

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 **TANIA ISAAC DANCE**

Richmond, VA – VCU Department of Dance and Choreography presents **Tania Isaac Dance**, Friday & Saturday, **October 12 & 13, 2007 at 8:00 pm at the Grace Street Theater**, 934 West Grace Street, in Richmond. **Tickets are \$20 general / \$5 to VCU students with a valid ID.** Rambucks accepted. **Tickets may be reserved beginning October 1, 2007 by calling 804-828-2020.**

Tania Isaac Dance is a physically explosive, sensual marriage of Modern and Caribbean esthetics: part personal documentary and part social commentary. *The New York Times* praised Isaac for “**holding the stage with complete command.**” A former dancer with **Urban Bush Women**, her work now holds a place in their repertory.

Tania Isaac loves flying: the innate joy of sweeping through the air across open spaces. **Standpipe**, her latest evening-length work, combines supple, sensuous dancing with a raw physicality that weds the post-modern to the Caribbean. **Drawn from a “raconteur” (storyteller) style of Caribbean folk theater, Standpipe melds movement with video and an original score by Grisha Coleman, inspired by folk songs of St. Lucia, reggae, lullabies and Bach.** The main water source in rural areas of the Caribbean, the standpipe serves as a community gathering place. For Isaac, it represents sustenance and an environment that portrays alternate realities of the “third world.” Here “having” and “not having” do not center on wealth or poverty but on the existence of different priorities and the search for control and dignity in the face of larger global forces.

Tania Isaac is the second of four nationally-recognized artists culled from **Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch"** to visit VCU Dance and Richmond for a series of one-week teaching and performance residencies during 2007-2008. Ms. Isaac will also set work on VCU dancers, to be performed in VCU Dance NOW in March, and conduct community outreach class in the Richmond City Dance Program.

VCU Dance NEXUS: GUEST ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

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.

Tania Isaac Dance is the second 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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Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Dance & Choreography

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