

2-2003

Characters & Space Program

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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USM Department of Theatre presents

professional contemporary dance

Characters & Space



USM UNIVERSITY OF
Southern Maine

*Presented with support from USM's
Cultural Affairs Committee*

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Welcome, and thank you for coming to see Characters & Space.

When I was approached to organize a dance concert I considered importing a company from another state. It is wonderful, especially in isolated Maine, for audiences and dance professionals to see the work of choreographers' from away. I realized, though, that exciting dance was happening in our own area. The professional dancers and choreographers represented in this concert rarely have funding to present their work in a formal theater setting. A concert sponsored by USM in beautiful Russell Hall seemed a perfect opportunity to showcase this work by Maine choreographers and help the University fulfill its commitment to community engagement.

Tonight you'll see two premières and three revivals. The individual dances offer a range of styles, creative processes and ideas. Some dances were made in response to selected music. Others were inspired by visual and literary images, while others are idea or message based. Some dances will appeal to you more than others. We hope you will be moved to engage with us for these brief moments of the concert. Please join us in the lobby after the show to ask questions and let us know what you feel/think.

My thanks to the University Cultural Affairs Committee; to Charles S. Kading, Lil Campbell, Matt Meeds, Wil Kilroy, Emmanuelle Chaulet, Mary Snell, Maria Tzianabos, Jamey Grant, Leigh Raposo, Joshua Hurd and students of the Theatre Department; and to the choreographers and dancers for making this concert possible.

Nancy Salmon
Artistic Director

Program

Antiquities (Première)

Nancy Salmon, *choreography*

Music

Crosspulse, George Crumb, Gabrielle Roth

Sculptures

Jane Lieber May

Costume consultant

Stephanie Gilbert

Dancers

Kym Dakin

Hope Hoffman

Kay Mann

Deb Panish

Art *moves*
DANCE
COMPANY
Debi Irons
Kim Hamlin
Magi Chapman
"Fever"

POINT
SEVEN
Tim Rice
Debi Irons
ORIGINAL

SONG
and
DANCE

so what - Miles Davis
take 5 - Dave Brubeck
sweet justice - jill scott
fever - Linda Tillery

present
FEVERISH
excerpts

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
MAY 30 & 31 8:00 P.M.
PORTLAND STAGE
TICKETS \$10-\$15 743-5569

Nancy Salmon

Dance RESOURCE

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Connecting schools and communities with dance and dance educators

Artistic and Production Staff

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Artistic Director | Nancy Salmon |
| Producer & Promotions Director | Mary Snell |
| Lighting Designer | Jamie Grant |
| Technical Director | Matt Meeds |
| Costume Shop Supervisor | Kris Hall |
| Stage Manager | Joshua G.R. Hurd |
| Light Board Operator | Dan Cassely |
| Sound Board Operator | Jessaka Bishop |
| Dresser | Mekela Lombard |
| Deck Crew | Jordan Gibbs, Kelsie West |

Administrative Staff

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Arts Events Director | Emmanuelle Chaulet |
| Administrative and Financial Coordinator | Lil Campbell |
| Box Office Managers | Tara Smith, Anna Gravel, Andrea Lopez |
| House Managers | Kelly Allen, Chris Gyngell |
| Graphic Design | Leigh Raposo |

Production Staff Biographies

Kris Hall is currently in her third year at USM. Last June she had the opportunity to costume a local independent film called "Mr. Barrington," produced by Honey Tree Films. In the past, she has costumed at Mad Horse Theatre Co., L.A. Public Theatre, Maine State Music Theatre and the George St. Playhouse in New Jersey.

Matthew Meeds joined the Department in September of 2000. Matthew came to us from the local theatre community where he has worked at the Mad Horse Theatre, the Public Theatre, and the Theatre at Monmouth, as well as "away" theaters such as George Street Playhouse in NJ, Syracuse Stage, and Pennsylvania Centre Stage.

Joshua Hurd is stage managing his second show here at USM, and is thrilled to be involved with the department again. Josh would like to thank his friends and family for their love and support.

Signals

Nancy Salmon, *creator and performer*

Music

Sweet Honey in the Rock, Diva, Pink Floyd

When it Stirs

Jill Spiewak Eng, *choreography*

Music

J S Bach

Dancers

Jill Spiewak Eng

Maria Tzianabos

Baggage

Louis Gervais, *creator and performer*

"Pause"

The Soldier's Return (Première)

Lisa Hicks, *choreography*

Composer

Tom Myron

Music performed by
DaPonte String Quartet

Dancers

Corinne Cappelletti

Jill Spiewak Eng

Mairead Gaffney

Lisa Hicks

Hope Hoffman

Nanci Kahn

Harold Philbrook

Tammy Richards

Nancy Salmon

Maria Tzianabos

*This show is presented with support from the
USM Cultural Affairs Committee.*

Biographies

Jill Spiewak Eng performs, choreographs and teaches modern dance and is a certified teacher of the Alexander Technique. She has worked with choreographers in Boston, North Carolina, New York and Maine and began presenting her own work in 1992. In NC Jill founded Independent Dancemakers and received a scholarship from the American Dance Festival. While in NYC she produced work at the University Settlement and performed at Movement Research, Judson Church, the Limon Studio and 550 Broadway. Jill currently teaches advanced modern dance technique at New Dance Studio and offers private sessions in Alexander Technique in the greater Portland area.

Louis Gervais hails from exit 13 off 495. Bored while waiting for his sister's tap lessons, he stood up and began shuffling off to Buffalo at a tender age. As in the story of "The Red Shoes," it quickly became apparent that he simply could not stop dancing, even when he tried. Fast forward through years of recitals, graduations and small, big-city apartments, he danced, filling in the pages of a passport. New learned languages, tans from faraway beaches and a larger world view were among the many souvenirs of this great adventure. Fifteen years of abstract modern dance brought to Louis the overwhelming need to speak in silly voices, tell some stories, and laugh a little bit, ok, a lot. Back home in Maine, Louis had some fun at Ram Island Dance where his love affair of movement and crazy characters began to kick in. These days, Louis plays and dances with kids of all ages by day, and by night his dreams are filled with flying over the islands of Casco Bay. Louis will be dancing at Space Gallery on Congress Street in Portland: June 6, 7, 13 and 14.

Lisa Hicks is co-founder, with Daniel McCusker, and director of the New Dance Studio in Portland, which provides training in modern dance and choreography for young dancers. She danced with Ram Island Dance Company for a number of years and directed the children's program there. She directed the Maine Dance Network, a dance advocacy organization created by the Maine Arts Commission to support dance in Maine. Lisa is the lead teacher in dance at the Arts Academy at Portland Arts and Technology High School. She regularly presents her own work and the work of her students in both Portland and Boston, often collaborating with other performers. New Dance Studio, in collaboration with the Bates Dance Festival, has created the Center for Dance Development, a residency program for emerging choreographers to develop new dance works and increase the community awareness of modern dance as an art form.

Nancy Salmon has been dancing since birth, some say longer. She studied ballet/tap/jazz in a private studio in North Carolina and modern dance and choreography at the NC School of the Arts before hitting the road for New York City. In the big city she supported her dance career with a variety of jobs including routing trucks to Millinocket paper mills. Nancy has performed with contemporary dance companies in New York, Texas, North Carolina, Missouri and Maine. She taught acting and dance at USM, directing the dance program for a dozen years. Nancy has degrees – BFA from NC School of the Arts and MFA from NYU's Tisch School of Performing Arts. She regularly choreographs for musical theater and show choir performances in schools and community theaters. Nancy is owner of Dance Resource, LLC, which provides dance education services connecting schools and communities with dance and dance educators (workshops for children/adults and teachers, curriculum development, classes).

Jane Lieber Mays (sculptor) teaches in the Art Department at USM. Her work has been seen in USM faculty exhibitions. Jane has done extensive work using the human figure. As well as the torso works you see in "*Antiquities*", she is known for her Green Man Series that is currently on exhibit in Minnesota. Jane is also known for her portrait work.

Tom Myron (composer) music has been commissioned and performed by the Portland Symphony Orchestra, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Atlantic Classical Orchestra, the Portland String Quartet, the DaPonte String Quartet and the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra. He has created scores for the Children's Theater of Maine productions of *The Light Princess*, *Greek Myths and Fables* and two seasons of Young Playwrights Competition winners. Since 1997 his *Five Fables of Aesop* for wind quintet and narrator has been performed in schools throughout northern New England as part of the Portland Symphony Orchestra's Kinderkonzerts. Tom has twice been a finalist for the ASCAP Rudolph Nissim Prize and was awarded an Individual Artist Fellowship from the Maine Arts Commission in recognition of artistic achievement as a composer. "*The Soldier's Return*" is based on a shape-note hymn from William Walker's Southern Harmony and Musical Companion.

Jamie Grant is a graduate of the USM Theatre Dept. From there, he received an M.F.A. in Design from New York University. He has designed for choreographers Tere O'Connor, Kevin Wynn, Diane Coburn Bruning, Chris Elam and Director Micheal Sexton in New York. This summer he worked with the Portland Ballet and Arundel Barn Playhouse. His designs were seen in *We All Fall Down* and the Theatre Department's One-Acts in 2001. The latter was partially interrupted by the birth of his first child, Maureen Isabella.

Corinne Cappelletti is a recent graduate of Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland, and has returned to her home state to continue to develop her interests. Her interdisciplinary studies abroad led her into cultural anthropology, photography and choreography. These days she continues to explore African dance styles, classical and martial art forms of Indonesian dance and modern dance while supporting herself as a nanny and photographer.

Kym Dakin is the Director of Short Fuse: Interactive Theatre Tools for Corporate Change. She is known for her solo shows "Spectacles in Solitude" and HeARTful Meanderings, performances that placed her on the MaineArtistsAccess (Maine Arts Commission roster) and the Maine Alliance for Arts in Education roster. Kym has taught performance arts in a variety of venues including at Bowdoin College and the University of New England and is currently working with Annie O'Brien on a collection of women's stories entitled AngerPlay!: A Celebration of Women's Creative Fire. She is enrolled in the Master's program in Adult Education at USM.

Mairead Gaffney began dancing at Bowdoin College where she worked with Paul Sarvis, Gwyneth Jones, Gretchen Berg and June Vail. She has danced with Lisa Hicks and the New Dance Studio since 1998. When not dancing, Mairead works on various film projects including Born to Be Wild: Men of American Ballet Theater that recently aired on PBS.

Hope Hoffman teaches dance in Bowdoinham and directs the Town Hall Theater Project. She performs bi-monthly at the Bowdoinham Town Hall as a musician as well as a dancer/actress. Hope has studied at the New Dance Studio for two years. She works as an artist's model throughout the U.S. and U.K.

Nanci Kahn is a professional photographer who received her MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute. She has studied ballet, modern, jazz, Haitian and West African dance. She is the "mamala" to her two small children, Jesse and Chloe.

Kay Mann began dancing at the age of 4 at the American Dance Festival in New London, CT. She attended the North Carolina School of the Arts and has since studied, performed and taught modern, ballet, improvisation, jazz, Bartenieff Movement Fundamentals and African dance in Colorado, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. She enjoys ecstatic dance and has been leading Authentic Movement classes for the past 6 years. Kay is also a street mime; her performances include First Night in St. Johnsbury, VT.

Deb Panish is a jewelry designer and owner of Funky Pretty Jewelry Company. She is a graduate of USM and has danced with Esduardo Mariscal and Perennial Effects Dance Collective directed by Betsy Dunphy. She lives in Freeport with her husband, her son and her daughter.

Harold Philbrook graduated from the Maine College of Art with BFA Degrees in Graphic Design and Sculpture/Performance. As a teacher/ dancer/ choreographer, Harold has worked with Debi Irons and Art Moves Dance Studio, Lisa Hicks and the New Dance Studio, Brian Crabtree, Esduardo Mariscal, Berg, Jones, & Sarvis and Maria Tzianabos. He has taught in private dance studios, colleges and universities and public schools throughout Maine.

Tammy Richards has worked as an actor with the American Repertory Theater, the Merrimack Regional Theater and at the Biennale Theater Festival in Venice with the original production of *The King Stag*, directed by Andrei Servan with puppets by Julie Taymor. Tammy performed at the Portland Museum of Art in the Sara Pearson/Patrik Widrig and Company's site-specific production *If Wishes Were Horses, Beggars Would Ride*. She particularly enjoys her role as "Mama" to her 7-year-old daughter, Josselyn.

Maria Tzianabos holds a BFA from the Boston Conservatory where she studied with Jennifer Scanlon, Ed Disoto, Yasucko Topkunaga and Peter Dimuro. While studying at the Dance Complex in Cambridge, MA, she performed with the Granite State Ballet and independent choreographers in the Boston area. As well as performing, Maria teaches ballet and modern classes at the New Dance Studio and contemporary dance technique and choreography for the Theater Department at USM. She is the artistic director of *Dance USM!*, the student concert coming up in two weeks.

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