

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 presents **Amaranth: *Experiment in White***

Richmond, VA- The Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Dance and Choreography will present the debut of **Amaranth** with ***Experiment in White*** on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday November 30, December 1 & 2, at 8:00 pm at the Grace Street Theater, 934 West Grace Street. All tickets are \$20 for this benefit performance, and can be reserved by calling the Grace Street Theater box office at (804)-828-2020. More information on Amaranth can be found at www.amarantharts.com.

This eagerly-anticipated debut of VCU Dance Assistant Professor Scott Putman's new contemporary dance company unites an evening of multimedia collaboration in dance with a unique community-building approach to fundraising. **Each night's performance proceeds benefit a different organization: Meals on Wheels, Tao Mountain, and the VCU Dance Scholarship Fund;** additionally, Ground Zero Dance Company will receive an in-kind donation of the marly floor used in the show, to enhance the dance theater space brewing in the old Bainbridge Gymnasium. Amaranth is slated to give away upwards of \$13,000 to these organizations; other than production costs, all monies generated by performance revert back to the community. This model crafts a mission not just for the company's debut, but for its entire life: **establishing socially and culturally sustainable communities through dance creation and performance.**

The *Experiment in White* project interweaves advances contemporary physics with modern art into a three-dimensional visual event. The project completes a four-year investigation illustrating Scott Putman's philosophy that, "Choreography is the art of shaping energy in space." All six works in the concert analyze concepts of space, time, and light in parallel with art movements such as Fauvism, Cubism, and Futurism. While exploring new ways to present energy as imagery, the work investigates how to create unique vibrations of energy and visual experiences that are distinct and unique to each dance.

Other Side of Shadow, a 16-minute work for ten dancers, investigates space and time as perceived by the theory of relativity and as inspired by Fauvism. Inspired by Cubism, ***Sacrament of Mouth and Soul***, a 11-minute duet, relates the sacred acts between two people and the validity of love in any relationship. ***Within Three*** stands as a spiritual investigation of particle physics and the simultaneous presentation of particle

pockets as the search for an answer to all of life and its beginnings. ***Angle of Incidence*** explores the way in which light enters the eye and affects the imagery that the brain receives.

Everlasting Now, a 10-minute duet, examines the language of love inside the parallel mathematical language of modern physics. This work's visual inspiration comes from the ideas and philosophies of Futurism. Finally, ***Transcending Chronology*** poses a three-dimensional visual analysis of string theory's philosophy on space/time, the idea of warping and bending time, and the existence of multi-dimensions. The project employs one choreographer, 24 dancers, a composer, videographer, and lighting designer, all collaborating to create a transcendent experience.

Amaranth's Experiment in White is the fourth event of the 2006-2007 VCU Dance Season. VCU Department of Dance and Choreography is a community of highly motivated, disciplined and creative dancers who are interested in shaping the future of the field. We are committed to building and enlightening dance audiences in the University and Richmond communities while providing opportunities for artists to present and create work. Recognized by professional dancers and choreographers as a "place where things are happening," VCU Dance offers a vibrant and stimulating atmosphere where students prepare for careers in dance. For more information, please contact Lea Marshall at 804-828-1711.

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