curtis.

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

VCU Dance Center, Studio 203, 8:00 PM Free

Fall Senior Project Concert

Graduating seniors fill the stage with fresh approaches to dance.

Friday & Saturday, November 16 & 17, 2007

Grace Street Theater, 8:00 PM \$10

SPRING 2008

Miguel Gutierrez & The Powerful People

"At a time when so much art lacks a heartbeat, Mr. Gutierrez's chest pounds."—*The New York Times*

Friday & Saturday, January 25 & 26, 2008

Grace Street Theater, 8:00 PM \$20

Student Concert

This student-run and curated production showcases the choreography of VCU Dance majors.

Thursday, Friday & Saturday, February 21, 22 & 23, 2008

Grace Street Theater, 8:00 PM \$10

VCU Dance NOW

Cutting edge work by VCU Dance faculty members, and guest artists Tania Isaac, Heidi Weiss, Meisha Bosma, and Daniel Gwartzman.

Thursday, Friday & Saturday, March 27, 28 & 29, 2008

Grace Street Theater, 8:00 PM \$15

Spring Senior Project Concert

Graduating seniors fill the stage with fresh approaches to dance.

Program A: Friday & Saturday, April 18 & 19, 2008

Program B: Friday & Saturday, April 25 & 26, 2008

Grace Street Theater, 8:00 PM \$10

For ticket* and theater rental information, contact Sandee Flores at Grace Street Theater:

934 West Grace Street

Richmond, Virginia

Phone: 804-828-2020 Fax: 804-827-0154 Email: smflores@vcu.edu

www.vcu.edu/artweb/dance/

*All concerts with a ticket price are \$5 to VCU students with a valid VCU I.D. Rambucks accepted.

COMMUNITY MASTER CLASSES: VCU DANCE GUEST ARTISTS

Heidi Weiss, Fall 2007 (Monday, October 1, 2007)

Daniel Gwartzman, Spring 2008 (Monday, February 25, 2008)

The Richmond Ballet
407 East Canal Street

6:30 PM, \$5 tickets on sale at 6:00PM in lobby

To stimulate an interest in dance as a vital part of our culture and to celebrate community involvement in the art form, VCU Dance creates opportunities to share guest artists with Virginians and area dancers.

Intermediate and advanced dancers are welcome and will be admitted on a first come, first served basis.

Miguel Gutierrez, January 21, 2008

At the VCU Dance Center, Studio 203

Details TBA

Contact: Lea Marshall, lemarshall@vcu.edu, (p) 804-828-1711

Website: www.vcu.edu/artweb/dance/

VCU Dance NEXUS: GUEST ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Heidi Weiss (Berlin, Germany): August 23 - October 12, 2007

Heidi Weiss earned her B.F.A. in 1992 from The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, where she was awarded "Outstanding Performer in Modern Dance". Upon graduation she joined Group Motion Company(Phila.),with whom she performed and choreographed for over three years. Heidi has been a guest dancer with Karen Bamonte Dance Works, Rennie Harris Pure Movement and SCRAP Performance Group, among others. In 1997 Heidi moved to Europe where she studied Butoh dance with Master Masaki Iwana. Settling in Germany, she co-founded "Zen in the Basement" Dance Company with designer Sebastain Gaebel and dancer/choreographer Jennifer Mann. The company has performed at many international festivals including Philly Fringe, Live Arts Festival, Open Basement Festival in Taipei, Taiwan; Potsdam Tanztage in Germany; fest in Sevilla, Spain. Heidi has been a guest teacher for renowned European Companies such as Sasha Waltz and guests, Itzik Galleli and Ishmael Ivo. In 2005 Heidi became Professor for Contemporary Dance at the Palucca Schule Dresden, where she was on staff until summer of 2007. She created two student works which were performed in Japan and at Fontys Dance festival in Tilburg, Holland. Heidi currently resides in Berlin, Germany with her family.

Erika Randall (Boulder): September 24-28, 2007

Erika Randall, an Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder, received her MFA in Choreography from The Ohio State University in 2003. Randall served as a guest lecturer at OSU before becoming a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana from 2004 to 2007. An internationally active choreographer, teacher and dancer, Erika currently performs with Sara Hook Dances/David Parker and the Bang Group, Anna Sapozhnikov and Teena Custer. Randall has previously worked with the Mark Morris Dance Group, Buglisi/Foreman Dance, and Cava/Parker Dance. In 2004, Erika formed the Columbus Movement Movement (cm2) which was named in *Dance Magazine's* "25 to Watch" in 2007.

Tania Isaac (Philadelphia): October 8-13, 2007

Originally from St. Lucia, West Indies, Tania is currently based in Philadelphia, PA. Her work has been presented at venues throughout the U.S., England and the Caribbean and is also a part of Urban Bush Women's repertory. Her collaborative video work has been screened at the ADF Dancing for the Camera Festival of International Film and Video Dance, at the International Festival of Video Dance, Buenos Aires, Argentina, and at the Prince Theater in Philadelphia. A graduate with honors from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Tania received her MFA from Temple University where she was a Teaching Assistant and University Fellow. Tania is a former Associate Artist at the Atlantic Center for the Arts and a former member of Rennie Harris Puremovement, Urban Bush Women and Li Chiao-Ping Dance. She is a recipient of 2004 Rocky Award for her solo work in Rennie Harris's "Facing Mekka" and her own production 'home is where I am.' "standpipe", her latest work, has been co-commissioned by Painted Bride Art Center and Dance Place in part through the NPN Creation Fund and Community Fund.

Daniel Gwartzman (New York): January 22-March 7, 2008

Dancer Daniel Gwartzman's choreography has been presented in New York since 1995, when he co-founded Artichoke Dance Company. In 1998, he formed the Daniel Gwartzman Dance Company, which has received strong critical attention consistently since its inception. "A troupe I'd follow anywhere," *The Village Voice* has written. His choreography has been performed at venues throughout New York, the country, and abroad. The company has been in residence six times at The Yard on Martha's Vineyard. He has received residencies from the Joyce Theater Foundation in New York, the Raumar Artist-in-Residence Program in Finland, the Sacatar Foundation in Brazil, and the Djerassi Resident Artists Program in California. He has been an adjunct Associate Professor at Barnard College; a guest faculty member at the North Carolina School of the Arts, The University of the Arts, and The Interlochen Center for the Arts; a guest choreographer at Fordham University/The Ailey School, Princeton University, New York University, Stephens College, SUNY Purchase, The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and universities in Brazil and Finland; an adjudicator two times for the American College Dance Festival Association; and a guest teacher at the University of Maine, SUNY Brockport, and the University of North Carolina--Greensboro.

Miguel Gutierrez (New York): January 22-26, 2008

Miguel Gutierrez is a Brooklyn based dance and music artist who makes work about the phenomenon, wonder and banality of existence and the body's ability to move between the ordinary and the extraordinary. He creates group work in an ongoing collaboration with dancers, visual and music artists as the director of Miguel Gutierrez and the Powerful People, while maintaining a solo performance practice. In the US, his work has been presented at New York's Dance Theater Workshop and The Kitchen, Houston's Diverseworks and Burlington's Flynn Center for Performing Arts. Internationally it has toured to a variety of festivals such as ImPulsTanz in Vienna, Springdance in Utrecht, and London Calling in Bologna. Gutierrez is twice the winner of a New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award: in 2002 as a performer with John Jasperse Company and in 2006 as a choreographer for "Retrospective Exhibitionist and Difficult Bodies". He has performed with various influential contemporary artists, such as John Jasperse, Sarah Michelson, Jennifer Lacey and Deborah Hay. Gutierrez teaches regularly around the world.

Meisha Bosma (Alexandria): February 11-15, 2008

Meisha Bosma is the founder and director of BosmaDance. Originally from Michigan, she has been creating dances in the metropolitan DC area since 1998. Recently named by *Dance Magazine* as "One of 25 to Watch" for 2007, Meisha has served communities as an educator and dance artist for over eleven years. Her award-winning choreography has been commissioned by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Alexandria Performing Arts Association, Virginia Commission for the Arts, Alexandria Commission for the Arts, Arlington Arts Center, CityDance Ensemble, Cross Currents Dance Company and universities throughout the country. Her work has garnered five Metro DC Dance Awards, and in June 2006 *Washingtonian Magazine* named her "One of DC's Most Powerful Women" for her artistic contributions to the community. During 2001-03, Meisha toured internationally with Kombina Dance Company based in Jerusalem, Israel.

The presenting program of VCU Dance is committed to building and engaging dance audiences in the University and Richmond community while providing opportunities for artists to present and create work. Recognized by professional dancers and choreographers as "a place where things are happening," Virginia Commonwealth University's Department of Dance and Choreography offers a vibrant and stimulating atmosphere where students prepare for careers in dance.

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Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Dance & Choreography

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