

# 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 presents **Con.tra.dis.tinc.tive**

**Richmond, VA**----The Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Dance and Choreography will present **Con.tra.dis.tinc.tive**, the Fall 2007 Senior Project Dance Concert on Friday and Saturday, November 16 and 17, 2007 at 8:00 PM at the Grace Street Theatre, 934 West Grace Street. Tickets are \$10 for the general public and \$5 for VCU students with a valid I.D. Rambucks accepted. Tickets can be reserved beginning Monday, November 5 by calling the Grace Street Theatre box office at (804) 828-2020.

Contradistinction: distinction by opposition. The seven choreographers of **Con.tra.dis.tinc.tive** are united by difference. Each one with a clear voice, these dance artists analyze religion, cultural studies and personal journeys with insight and articulate choreography.

**Stevie Dunham's *Fatal Faith*** questions the deadly actions of religious fundamentalists who wage war and murder in the name of God. The work seeks to initiate conversations on how murder can be justified by religion. Though dynamic partnering, robust floor passages and reflective contemplation, her dancers struggle to find their own answers.

**Margaret Egorova** takes her work, ***Baro-foro SLAP*** to a level of high physicality and humor. With her army of dancers, she attempts to recreate the idea of the silent film slapstick comedy. Using colorful music with a tone reminiscent of the Depression, Egorova combines dance and slapstick into a union of satirical enjoyment.

***With Time Comes Change*** reveals the physical changes and growth in **Amanda Garrison's** dance career. Five women will represent her changes through the intertwining of pedestrian walking and sculptural movements.

In ***litost*** choreographed by **Megan Harrold**, seven dancers meet in subtle moments of trust, opposition and reveling to original music created by Charles Rauh and Jeff DuMars. In a search for absolute identity in a socially active environment, Harrold will explore the correlation between our reactions, the sum of our humanity and the resulting litost.

Everyone has their own guilty pleasure, whether it is infidelity or chocolate. **Allie O'Hare's Sweet Endeavors** will show the internal conflict between guilt and pleasure. Through indulgent music and movement vocabulary, seven dancers demonstrate different types of guilty pleasures. The piece will lay bare the thoughts racing through one's head before, during and after indulging in such an act.

**Into Being** sheds familiar assumptions of the tango in order to reveal an alternative identity to this popular dance. **Rachel C. Warren** explores unconventional groupings, while rejecting popular associations of romance and jealousy to display a dance based on identity and culture. As author John M. Chernoff so eloquently states, "The essence of culture consists of being true to oneself."

**Jessica Wright's** work, **the prototype of a representation**, investigates communication through symbols and signals. Her dancers, embodying distinctive beings, learn from one another while exchanging their stories through individualistic movement.

The Fall Senior Project Dance Concert is the fourth event of the **VCU Dance NEXUS 2007-2008 Season**, which, with a stunning array of performances, film screenings, guest artist residencies and master classes, promises all the energy and explosive creativity of a national festival. The VCU Dance NEXUS 2007-2008 Season is made possible in part by funding graciously provided by the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation; the Virginia Commission for the Arts; the Sydney and Frances Lewis Foundation, the Elmwood Fund, and VCUarts.

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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