

MERCE CUNNINGHAM DANCE COMPANY

Merce Cunningham Dance Company
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Fall 2007 Performances

- **Experiments in the Studio: an MCDC new music series begins 9/17**
- **2007 Gala Celebration at Dia:Beacon 9/29**
- ***Hudson Valley Residency at Dia:Beacon, inaugural performance of Beacon Event 9/30*** (see attached release)
- **World Premiere of *XOVER* at Dartmouth, 10/5**
- **Tour to Krannert Center and Columbia College 10/9–13**
- **MCDC in Australia for Melbourne International Arts Festival, 10/21–27**
- **MCDC in Paris for Festival d'Automne, 12/4–9**

New York, NY— Merce Cunningham Dance Company (MCDC) launches a **free new music series** called **Experiments in the Studio** on Monday, September 17 at 8:30 PM. The series will feature original music and improvisations by collaborators of Merce Cunningham and John Cage. The opening night of Experiments in the Studio will feature composer/performers David Behrman, John King, and Stephan Moore, performing a program of indeterminate compositions: Behrman's *Long Throw* (a recent MCDC commission), King's *Quadrilogic Unity*, Moore's *Deck*, and Christian Wolff's *Or 4 People*. All concerts in the series are free and will take place in the Merce Cunningham Studio on Monday nights at 8:30 PM. Join the composer/performers after each performance for a Q&A session.

Experiments in the Studio celebrates Merce Cunningham's commitment to commissioning more new music by American composers than any other single choreographer, and the historic relationship between Merce Cunningham and John Cage, Founding Music Director of MCDC. The composer/performers in this series represent a vibrant history of avant-garde music and multiple generations of contemporary composers working and performing together, from the 1950s through today.

Concert Calendar

Sept 17 David Behrman, John King, Stephan Moore

Nov 19 An Evening with Gordon Mumma

Jan 7 George Lewis, Fast Forward, Zeena Parkins, John King

Feb 4 An Evening with Christian Wolff

Mar 31 An Evening with Takehisa Kosugi

May 5 Richard Teitelbaum, Miguel Frasconi, Marina Rosenfeld, David Behrman

Experiments in the Studio is made possible by a generous grant from the American Music Center: Live Music for Dance program, and through public support by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

Beacon, NY—Co-Chairs Sage Cowles, Molly Davies, and Timothy J. McClimon present the Cunningham Dance Foundation's **2007 Gala Celebration** on Saturday, September 29, honoring Harvey Lichtenstein and Bénédicte Pesle. This year's festivities take place at Dia:Beacon in New York's Hudson Valley starting at 3 PM. The evening includes cocktails and a leisurely tour of the Dia:Beacon grounds and galleries, the premiere of *Beacon Event* performed by the Merce Cunningham Dance Company in the Andy Warhol *Shadows* (1978–1979) Gallery, and dinner in the John Chamberlain Gallery.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Donna Noble at 212.255.8240 x13 or visit merce.org.

Special thanks to Melissa and Robert Soros, Altria Group, Inc., American Express Company, Karen and David Waltuck - Chanterelle Restaurant, and Christiania Vodka for their support of MCDC's 2007 Gala Celebration.

Hanover, NH (Dartmouth College)—MCDC will perform the **world premiere of Merce Cunningham's latest work *XOVER*** at Dartmouth College on October 5 at 8 PM in the Moore Theater of the Hopkins Center for the Arts. *XOVER* features music by John Cage (*Aria* and *Fontana Mix*), décor and costumes by Robert Rauschenberg, and lighting design by Josh Johnson. The Company will be in residency at Dartmouth ("The Art of Merce: Dartmouth Celebrates an Iconoclast") from October 1–6 with additional performances on October 6 at 2 and 8 PM. These programs will also include the works *eyeSpace* (music by Mikel Rouse, décor and costumes by Henry Samelson) and *Crises*. Merce Cunningham is a Montgomery Fellow at Dartmouth College. Additional residency activities include:

- Montgomery Fellowship lecture with Merce Cunningham in conversation with Laura Kuhn (Director of the John Cage Trust)
- Post-lecture reception and student/faculty lunches
- *Merce Cunningham Dance Company: The Paper Trail, Select Objects and Ephemera*, an exhibition in the Strauss Gallery of the Hopkins Center
- Evening screening of *Channels/Inserts* on one of the outside walls of the Hood Museum
- Open music rehearsal for the premiere of *XOVER*
- MCDC master classes, open rehearsals, and class visits
- Motion capture demonstration with members of MCDC and Dartmouth faculty

XOVER is a co-commission of barbicanbite08, London and the Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH. XOVER was made possible through public support by the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes a great nation deserves great art.

Urbana, IL and Chicago, IL—After the residency at Dartmouth, MCDC will then travel to the **Krannert Center** at the University of Illinois at Urbana (performance on October 9), and to the Joan W. and Irving B. Harris Theater for Music and Dance at **Columbia College** in Chicago (performances on October 12 and 13). These programs will feature *Fabrications*, *eyeSpace* (music by Mikel Rouse, décor and costumes by Henry Samelson), *Sounddance*, *CRWDSPCR*, *Crises*, and *MinEvent*.

Melbourne, Australia—MCDC will travel to the **Melbourne International Arts Festival** for a residency from October 21–27, the Company's third visit to Australia and first-ever performances in Melbourne, which will be the cornerstone of this year's festival. This residency will celebrate Merce's extraordinary career, which spans over 50 years. MCDC will perform a variety of works, including *Suite for Five*, *BIPED*, *eyeSpace* (music by Mikel Rouse, décor by Daniel Arsham), *Split Sides*, and *Views on Stage*. The residency will also include an outdoor *Melbourne Event* performance in Federation Square, MCDC-related visual art exhibitions and installations, master classes, and music concerts performed by members of the MCDC Music Committee: David Behrman, John King, Stephan Moore, and Christian Wolff.

Paris, France—MCDC will be featured in the **Festival d'Automne à Paris** from December 4–9, performing *CRWDSPCR*, *Crises*, and the **French premiere of Merce's recent work eyeSpace** (music by Mikel Rouse, décor and costumes by Henry Samelson). The Company has a long history of touring to France, having performed in 63 cities and towns since their first performance in Strasbourg in 1964. This will be the Company's ninth visit to the Festival d'Automne.

Major support for the Merce Cunningham Dance Company's 2007–2008 Season has been provided by Altria Group, Inc., American Express Company, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the New England Foundation for the Arts, the Prospect Hill Foundation, Robert Rauschenberg, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, the Shubert Foundation, Melissa and Robert Soros, and the Starr Foundation, with public funds provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and the New York State Council on the arts, a state agency.

BIPED (1999)

Music: Gavin Bryars, *Biped*
Décor: Shelley Eshkar, Paul Kaiser
Costumes: Suzanne Gallo
Lighting: Aaron Copp

Crises (1960)

Music: Conlon Nancarrow, *Rhythm Studies #1, #2a, #3b, #2b, #4, #5, #6, #7*
Costumes: Robert Rauschenberg

CRWDSPCR (1993)

Music: John King, *blues '99*

Décor, Costumes, Lighting: Mark Lancaster

eyeSpace (2006)

Music: David Behrman

Décor and Costumes: Daniel Arsham/Henry Samelson

Lighting: Josh Johnson

Fabrications (1987)

Music: Emanuel Dimas de Melo Pimenta, *Short Waves*

Décor and Costumes: Dove Bradshaw

Lighting: Josh Johnson

MinEvent

Décor: TBD

Lighting: Josh Johnson

Sounddance (1975)

Music: David Tudor, *Untitled 1975/1994*

Décor and Costumes: Mark Lancaster

Lighting: Aaron Copp and Mark Lancaster

Split Sides (2003)

Music: Radiohead, Sigur Rós

Décor: Robert Heishman, Catherine Yass

Costumes: James Hall

Lighting: James F. Ingalls

Suite for Five (1956–1958)

Music: John Cage, from *Music for Piano*

Costumes: Robert Rauschenberg

Lighting: Beverly Emmons

Views on Stage (2004)

Music: John Cage, *ASLSP* (1985), *Music for Two* (1984–1987)

Décor: Ernesto Neto

Costumes: James Hall

Lighting: Josh Johnson

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