

MERCE CUNNINGHAM DANCE COMPANY

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Beacon Event at Dia:Beacon
Third residency of the *Hudson Valley Project*
Sunday May 18 at 2 PM and 4:30 PM

Beacon, NY—Merce Cunningham Dance Company (MCDC) will conduct the third residency of the two-year *Hudson Valley Project*, culminating in performances of *Beacon Event* on Sunday May 18 at 2 PM and 4:30 PM at Dia:Beacon, Riggio Galleries, within the galleries devoted to Bruce Nauman.

MCDC partners with the Dia Art Foundation, Bard College, and The John Cage Trust at Bard College to conduct eight week-long residencies over a two-year period from September 2007 through 2009. Merce Cunningham will choreograph eight of his signature site-specific *Events*—one per residency during the two-year project—each within a different gallery at Dia:Beacon. For this occasion, the *Beacon Event* will take place on two stages, one outside and one inside the museum, in a space adjacent to the galleries devoted to Nauman's work. To view the dynamic presentation, visitors may walk around the performance area, and sit on Bruce Nauman's *Indoor Outdoor Seating Arrangement*, 1999.

As part of the *Beacon Event* performances, a group of composer/performers will present their original works. In Cage/Cunningham style, the performances will be the first and only time that the musicians and the dancers come together. Musicians for the May residency include Richard Teitelbaum, Miguel Frasconi, Marina Rosenfeld and David Behrman. These composer/performers will have a free concert in the Merce Cunningham Studio on Monday May 5 at 8:30 PM, as part of the *Experiments in the Studio* series (contact avianna@merce.org for a separate press release). The next performance of *Beacon Event* is scheduled for July 5 & 6, 2008.

Tickets for the general public can be purchased by calling 845.440.0100 x45, \$25 general admission, \$15 Dia members, Friends of MCDC, students, and seniors. Tickets include museum admission. Directions are available at diabeacon.org.

Hudson Valley Project: Related Activities

Monday May 12 at 2–3PM:

MCDC Musicians In Conversation—With David Behrman, Miguel Frasconi, Marina Rosenfeld, and Richard Teitelbaum, this discussion will be moderated by MCDC’s Sound Engineer and Music Coordinator Stephan Moore. Free with museum admission.

Sunday May 18–Monday May 26:

John Cage Reading Room: *Work With Words*—Selected by Laura Kuhn, Director of the John Cage Trust at Bard College, this presentation will consist of various items that relate to Cage's work with words, including publications (books, essays, magazine articles), selected art works that make use of language (such as “Not Wanting to Say Anything About Marcel,” and pages from the John Cage/Lois Long “Mushroom Book”) and archival materials (original manuscripts and sketches) relating to the exhibited works. In conjunction with the exhibition, an array of materials (audio, video, and print) will be available for sale in the Dia:Beacon Bookshop. Exhibition will be in the Dia:Beacon Library. Open during regular museum hours, 11am–6pm, Thursday–Monday. Free with museum admission.

Sunday May 18 at 12PM:

Family Day with MCDC at Dia:Beacon—MCDC representatives will team with Dia visiting artists to provide a new installment of the popular movement-based tour of the museum. Program will be indoors and outdoors, weather permitting. The program is limited to 40 people. Children (age 6+) must be accompanied by an adult. Call 845-440-0100 x33 to reserve a space. Free with museum admission.

MCDC's *Hudson Valley Project*, in partnership with the Dia Art Foundation, Bard College, and The John Cage Trust at Bard College has been made possible, in part, through major support from The New York State Music Fund, established by the New York State Attorney General at Rockefeller Philanthropic Advisors. Additional support has been provided by Melissa and Robert Soros, The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, The Harkness Foundation for Dance, and through public support from the National Endowment for the Arts which believes that a great nation deserves great art.



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