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**For Immediate Release**

**Press Contacts:**

Julie McLeod  
(805) 565-1332 julieok@aol.com  
Nicole Helton  
(805) 966-6950 dance@sbdancealliance.org



**For Immediate Release**

*Santa Barbara Dance Alliance presents*  
**'New Works: Santa Barbara Choreographers', 2008**

**What:** New Works: Santa Barbara Choreographers, a dance concert of premieres presented by Santa Barbara Dance Alliance

**Where:** Center Stage Theater, 751 Paseo Nuevo, Santa Barbara

**When:** Friday through Sunday, January 11-13, 8pm each night

**Who:** Choreographers: Robin Bisio, Heather Carney Shea, Nancy Colahan, Nicole Helton, Valerie Huston, Misa Kelly, E. Bonnie Lewis, Delila Moseley, Susan Shaberman, Kara Stewart and Jacqueline Wiley.

**For Tickets:** Center Stage Box Office, 805-963-0408, [www.centerstagetheater.org](http://www.centerstagetheater.org); Tickets are \$25 General, \$22 SBDA Members, \$20 Students/Seniors, \$50 Patron

**For Information:** Santa Barbara Dance Alliance Office, 805-966-6950, or visit [www.sbdancealliance.org](http://www.sbdancealliance.org)

"Un...Done," "She Passes Through..." and "As We Are," are just three of the exciting newly created dance pieces premiering at Santa Barbara Dance Alliance's *New Works: Santa Barbara Choreographers*, Friday through Sunday January 11-13, 8pm, at Center Stage Theater. Dance Alliance will also present its 11<sup>th</sup> Lifetime Achievement Award to Luis Goena for his contributions to the Santa Barbara Balkan dance community at a reception following the opening performance on Friday night.

Dances with themes ranging from the promise of new beginnings to feelings of anxiety and helplessness showcase accomplished dancers in solos and ensemble pieces, movement styles from contemporary ballet to post modern, beautiful to sleek costumes, classic to original music scores, and inventive lighting design. The intimate setting of Center Stage Theater makes it the perfect venue to experience this evening of evocative and engaging dance.

In November a panel of judges, all longtime professional dancers and choreographers, reviewed live auditions and DVDs to select the program of eleven pieces:

***Un...Done*** by **E. Bonnie Lewis**, explores what lies beneath the mask we wear as we routinely float through our daily lives and the moments when we feel 'side swiped' by a sudden realization or 'wake up call' that brings us to our knees. Rina Van de Kamp dances this solo work with passionate abandon.

**Nancy Colahan's** work for 11 dancers, ***She Passes Through...*** inspired by the breath audible in the score, evolves around the concept of a person transitioning, supported by her own sense of destiny and witnessed by loved ones visible and invisible.

With daring falls, lifts and surprises fueled by a dynamic original music and vocal arrangement by Spencer of KJEE, **Nicole Helton's *As We Are*** dives into the angst of navigating expectations versus desires, inspired by quirky and humorous experiences of her dancers' "quarter-life crises."

***Light Was Salvation***, a provocative and haunting dance film by **Robin Bisio**, explores light as creation, destruction and resurrection and features ethereal dancer Dorrie Tames Powell.

**Misa Kelly's *Le Jardin Rouge*** is a highly athletic and emotionally charged abstract duet. Quirky, playful, poignant and tragic, the work was inspired in part by Meena, founder of RAWA, and an unexpected display of 62 flowers in bloom in Kelly's garden.

A flowing contemporary ballet for seven dancers, ***The Color of Water*** by **Delila Moseley** set to the timeless music of Tchaikovsky.

***How Could We?*** An intense solo work choreographed and danced by **Susan Shaberman** probes the question of how a society could go along with a leader who causes horror and destruction. The work is an expression of anxiety and helplessness.

**Kara Stewart's *Rain*** illuminates the diverse moods evoked by rain.

***Short Trip Home***, a duet by husband and wife Jack and **Jacqueline Wiley** reflects survival, companionship and wisdom gained through a decade of experiences.

***Between Silences***, by **Heather Carney Shea** began as an exploration into Muslim Fundamentalist belief of 72 virgins waiting in heaven and became a piece about birth, anticipation and arrival.

Inspired by Walkowitz's drawings of famed dancer, Isadora Duncan, ***Ethereal Bodies*** by **Valerie Huston** takes us to a region between life and death.

Bringing fresh, sophisticated and varied new dance works to life are the driving forces behind *New Works*. This popular show sells out every year. Advanced ticket purchases are recommended.

For tickets to *New Works*, call Center Stage Box Office at 805-963-0408 or visit [www.centerstagetheater.org](http://www.centerstagetheater.org). Tickets are \$25 General, \$22 SBDA members, \$20 Students/Seniors, \$50 Patron. For more information on *New Works* call the SBDA Office at 805.966-6950 or visit [www.sbdancealliance.org](http://www.sbdancealliance.org).

## **Choreographers' Bios:**

**Robin Bisio** with Catherine Bennett will present *Blue Meadow*, a film installation for the 2008 SBIFF. Her experimental films have been shown in festivals throughout the United States and Europe. As the director of the Cormorant Dance Foundation, she produced the Coastal Project for ten years. She received the Choreographer Award from the Arts Fund of the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission.

**Heather Carney Shea** grew up dancing in Salt Lake City, Utah with the Ballet West Academy under the direction of William Christiansen, but then left dance to pursue a BA in Environmental Studies. At 28, she rededicated herself to dancing and received her BFA in Dance from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 2006. While there, she toured with the UCSB Dance Company throughout the US and Mexico. She was featured as a soloist in the reconstruction of Jose Limon's work, "Psalm" and produced and evening length work with choreographer Marcos Duran called, "In the Bedroom." Since then Heather has continued performing locally and internationally with the Daughter of Zion Dance Company in Guatemala, in local play production of Bloodlines, and in a music video for the band AM. She has taught dance throughout Santa Barbara since 2001 and thoroughly enjoys inspiring young and old dancers alike in the pursuit of self-expression through movement.

**Nancy Colahan** a dancer and performer for 35+ years, recently retired from the stage with the culmination of the film, "Of Time and the Spirit" directed by her colleague Tonia Shimin. Influenced primarily by the Romanoffs, Maggie Black, Joyce Trisler, Lar Lubovitch, Baryshnikov and his White Oak Dance Project, and her work with American Repertory Dance Company, she devotes her time to her classes in modern dance technique and UCSB, and choreographic ventures such as NEW WORKS.

**Nicole Helton** received her BFA. in Dance from UCSB in 2006. While attending, Nicole choreographed several works and danced with the UCSB Dance Company where she was a featured soloist in Alice Condodina's reconstruction of Jose Limon's *Psalm*, for the company's US and Mexico tour. Nicole has danced and choreographed professionally for Indiana Dance Theatre, and Daughter of Zion Dance Company, and recently danced for Ballet Santa Barbara. Currently, she is the Administrator for SB Dance Alliance.

**Valerie Huston** on the UCSB dance faculty since 1983, received three National Endowment Fellowships in choreography, directed the Valerie Huston Dance Theatre, a ten-member professional contemporary ballet touring company based in Santa Barbara and is a guest teacher world-wide having taught at the University of Hawaii, the Fifth International Dance Festival in Hong Kong, and served as an adjudicator for the Southeast Regional Ballet Festival. She was awarded an Independent Artist Award for Choreography by the Arts Fund in Santa Barbara and the Lifetime Achievement Award in Dance from Santa Barbara Dance Alliance.

**Misa Kelly** is the Artistic Director of SonneBlauma Danscz Theatre (founded in 1996) & is the primary founder of The Future Traditions Foundation. She has performed in the choreography of Christine Loizeaux, Christina McCarthy, Christopher Pilafian, and Tonia Shimin. She has worked with the Mark Parisian Mime Troupe, James Donlon, Motion Dance Theatre, Smudges Performance Group, Santa Barbara Dance Theatre, and DPHS Gymnastics Team. Having studied with over 150 dance, art, movement and music teachers

nationally and internationally, she shares this wealth of information with her community as SonneBlauma's senior faculty.

**E. Bonnie Lewis** has been an active participant of the dance and theatre community of Santa Barbara for over 15 years. Her eclectic dance background includes studying with the original company members of the Jose Limon, Bela Lewitzsky, and Martha Graham Dance Companies, performing Renaissance dancers as a Dancer on the Green in Ashland, Oregon, choreographing for Santa Barbara Youth Theatre, and currently taking to the air while collaborating with Daughter of Zion Dance Company. Theatrically she is Co-Artistic Director of DramaDogs. Artistically she is always seeking ways to integrate the power of dance and movement with the passion and literature of theater.

**Delila Moseley** holds a B.A. in Dance and a M.A. in Dramatic Art from UCSB where she is currently on faculty in the Division of Dance. She has performed professionally in LA, New York, and throughout the U.S. on tour, working with Donald McKayle's Inner City Repertory Dance Company, the American Heritage Dance Theatre, the Joyce Trisler Danscompany, and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre. She appeared on television in the New Bill Cosby Show, and the special "Ailey Celebrates Ellington". She has directed the UCSB Dance Company for 15 years. Delila was a founding member of Santa Barbara Dance Alliance for which she produced over 50 concerts, including Choreographers' Showcases, Dance Nights, solo concerts, Young Dancers Concerts, and experimental concerts. In 1997 she received SBDA's 2nd Annual Lifetime Achievement Award. She has choreographed for SBDA, City College, UCSB, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and the Santa Barbara Civic Light Opera.

**Susan Shaberman** grew up in a small suburb of Detroit, and her dance training consisted of a weekly modern dance class at the Jewish Community Center. She went to college, married and had three children before her passion for dance refused to be ignored any longer. After receiving a master's degree in dance from Tisch School of the Arts in NYC, she has continued to develop as an artist by studying at the major schools of modern dance in New York and elsewhere, and has choreographer and performed by locally and abroad.

**Kara Stewart** graduated from CSULB with a BA degree in Dance. For seven years, she worked in the entertainment industry as a professional dancer for Disney, Buena Vista Pictures and many others. Kara moved to Santa Barbara in 2000 and started Fusion Dance Company in fall of 2004. Fusion Dance Co. is a semi-professional dance company whose credits include SB International Film Festival, Fire Fighters Alliance, "Fire Ball," "Nights," at the Museum of Art, Simple Shoes fashion show and many charity and community events such as Heal the Ocean, Chalk for Peace, UCSB Children's' Miracle Network, and SBDA's annual show BASSH.

**Jacqueline Wiley** began studying dance with Arlene Satterlee, continued with Bob and Carol Hanlin and received her BFA in dance from UCSB in 1990. She has danced with various folks/groups in Santa Barbara, San Francisco and Tucson, including Beth Burleson, Susan Shaberman, State Street Ballet, Newname Performance, Thom Lewis and NEW ARTiculations. She is grateful to have two beautiful boys, Paul (7) and Frank (5). Dedicated to Jack with gratitude and love.

**END**