

December 11, 2008

**For Immediate Release**

**Press Contacts:**

Julie McLeod

(805) 966-6950 dance@sbdancealliance.org

Erin J Smith

(805) 966-6950 erinjsmith19@yahoo.com



## **UPDATED PRESS RELEASE**

**Santa Barbara Dance Alliance presents**

**NEW WORKS: Santa Barbara Choreographers 2009**

**Breaking News:**

- Derrick Curtis to be honored with 12<sup>th</sup> Lifetime Achievement Award for contribution to dance in Santa Barbara on Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup> following the opening night performance. ( complete release will follow)
- Pre-performance showing of Tonia Shimin's film *Of Time and the Spirit*
- Cybil Gilbertson dances to live, original music with David Gunn and Valarie Mulberry, working together as "Fly to Blue."
- Nate Keezer, jazz drummer accompanies and interacts with dancers in Nancy Colahan's *Take Two*.

**Summary Facts:**

- NEW WORKS: Santa Barbara Choreographers, a dance concert of contemporary premieres presented by Santa Barbara Dance Alliance
- Friday through Sunday, January 9-11 at 8pm and Saturday, January 10 at 2pm
- Center Stage Theater, 751 Paseo Nuevo, Santa Barbara
- Choreographers: **Robin Bisio, Sidnie Charnaw, Nancy Colahan, Cybil Gilbertson, Nicole Helton, Misa Kelly, Erin Martinez, Delila Moseley, Matthew Nelson, Maria Rendina Frantz, Susan Shaberman, Tonia Shimin, and Emily Wheeler**
- Tickets are \$50 Patron, \$25 General, \$22 SBDA Members, \$20 Students/Seniors, all matinee tickets \$15.
- For tickets, contact the Center Stage Box Office at (805) 963-0408 or go to [www.centerstagetheater.org](http://www.centerstagetheater.org)

- For more information, contact Santa Barbara Dance Alliance at (805) 966-6950 or visit [www.sbdancealliance.org](http://www.sbdancealliance.org)
- Editors note: **High Resolution 300dpi photos available under “Press Kits” on the SBDA website.**

Santa Barbara, CA – Bringing fresh and sophisticated new dance works by local choreographers to life, this year’s NEW WORKS offers a cutting-edge artistic experience unique to Santa Barbara.

*The Meadow is Six Kisses Wide*, *Lucid is a fragmented dream*, and *Le Donne Della Terra* are just three of the exciting newly created dance pieces premiering at Santa Barbara Dance Alliance’s NEW WORKS: Santa Barbara Choreographers at Center Stage Theater on Friday through Sunday January 9-11 at 8pm with an additional matinee performance on Saturday January 10 at 2pm. SBDA will also present its 12<sup>th</sup> Lifetime Achievement Award to Derrick Curtis for contribution to dance in Santa Barbara dance at a reception following the opening performance on Friday, January 9.

In November, a panel of judges, all longtime professional dancers and choreographers, reviewed the record number of 21 original choreographic pieces and selected a final program of 13 pieces. These 13 choreographers from the Santa Barbara area will perform thirteen original takes on expressing the full spectrum of emotions through cutting-edge and inventive movement. Movement styles range from contemporary ballet to post modern, from solos to ensemble pieces, with inventive lighting design, interactive film and original 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](http://www.sbdancealliance.org). To purchase tickets, contact the Center Stage Box Office at (805) 963-0408 or visit [www.centerstagetheater.org](http://www.centerstagetheater.org)

Santa Barbara Dance Alliance is a unique service organization focused on promoting dance and dance education in Santa Barbara County. In addition to NEW WORKS: Santa Barbara Choreographers, SBDA presents year round performances, community events including the DaM Festival (Multicultural Dance and Music), BASSH: Ballroom, Argentine Tango, Swing, Salsa & Hip Hop at the Lobero March 13th & 14th, master classes in collaboration with UCSB Arts & Lectures and ON THE VERGE: Teen Choreographers Showcase. In the past five years, SBDA has awarded 99 scholarships to local, talented, dedicated young artists in need of financial support.

## Choreographers' Bios

**Robin Bisio** is a local filmmaker and choreographer. Her film *Aurora* received the Spirit Award for Experimental Films at the Washougal International Film Festival this summer. She choreographed for Santa Barbara Museum Nights and presented *Reign of Dreams* at the Sonoma Environmental Film Festival. Her site-specific dance *Divination by Flight* will be presented by the fallen trees at Mesa Lane Beach next spring.

Piece Info: ***The Meadow is Six Kisses Wide*** is a pastoral duet that Robin created after a spring time trip to the Italian countryside awash with wild flowers and singing birds. Dancers Cybil Gilbertson and Erika Klouman also dance with Santa Barbara Dance Theatre.

**Sidnie Charnaw** graduated from UCSB with a BFA in Dance and received scholarships at various dance conventions including Tremaine, LADF, and Co. Dance. She also won the Winston Hemsley memorial scholarship at Retter's Academy of Dance where she received her pre-collegiate training. Sidnie received the Corwin Award for choreography for *Both Psy'ds* and has had her piece *These Days* performed at the American College Dance Festival. She has worked with Holly Johnston in *Ledges and Bones*, Bradley Michaud in *Method Dance*, Santa Barbara choreographers Stephanie Nugent and Nancy Colahan, and collaborated improvisationally with Dr. James Ieraci in *Primavera* at UCSB.

Piece Info: ***Lucid is a fragmented dream***. Through structured improv, the dreamer realizes she is dreaming and explores the atmosphere of the dreamworld, its boundaries, and limitations.

**Nancy Colahan** has been a dancer and performer for over 35 years, recently retired from the stage with the culmination of the film *Of Time and the Spirit* directed by Tonia Shimin. Influenced primarily by the Romanoffs and Maggie Black, Nancy performed with Joyce Trisler, Lar Lubovitch, Baryshnikov in his White Oak Project, and American Repertory Dance Company. She teaches modern dance technique at UCSB.

Piece Info: ***Take Two*** is wrapped around drummer Nate Keezer, as performer, composer and central energetic persona with the dancers playing off his presence and phrasing.

**Cybil Gilbertson** studied at the Berkeley Conservatory Ballet and graduated from UCSB with a BFA in Dance where she received the Alice Condodina Performance Award. Cybil dances professionally with SB Dance Theater and has performed and collaborated with Robin Bisio/California Coastal Project, the LA Music Awards, Cirque Destino, Esalen International Arts Festival, the Monterey Dance Collective, and SB Museum Nights. In 2000, she was awarded the Profant Foundation for the Arts Award in Dance Performance.

Piece Info: About her piece, ***Skinny Long Legs***, Cybil says, "My aunt Barbara committed suicide after many years of struggle, mental illness, and addiction. This piece reflects the gratitude for the gifts she left behind and a personal account of my memory, childhood naivete, maturing confusion and the reality of death. When I was ten years old I visited her after a suicide attempt and she told me I saved her life with a letter. The dance reflects on our connection and contemplates healing the family lineage, by bringing light to darker patterns within the family of origin. This piece is performed with my father as we attempt to heal this wound together." Her father, David Gunn and Valarie Mulberry, working together as "Fly to Blue," provide the music live for the performance.

**Nicole Helton** received her BFA in Dance from UCSB. Trained in ballet, jazz, modern, aerial, and contemporary dance, she has created numerous works for the stage including *Collide* (2005) and *As We Are* (2008) featured in previous New Works. Nicole currently teaches dance at SB Dance Arts and for Fusion Dance Company.

Piece Info: ***disJOiNT*** deals with the emotional backlash of frustration and anger, challenging the audience to visit the darker side of human nature. Spencer of KJEE Radio arranged the music.

**Misa Kelly** holds an MFA from Cal Arts and is the Artistic Director and Founder of SonneBlauma Danscz Theatre. Her choreography has been showcased in Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Santa Cruz, Pacific Grove, the Monterey Dance Festival, and with both Meditative Dance and Cati in Istanbul. Misa 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, and SB Dance Theatre.

Piece Info: ***Something Sweet?***, a contemporary dance piece, honors the Kogi Indian's awareness that there is a spiritual counterpart to everything that has a physical manifestation on the planet.

**Erin Martinez** graduated from UCSB with a BA in Dance and Art Studio. She created *Living Inside the Box*, a forty-five minute, multi-media show for her senior honor's project and was a member of the UCSB student dance company. Upon graduation, Erin worked with Lux Dance in NYC where she performed at Triskelion Arts, Baryshnikov Arts Center, and has had her work featured at the Cunningham Studio. She is currently dancing with the Daughter of Zion Dance Company and is a collaborative artist for Nugent Dance.

Piece Info: ***Forget you, Forget me*** is an abstract piece combined with Erin's video installation about the loss of one's individual voice and the resulting feeling of powerlessness and detachment.

**Delila Moseley** holds a BA in Dance and an MA in Dramatic Art from UCSB where she is currently on faculty and directing the UCSB Student Dance Company. She has performed professionally in Los Angeles, New York, and throughout the United States on tour, working with Donald McKayle's Inner City Repertory Company, the American Heritage Dance Theatre, the Joyce Trisler Danscompany, and the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble. In 1997 she received the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lifetime Achievement Award from SB Dance Alliance and has choreographed for SBDA, SBCC, UCSB Division of Dance, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and the SB Civic Light Opera.

Piece Info: ***Estancia*** is a contemporary ballet piece inspired by music written about Argentine plains-ranches on the vast space and the vigor, strength, and loneliness of women.

**Matthew Nelson** started dancing at age 20 while a psychology major at Pomona College. He trained at American Dance Festival and privately in Philadelphia. Returning to the West, Matthew joined Jerry Pearson's Santa Barbara Dance Theater in residence at UCSB. Matthew holds an MFA in Modern Dance and an Integrated Movement Studies certification in Laban-Bartenieff Movement Analysis. He is currently teaching at SBCC, choreographing, and dancing with Santa Barbara Dance Theater.

Piece Info: ***Collaokus*** Modern, wave, motion, gesture, collapse. The work is based on wavelike perception of body.

**Maria Rendina Frantz**, Artistic Director of the *MotionTheatre* Dance Company, currently teaches contemporary dance at the Carrillo Recreation Center. She studied modern dance with Erick Hawkins, the companies of Martha Graham and Twyla Tharp, and choreography with Leonide Massine, Bessie Schonberg, June Lewis, and Pearl Lang. Maria danced professionally with Dance June Lewis & Co. and performed the choreography of Judith Leifer and Dan Wagoner, before founding Maria Rendina Performance Company in NYC in 1983. Maria is a professional actress who has worked in theater and film and is an innovator in the field of physical theater.

Piece Info: ***Le Donne Della Terra*** is a physical dance/theater piece that explores feminine themes of fertility, responsibility, and motherhood.

**Susan Shaberman** attended the National Music Camp in Interlochen, MI as a dance major. She went to college, married, and had three children before receiving a BA from UCSB and an MFA 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 choreographed and performed locally and abroad.

Piece Info: The Impressionist Movement in the arts was a time when photography had just been invented, and the focus of paintings shifted from royalty or religious subjects to the common man and everyday life. In this piece, *Impressions*, I am looking at the beauty and depth of a woman living an ordinary life, with all of its challenges and joys. It is surrounded by the inspiring sounds of the local church bells in Debussy's work *La cathedrale engloutie* (the cathedral engulfed).

**Tonia Shimin** performed with the Martha Graham Company and toured with the Jose Limon and Pearl Lang companies and as a soloist with Anna Sokolow's Player's Project, Mary Anthony Dance Theater, and Repertory West Dance Company. A recently retired Professor of Dance at UCSB, Tonia has also taught internationally and choreographed for UCSB, SB Dance Theater, New Works, and the VUS Company in Prague. Awards include an NEA Choreography Fellowship, an Individual Artist Award, a Cine Golden Eagle Award, and a Lifetime Achievement Award from SB Dance Alliance. Her award winning dance films include: *Mary Anthony: A Life in Modern Dance*.

Piece Info: *Of Time and the Spirit* is a meditation on the diverse and often magical world of a dancer reflecting upon her life in time and place.

**Emily Wheeler** graduated with a BFA in Dance from UCSB in 2002 and was a recipient of the Corwin Award for Choreography for her piece *Matter out of place-spitting dirt*. While living in New York, she trained with Daniel Charon, Terri and Olive Steel, and others. She danced with the San Francisco based New Urban Company and Benita Bike's Dance Art. She is currently in her fourth season with SB Dance Theater. In addition to *Back to Waiting*, this past year she choreographed *There will be snacks* for SB Dance Theatre's unplugged show *Voices* in April.

Piece Info: *Short Trip Home* is a modern dance work dealing with the juxtaposition between inactive waiting and frenzied directionless movement.

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