

MERCE CUNNINGHAM DANCE COMPANY

Merce Cunningham Dance Company
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Hudson Valley Project

2-year residency at Dia:Beacon

Inaugural Performance: Sun. Sept. 30 at 3 PM

Beacon, NY—Merce Cunningham Dance Company (MCDC) will inaugurate a two-year residency program at Dia:Beacon, Riggio Galleries entitled the *Hudson Valley Project* on Sunday, September 30 at 3 PM with the performance of *Beacon Event* in the Andy Warhol *Shadows* Gallery of Dia:Beacon, Riggio Galleries, the day after the MCDC 2007 Gala Celebration, also at Dia:Beacon.

MCDC will partner with Dia:Beacon and Bard College to conduct eight week-long residencies over a two-year period from September 2007 through September 2009. Merce Cunningham will choreograph eight of his signature site-specific *Events*—one per week-long residency during the two-year project—each within a different Dia:Beacon gallery space.

At the end of each week-long residency, 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. Composer/performers in the *Hudson Valley Project* for the 07–08 season include: Takehisa Kosugi, Christian Wolff, David Behrman, John King, George Lewis, Fast Forward, Zeena Parkins, Richard Teitelbaum, Miguel Frascioni, and Marina Rosenfeld.

Tickets may be reserved through Dia:Beacon by calling 845.440.0100 x45, \$25 general admission, \$15 Dia members, Cunningham Dance Foundation members, students, and seniors. Seating is limited; tickets include museum admission. MCDC's *Hudson Valley Project* has been made possible, in part, by support from Melissa and Robert Soros, The Gladys Krieble Delmas

Foundation, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, and with major support from the Rockefeller Philanthropic Advisors: New York State Music Fund.

September 30 is *Family Day* with MCDC at Dia:Beacon, 12–1:30 PM:

In conjunction with MCDC's inaugural residency at Dia:Beacon, MCDC representatives will team with Dia visiting artists to provide a movement-based tour of various artworks within the museum. Participants will then create their own simple dance "Events" based on their observations. The program is limited to 40 people. Children (age 6+) must be accompanied by an adult. To RSVP for Family Day, please contact Abi Sebaly at 212.255.8240 x11 or abi@merce.org.

"Dia is extremely excited about MCDC's *Hudson Valley Project* and the prospect of Merce Cunningham's dance *Events* being presented in site-specific relation to the artworks on view at Dia:Beacon. The New York State Music Funds grant award is fantastic news."

—Steven Evans, Assistant Director, Dia:Beacon

"The opportunity to bring Merce Cunningham and his dance company to the Hudson Valley and to Bard College again is a very special one. Merce is a living legend whose influence is profound; not just in the world of dance, but also in music, the visual arts, and his continual fascination with the "new." His work embodies the ideals of Bard and the Fisher Center and we look forward with great anticipation to hosting these events."

—Tambra Dillon, Director, Fisher Center for the Performing Arts, Bard College

"Merce Cunningham has the unique and unparalleled ability to create dances in a variety of environments. Knowing that Merce created his original *Events* for galleries and museums, and having observed the great genius at work more recently at the Tate Modern and in the lobby of American Express, I set out to find a venue where Merce could develop many possible combinations over time. Dia:Beacon's vast space and rich collection was an obvious opportunity. Further, the awesome exchange we have experienced in recent years through community residencies with the communities' interests in mind, along with the experience and expertise of our staff and artists, made asking Bard College to participate an opportunity to showcase these residencies in our own backyard."

—Trevor Carlson, Executive Director, Cunningham Dance Foundation

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