

santa barbara dance alliance

For Immediate Release

Press Contacts:

James Buchanan
(805) 966-6950 james@sbdancealliance.org

Sheila Caldwell
(805) 966-6950 sheila@sbdancealliance.org

Santa Barbara Dance Alliance presents

NEW WORKS 2010

Summary Facts:

- NEW WORKS 2010: A dance concert of contemporary premieres presented by Santa Barbara Dance Alliance.
- January 22 at 8pm and January 23rd at 2pm & 8pm
- Center Stage Theater, 751 Paseo Nuevo, Santa Barbara
- Choreographers: **Alonzo Johnson & Brittany Castillo, Cybil Gilbertson, Christina McCarthy, Elizabeth Schwyzer & Robin Bisio, Erin Martinez, Lauren Serrano, Melanie Johnson, Misa Kelly, Robert Salas and Valerie Huston.**
- Tickets are \$50 Patron, \$25 General, \$22 SBDA Members, Students and Seniors
- For tickets, contact the Center Stage Box Office at (805) 963-0408 or go to www.centerstagetheater.org
- For more information contact Santa Barbara Dance Alliance at (805) 966-6950 or visit www.sbdancealliance.org
- Editors note: **High Resolution 300dpi photos available under "New Works" on the SBDA website.**

Santa Barbara, CA – Bringing fresh and sophisticated original dance works by local choreographers to life, this year's NEW WORKS 2010 offers a progressive artistic experience unique to Santa Barbara.

Ranunculus, Don't Bring Me Cut Roses, and These People like Poems are just three of the exciting newly created dance pieces premiering at Santa Barbara Dance Alliance's NEW WORKS 2010 at Center Stage Theater on Friday and Saturday, January 22 and 23rd.

In November, a panel of judges, all longtime professional dancers and choreographers, reviewed 21 original choreographies and selected a final program of ten pieces for the show. These 12 choreographers will present ten unique expressions of the full spectrum of emotions through original and inspired movement. Styles range from contemporary ballet to post modern, from solos to ensemble pieces, accompanied by inventive lighting design and distinctive musical scores. The intimate setting of Center Stage Theater makes it the perfect venue to experience this evening of evocative and engaging dance.

For more information on Santa Barbara Dance Alliance call (805) 966-6950 or go to www.sbdancealliance.org. To purchase tickets, contact the Center Stage Box Office at (805) 963-0408 or visit www.centerstagetheater.org

Santa Barbara Dance Alliance is a non-profit art resource organization focused on educating, promoting, and increasing awareness and quality of dance and other performing arts throughout Santa Barbara... SBDA presents year-round performances and community events including: NEW WORKS: Santa Barbara Choreographers, Jan. 22-23, 2010, BASSH: Ballroom, Argentine Tango, Swing, Salsa & Hip Hop at the Lobero, Mar. 12-13, 2010, Santa Barbara Dance Day, April 24, 2010, ON THE VERGE: Teen Choreographers Showcase May 22, 2010, the 16th Annual International Dance Festival, Aug. 28, 2010, and Master Classes in collaboration with UCSB Arts & Lectures. In the past six years, SBDA has awarded 128 scholarships to local, talented, dedicated young artists in need of financial support.

Choreographers' Bios

Alonzo Johnson & Brittany Castillo

Brittany Castillo and Alonzo Johnson met in the fall of 2008 through the department of dance at the University of California Santa Barbara. Over time their reciprocal creative relationship has developed and they enjoy the interchange of the roles of mentor and student between them. As choreographers they draw inspiration from their personal lives and infuse their movement with sense memory.

Piece Info: ***84th and Manchester*** explores the story of a mother and son relationship; one that cannot be defined as normal or healthy. The mother and son can never achieve the connection that the son envisions. The piece illustrates the desire of the son to feel love from his mother and the struggle between unattainable love and unresolved emotions.

Cybil Gilbertson

Cybil graduated from UCSB with a BA in dance in 1997 and received the Dean's honors and Alice Condodina Performance Award. While attending an 18-month residency at Esalen Institute she danced with the Monterey Dance collective and choreographed for the Esalen International Arts Festival where she was awarded the Profant Award for Performance in 2002. Gilbert has danced with SBDT for 11 years, as well as with Robin Bisio, Cirque Destino and many other SB and LA choreographers. Since 1999, Cybil has been a certified Pilates and Yoga Instructor as well as a massage therapist. Today Cybil is the artistic director of NECTAR, a new creative forum and non-profit, merging the ARTS and EDUCATION to highlight the work of different non-profits.

Piece Info: ***These People Like Poems*** is an invitation to question authority in a way that honors our wisdom, insight and respect for humanity. This piece is homage to all the people of the world who have lost their lives or suffered for the sake of war. "When the power of love overcomes the love of power...only then will the world know peace."

Christina McCarthy

Christina is a lecturer of dance at UC Santa Barbara. She toured with Nina Wiener Dance Company and both performed and assistant directed for Santa Barbara Dance Theater. She has choreographed for SBDT, Santa Barbara City College Theater Group (Rough Crossing), Ensemble Theater (Gunmetal Blues), UCSB Theater Department (La Ninera), Santa Barbara Festival Ballet, UCSB Student Dance Company and for Santa Barbara and Dos Pueblos High Schools. Christina is an accomplished puppet maker as well, whose creations have been used by Genesis West Theater Company, Ensemble Theater, SBDT, Storyteller Michael Katz, SBHS and DPHS.

Piece Info: ***Flight*** took an entirely organic evolution as the dancer's had to abandon the comfort of musically structured counts for a less predictable rhythm. The naturally occurring synergy creates intricate phrases that allow the flow to be born into each dancer's movements. The result is a very raw piece that makes the viewer aware of the elastic space that is constantly stretching and contracting between the dancer's bodies in motion.

Elizabeth Schwyzer & Robin Bisio

Elizabeth is a Santa Barbara native. She earned her BA in Art History and Minor in Dance at U.C. Berkeley in 2001 before moving to the U.K., where she worked as a professional dancer, dance

educator, and writer. She returned to California in 2005, where she continues to dance, write, and practice martial arts.

Robin is a filmmaker and choreographer. A winner of the Arts Fund Award from the County Arts Commission, her work has been represented in numerous New Works Concerts as well as in many other venues, including NECTAR and NIGHTS for the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. She produced the Coastal Project for ten years where scores of artists presented site-specific work along local beaches. "*Don't Bring Me Cut Roses*" is her first collaboration with Elizabeth Schwyzer and will be part of a longer site specific garden dance this spring. Bisio's teachers include postmodern luminaries Deborah Hay, Meredith Monk, Valda Setterfield and David Gordon.

Piece Info: ***Don't Bring Me Cut Roses*** is a solo inspired by the idea of bursting past the social and self-imposed boundaries that keep us confined. It is about being a woman, and about expressing desires and passions, even when it's scary. The dance is based on a short piece of Elizabeth's own writing, which uses flowers and plants as a metaphor for raw, earthy sexuality and life itself. As the performer, Elizabeth is trying to push past 'pretty' and 'controlled' to a more unbridled place via movement.

Erin Martinez

Erin is currently a member of Nectar and DoZ Dance Company, and has recently worked with the UCSB dance company and the State Street Ballet. Erin has worked with Lux Dance in New York City performing at Cunningham Studio, Triskelion Arts, BAC, and she has featured her choreography at the Cunningham Studio and Baryshnikov Arts Center. She is a collaborative artist for Nugent Dance as well as a video artist. Erin graduated from UCSB with a BA in Dance and Art Studio and is currently training in Pilates.

Piece Info: ***Time Feelers*** danced by Erin Martinez and Kaita Lepore is about the emotional exploration of time and how emotions are cyclical and recurring throughout past, present, and future. The dancers are connected back to back by a long piece of sheer fabric stretching the length of the stage; each are on polar opposites creating a rich quality of dancing in and out of the fabric while connecting to each other with a dynamic tension of pull and release. The movement is smooth, sharp, strong, soft, shaking and full of the emotional textures that they discover along their journey through space and time.

Lauren Serrano

Lauren is originally from Orange County where she trained with many local studios. Lauren has won multiple scholarships including three month training from Edge Performing Arts studio, a CADTD scholarship, the Patricia Sparrow scholarship, and the Alice Condodina UCSB Performance scholarship. She has performed locally and continues her studies as a BFA Dance major at UCSB.

Piece Info: ***Finding Selves*** was inspired by the psychological case study of Sybil Dorsett and her 16 multiple personalities. The piece explores the effects of her invented selves, as well as the possibility that they were necessary elements to her survival. The characters that complicated her life also filled an emotional void; for over 30 years she was "*finding selves*".

Melanie Johnson

Melanie recently graduated from UCSB with a BA in Dance. Before moving to Santa Barbara, she spent two years studying with the CSU Long Beach Dance Department and worked as a parade performer for the Walt Disney Company. Her background includes jazz, tap, ballet, hip-hop, and modern. Melanie currently performs with Fusion Dance Company and teaches dance for San Roque School.

Piece Info: ***Who's That I See?*** is a modern character piece that deals with a battle between the Ego and the Self, exploring possible representations of a struggle within the human mind.

Misa Kelly

Misa is the Artistic Director of SonneBlauma Danscz Theatre. Her work as a choreographer has been presented all over California, at the Monterey Dance Festival and with both Meditative Dance and Çati in Istanbul. In addition to her work with SonneBlauma, Misa has performed with many other choreographers as well including the Mark Parisian Mime Troupe, James Donlon, Motion Dance Theatre, Smudges Performance Group, & Santa Barbara Dance Theatre. Misa is not just a dancer and choreographer, but also an avid visual artist as well. *Ranunculus* was made possible, in part by the Rudi Schulte Family Foundation.

Piece Info: ***Ranunculus*** is a solo in celebration of a rite of passage that softens the wrinkles of time, brings sparkle to strands of hidden grey, and surfaces from the sea of the integrated collective unconsciousness. *Ranunculus* is an abstract contemporary work: driven, riveting, determined, and universal.

Robert Salas

Robert directs the MTC Ensemble, Moorpark College's modern dance touring ensemble and received his BA and MFA in dance from the University of California, Irvine. He has studied ballet, jazz, modern dance, acting and mime. Robert enjoys exploring the principles of Laban theories of Space, Shape and Movement Effort and how they reveal the complexities of the human experience. In addition to teaching and choreographing dance, he is a professional dance photographer. This is Robert's fifth year at Moorpark College where he serves as Assistant Chair of Music and Dance.

Piece Info: ***Digeridoo and Mobiles of Flight*** is a contemporary dance that uses the concept of air as metaphor for life and the Celtic Knot as a thread of connectivity: the timeless nature of our spirit. The concepts of air, cellular breath, and shape-flow are further represented by a kinetic sculpture, which was designed by artist Derek Franz.

Valerie Huston

Valerie began her training in ballet in the Bay Area. She went on to receive her BFA in Ballet from the University of Utah. From 1976-1985 she directed the Valerie Huston Dance Theatre, a touring ballet company based in Santa Barbara. She is the recipient of three National Endowment Fellowships in choreography. In 1983 Valerie joined the faculty at UCSB. She was awarded an Independent Artist award for Choreography in 1995 by the Arts Fund in Santa Barbara, and in 1999 the Lifetime Achievement award in Dance from the SB Dance Alliance. In the spring of 2009 her work *Ethereal Bodies* performed by Dance Peninsula Ballet was chosen for the Regional Dance America festival in Provo, Utah; her most recent work *Summer Nights* was shown in the Fall Dance Concert, *Imagine* at UCSB.

Piece Info: ***Invention*** was created for Kiara Kinghorn and Cecily Stewart as part of the Summer Dances 2009 workshop at UCSB. The dance opens with a duet prologue which sets the tone and landscape for the piece. Each dancer performs a solo variation choreographed to highlight specific aspects of their personality. The solos are then fused and performed simultaneously to create the final invention movement of the work.

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