

## MERCE CUNNINGHAM DANCE COMPANY

Avianna Perez  
Marketing Associate  
212.255.8240 x14 / [avianna@merce.org](mailto:avianna@merce.org)  
55 Bethune Street, New York, NY 10014  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 7, 2008

### *Experiments in the Studio: an MCDC new music series*

**An Evening with Takehisa Kosugi**

**Monday, March 31 at 8:30 PM, Merce Cunningham Studio**

**New York, NY**—Merce Cunningham Dance Company (MCDC) presents the fifth concert of *Experiments in the Studio* on Monday, March 31 at 8:30 PM, at the Merce Cunningham Studio. This concert celebrates the work of composer/performer **Takehisa Kosugi**. Currently residing in Osaka, Kosugi has performed worldwide with MCDC since 1977 and has been the Company's Musical Director since 1995. The concert will mark his first solo appearance in New York City since 1988 and coincides with his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. The program features 3 electro-acoustic compositions including the world premiere of *Multiplex*, *Organic Music* (1962), and *South E.V.* (1999). The performance will be technically assisted by Stephan Moore.

All concerts in the series are free, no reservations required. Merce Cunningham Studio is located at 55 Bethune Street on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor. Recent concerts have been filled to capacity; to arrange a press seat in advance, please contact Avianna Perez at 212.255.8240 x14 or [avianna@merce.org](mailto:avianna@merce.org).

#### **Notes from the composer:**

With each of his pieces, Kosugi creates a time/space sound complex using his latest dual quadraphonic set-up of processors/modulators, including 8 tremolo/pans, 2 delays and 2 pitch-shifters.

*Organic Music* (1962) is an electro-acoustic work utilizing air-blower/air-ball with various tubes and pipes.

*South E.V.* (1999) is a vocal performance using the 4 phonemes of the word "south". *Multiplex* (2008) is a compound work of various short pieces, realized with light- and touch-sensitive audio generators, feedback sound oscillations, various processors, harmonica, contact microphones, and voice.

**Takehisa Kosugi** was born in Tokyo in 1938. He studied musicology at Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music. In 1960 he co-founded the Group Ongaku, the first collective improvisation group

in Tokyo. During this period his event pieces were introduced by Fluxus in Europe and the United States. From 1965 to 1967 he lived in New York, creating mixed-media performance works and performing with Nam June Paik and other Fluxus members. In 1967 he co-founded the Taj Mahal Travellers in Tokyo, a collective improvisational group. As a composer he participated in Expo'70 in Osaka. He received grants from the JDR 3<sup>rd</sup> Fund in 1966 and 1977, a DAAD fellowship grant to reside in Berlin in 1981, and the John Cage Award for Music from the Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts in 1994. He has performed in many international festivals, including the Festival d'Automne in Paris, the Almeida International Festival of Contemporary Music in London, and the Sound and Nature in Krems, Austria. His sound installations have been presented in various exhibitions, including *Fur Augen und Ohren*, Berlin; *Ecouter par les yeux*, Paris; and *Kunst als Grenzbeschreibung: John Cage und die Moderne*, Munich.

---

*Experiments in the Studio* celebrates Merce Cunningham's commitment to commissioning more new music by American composers than any other single choreographer, and the historic relationship between Merce Cunningham and John Cage, Founding Music Director of MDCDC. The composer/performers in this series represent a vibrant history of avant-garde music and multiple generations of contemporary composers working and performing together, from the 1950s through today.

***Experiments in the Studio, spring 2008:***

**May 5** Richard Teitelbaum, Miguel Frasoni, Marina Rosenfeld, David Behrman

**June 23** Newton Armstrong, David Linton, Maria Chavez, Stephan Moore.

*Experiments in the Studio* is made possible by a generous grant from The New York State Music Fund, established by the New York State Attorney General at Rockefeller Philanthropic Advisors, the American Music Center: Live Music for Dance program, and through public support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

# # #

Merce Cunningham Studio  
55 Bethune Street, 11<sup>th</sup> floor, New York, NY 10014  
tel: 212.255.8240 x14 fax: 212.633.2453  
[merce.org](http://merce.org)