

MERCE CUNNINGHAM DANCE COMPANY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Beacon Event at Dia:Beacon

Fourth residency of the *Hudson Valley Project*

Saturday July 5 at 2 PM and Sunday July 6 at 2 PM and 4:30 PM

Beacon, NY—Merce Cunningham Dance Company (MCDC) will conduct the fourth residency of the two-year *Hudson Valley Project*, culminating in performances of *Beacon Event* on Saturday, July 5 at 2 PM and Sunday, July 6 at 2 PM and 4:30 PM at Dia:Beacon, Riggio Galleries, within the galleries devoted to Richard Serra's monumental steel sculptures, *Torqued Ellipses*.

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. As part of every residency, Merce Cunningham will choreograph one of his signature site-specific *Events*, each within a different gallery at Dia:Beacon. For this occasion, the *Beacon Event* will take place on two stages that will extend beyond the gallery walls to outdoors. The musicians will play amidst Richard Serra's *Torqued Ellipses* and *2000*, a torqued spiral, and the audience will be free to move around the entirety of the stages to view the performance from a variety of different perspectives.

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 July residency include Newton Armstrong, David Linton, Maria Chavez, and Stephan Moore. These composer/performers will also give a free concert in the Merce Cunningham Studio on Monday, June 23 at 8:30 PM, as part of the *Experiments in the Studio* series (contact avianna@merce.org for a separate press release).

Tickets for *Beacon Event* are \$25 general admission, \$15 Dia members, Friends of MCDC, students, and seniors and include museum admission. Tickets for the general public are on sale now and can be purchased at www.diabeacon.org/merce. Press can reserve tickets by contacting avianna@merce.org. The next performances of *Beacon Event* are scheduled for December 6 and 7, 2008.

Hudson Valley Project: Related Activities at Dia:Beacon

Thursday, July 3 – Monday, July 21: John Cage Reading Room: *Cage in the Social Realm*, presenting archive materials from the John Cage Trust in the Bookshop Library. Free with museum admission.

Thursday, July 3 – Sunday, July 6 at 12 PM: *Lecture on the Weather*, 1975: audio presentation of a performance of John Cage's composition recorded in 2007, featuring the voices of Merce Cunningham, Jasper Johns, John Ashbery, and others. Free with museum admission.

Sunday, July 6 at 12 PM: 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. Family Day reservations are suggested: call 845-440-0100 x33 to reserve a space. Free with museum admission.

In the coming weeks, additional activities will be added to the residency at Dia:Beacon. Check www.merce.org/thecompany_hvr.html for consistently updated information.

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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