

MERCE CUNNINGHAM DANCE COMPANY

CONTACT: Mary Lisa Burns, Director of Education
212.255.8240 x 32 / marylisa@merce.org

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MERCE CUNNINGHAM STUDIO FACULTY CONCERT

Works by Merce Cunningham and Studio Faculty

Friday, June 13th at 8:30 PM & Saturday, June 14th at 8:30 PM

New York, NY—On Friday, June 13 and Saturday, June 14, 2008 at 8:30 PM, the **Merce Cunningham Studio** presents a diverse evening of dance and music featuring two choreographic works by Merce Cunningham as well as contemporary work by faculty members Louise Burns, Janet Charleston, Jean Freebury, and Daniel Squire.

The Faculty Concert will be held in the Merce Cunningham Studio (55 Bethune St., 11th Floor). Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$15 for students. Press can reserve seats by contacting Avianna Perez at avianna@merce.org or 212.255.8240 x14. The general public can reserve seats in advance by emailing tickets@merce.org. Pay at the door, cash or check only.

Advanced scholarship students from the Merce Cunningham Studio and the **Cunningham Repertory Understudy Group** (RUGs), under the direction of **Robert Swinston** will perform an excerpt from *Enter* (1992) choreographed by **Merce Cunningham**. Dance critic Dehorah Jowitt has said about this work “*Enter* . . . it’s like some natural phenomenon – a volcano, an ocean – except that we know it’s man-made . . . we might be watching the usually invisible processes of plant growth.” The RUGs will also perform *MinEvent* (2008), a compilation of dance material from Cunningham choreography. Since its founding in 1997, the Repertory Understudy Group has served as a living archive of Merce Cunningham’s choreography through restaging and documenting a number of Merce’s older and inactive works. Cunningham, whose dances have been performed by the critically acclaimed Merce Cunningham Dance Company (MCDC) since 1953, is widely recognized as a distinguished pioneer of contemporary dance and an influential force for generations of teachers and choreographers.

Jean Freebury, former member of MCDC from 1992–2003 and current faculty member, will present a chance work performed by students of the Studio. The choreography is developed in the context of a workshop, using chance procedures. The work will include a film by Daniel Squire and music composed by Chris Woltmann.

Daniel Squire, current member of the MCDC and faculty member of the Studio, will present a new work.

Louise Burns, member of MCDC from 1970–1971 and 1977–1984 will also present a new work in collaboration with Luis Gabriel Zaragoza. Ms. Burns’ choreography has been performed by the Danish National School for Theatre & Dance, the Tasmanian Dance Company of Australia, Compagnie Coline of France, Western Australian Academy for Performing Arts. She has been a faculty member of the Studio for many years, and has served as a guest teacher at numerous colleges and universities in the United States and Europe. Colman Rupp will design lights for this piece.

Janet Charleston, a former member of the Lucinda Childs Company and Douglas Dunn and Dancers, will perform a new solo, entitled *Next*.

Studio pianist **Pat Richter** and Company Archivist **David Vaughan** will present a mini-cabaret of songs old and new.

Activities of the Merce Cunningham Studio are made possible by generous support from the Arnhold Foundation, the Dedalus Foundation, the Foundation for Contemporary Arts, and through public support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.

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Merce Cunningham Studio
55 Bethune Street, New York, NY 10014
t: 212.255.8240 f: 212.633.2453
merce.org