

MERCE CUNNINGHAM DANCE COMPANY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Beacon Event at Dia:Beacon

Second residency of the Hudson Valley Project

Sat. and Sun. January 12–13 at 2 PM

Beacon, NY—Merce Cunningham Dance Company (MCDC) will conduct the second residency of the two-year Hudson Valley Project, culminating in performances of *Beacon Event* on January 12 and 13, 2008 at 2 PM at Dia:Beacon, Riggio Galleries, within the galleries devoted to Walter De Maria's *Equal Area Series*.

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. 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 January residency include George Lewis, Fast Forward, Zeena Parkins, and John King. These composer/performers will have a free concert in the Merce Cunningham Studio on Monday January 7 at 8:30 PM, as part of the “Experiments in the Studio” series (contact sarah@merce.org for a separate press release). Anna Finke designs new costumes for the January performances of *Beacon Event*. The next performance of *Beacon Event* is scheduled for May 18, 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 January 7 and Monday January 14, time TBD:

At Dia:Beacon, two screenings of *Cage/Cunningham*, Elliot Caplan's 1991 documentary that chronicles the history of Merce Cunningham's 50+ years of collaboration with John Cage. 95 minutes (free).

Friday through Sunday, January 11, 12, and 13, 11 AM–4 PM:

The John Cage Trust, under the direction of Executive Director Laura Kuhn, will inhabit the Dia:Beacon Learning Lab with a variety of interactive stations that are appropriate for all ages (free).

Saturday January 12 at 3:30 PM:

Merce Cunningham in conversation with Lynne Cooke, curator of the Dia Art Foundation (free).

Dia:Beacon's collection features Louise Bourgeois, Dan Flavin, Donald Judd, Sol LeWitt, Agnes Martin, Bruce Nauman, Max Neuhaus, Gerhard Richter, Robert Ryman, Richard Serra, and Andy Warhol, all of whom have been associated with Merce Cunningham throughout his seven decades based in New York. This conversation between the Dia Curator and Merce Cunningham represents Merce's longstanding commitment to presenting his choreography alongside his contemporaries and the work of visual artists. Reservations are recommended: call 845.440.0100 x44.

Sunday January 13 from 12–1 PM:

Family Day with MCDC at Dia:Beacon (free)—MCDC representatives will team with Dia visiting artists to provide a movement-based tour of various artworks in the museum. Participants will then create their own dance "Events" based on their observations. Children (age 6+) must be accompanied by an adult. To RSVP for Family Day, please contact Abi Sebaly, Director of Special Projects, at 212.255.8240 x11 or abi@merce.org.

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, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, and through public support from the National Endowment for the Arts which believes that a great nation deserves great art.



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