

New Works 2006

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EDITORS: Photographs and interview opportunities available. 300 dpi jpg photographs are available on line at www.sbdancealliance.org under Press Kits

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 1, 2006
Santa Barbara Dance Alliance Presents

NEW WORKS: 9 Santa Barbara Choreographers
Center Stage Theater- box office 805-963-0408
Friday- Sunday January 27, 28, 29, 2005 at 8 pm
general \$20, members \$17, patrons \$50

9th Lifetime Achievement Award

Patrick Davis has received this award for his contribution to dance in Santa Barbara.

Pedro Nava will present the award on opening night.

Previous Lifetime Achievement Awards: Julie McLeod, Delila Moseley, Andora Hodgin, Valerie Huston, Kay Fulton, Alice Condodina, Steven Lovelace, and Tonia Shimin.

Lifetime Achievement Award reception will follow the concert opening night. Join us for a glass of wine and meet the choreographers!

9 Choreographers:

Santa Barbara Choreographers present nine original works of contemporary modern dance, ballet, and jazz.

2005 Selected artists:

Robin Bisio

Nancy Colahan

Marcos Duran

Nicole Helton

Valerie Huston

Misa Kelly

J'aime Morrison

Ilana Morgan

Emily Proctor

*** 300 DPI PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE SENT IN THE NEXT E-MAIL

AND WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE BY JAN 9.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Santa Barbara, CA, January 1, 2006)

Santa Barbara Dance Alliance

will kick-off the 2006 season with its annual **NEW WORKS: 9 Santa Barbara Choreographers, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings, Jan. 27-29 at 8 p.m. at Center Stage Theater**. The concerts will showcase engaging and unique performances with new works in dance and performance art by nine select local choreographers. The creators have each accepted the creative challenge to take a risk.

In November, the nine choreographers [*see above*] were selected to have their work produced at the **NEW WORKS** concerts by an adjudication panel comprised of Kay Fulton, Mindy Horwitz, Janice Meaden, Maria Rendina Frantz, and Tonia Shimin, all experienced, long-time professional dancers. Opening night will be followed by the presentation of the **9 th Annual Lifetime Achievement Award** for contribution to dance in Santa Barbara to Patrick Davis. Assemblyman Pedro Nava will do the honors.

When witnessing a dance performance, most people are unaware of the hours of preparation, practice and discipline involved for the artists. Choreographers must delve into their history, personality, observations and perceptions to craft a new work. Body movements are designed to suit the unique character of each piece and each dancer. Sometimes the creative process comes quickly and spontaneously while at other times dancer's block sets in and the choreographer agonizes over a passage until suddenly it feels like the door opens! When the missing piece of the puzzle has been discovered, dancing through that door is exhilarating! Don't miss these special performances where the choreographers express the diversity of their imaginations through a variety of dance styles and innovations.

Patricia L. Frank, serves as lighting designer and Julie McLeod as production director.

9 th Annual Lifetime Achievement Award

Patrick Davis has been selected as Santa Barbara Dance Alliance's **9 th Annual Lifetime Achievement Award** winner for contribution to dance in Santa Barbara. Patrick has been the Executive Director of the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission since 1988, consistently championing the cause of arts management, arts education and public awareness rallying for the artists in this community. He has struggled to continue providing grants for local artist and help build spaces for the arts, including: Art from Scrap, Open Alternative School, the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation, Center Stage Theater, the Multi-Media Arts and Design Academy at Santa Barbara High School, the Veterans Building, Lompoc and Guadeloupe Theaters and continued local funding for the arts. He is currently working on a Community Arts Workshop space for Summer Solstice and other groups. Patrick says, "There is no reason why Santa Barbara can't be recognized as a world class, cutting edge arts city." The dance community is honoring his contribution that has enabled the dance community to thrive here.

Patrick will be honored after the opening night (Jan 27) of **SBDA's NEW WORKS** concert. Assemblyman, Pedro Nava will present the award, a "Martha" statuette designed by Ellen Riedel. The audience is invited to join in the

evening's celebration with a glass of wine after the concert.

NEW WORKS: 9 Santa Barbara Choreographers tickets are \$20 general admission, \$17 SBDA members,

& \$50 patrons. For tickets, call Center Stage Theater box office at 805-963-0408

or order tickets online at www.centerstagetheater.org. Visit SBDA website at www.sbdancealliance.org. or call Santa Barbara Dance Alliance at 966-6950 for information.

EDITORS: PHOTOS 300 dpi jpeg can be downloaded from our web-site www.sbdancealliance.org under "Press" or call Julie at 805-565-1332 to request photos or interviews.

NEW WORKS: 9 Santa Barbara Choreographers

Robin Bisio's (Santa Barbara) "O How They Fall", a solo for Cybil Gilberston, was choreographed on the island of Kauai. The dance was not designed in a studio but while Bisio was immersed in blue warm seas or sitting under a coconut tree gazing at the sacred craggy peaks of Anahola. The dance explores archeological evidence of falling stars, twigs, stones and petals in the dancer's cellular memory and was co-created by the dancer and choreographer. The costume is by Marlene Mason and original music will be played by Jim Connelly on bass and Laura Hackstein on violin.

Robin turned her creative energies to film after over a decade of creating Coastal Project a large-scale site specific dances in natural settings around town. Her films have been shown in film festivals in the US and Europe and will be seen in the upcoming Santa Barbara Film Festival. Her work has been seen in many Dance Alliance concerts and she won the 1995 Choreography Award from the Arts Fund.

Nancy Colahan's (Santa Barbara, UCSB) "Mini-Circular #2" is the second incarnation of an exercise in learning sensitivity towards one's fellow performers and discovering the incredibly potent and satisfying energy of dancing in a circle. Circular movement harkens back to early human concepts, and there is so much pleasure in sharing in a circular dance. This piece is offered to the sophomore class at UCSB- a wonderfully diverse and dedicated group of young dancing artists.

Nancy has performed internationally with major modern dance companies for 30+ years including; Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble, Joyce Trisler Danscompany, the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project, and the LA-based American Repertory Dance Company, and is on the Faculty of the Dance Department at UCSB, teaching modern and ballet technique.

Marcos Duran's (UCSB) "Fix" is a piece about relationship with the self and its reconciliation with the past, present and future. This piece is not necessarily intended to be entertaining, nor understood. "Fix" is performed in silence in order to allow the performers to follow their own internal rhythms. There will be 3 incarnations, one for each night; each a duet, one for a man and a woman, one for two men and one for two women.

Marcos is a senior BFA dance major and a member of the UCSB Dance Company. His work was seen in last years NEW WORKS concert and he has choreographed for the Inter Arts collaboration project, the Juniors' Dance Concert, and ALIGHT, the fall dance concert at UCSB. In July he presented a structured improvisation for Dance About Town, one of Santa Barbara's Summer Dance events.

Nicole Helton (Santa Barbara) created "Collide" based on the idea of "colliding." Its intrigue is based on the belief that no matter how singular or alone people feel, everyone crosses paths and are constantly "colliding" with other people. What happens when two people collide? Collisions are happening not just in interpersonal relationships but also in everything around us all the time. Robert Janeway wrote the music for this piece so it moves around aurally and collides in different areas of one's hearing capacity, breaks apart and comes together again.

Nicole has had works in SBDA concerts, Dance Alliance's ON THE VERGE: Teen Choreographers' Showcase and now for NEW WORKS. She has danced with Daughter of Zion and Indiana Dance Theatre.

Valerie Huston's (Santa Barbara, Goleta, UCSB) *Juxtapose* is an abstract work for nine dancers set to a powerfully rhythmic score "Stampede" by Lou Harrison. The composition of the dance takes several 12 count movement phrases and then deconstructs them, playing one form against another and redefining the stage space with each contrast of phrase. Vickie Scott, UCSB faculty, is creating lighting and scenic design for this piece and it is being performed by the UCSB Student Dance Company.

Valerie has performed in a number of NEW WORKS concerts, is on Dance Alliance's Advisory Board and won their lifetime Achievement Award in 1999. The Arts Fund of Santa Barbara gave her an Independent Artist Award in Dance in 1995. She directed the Valerie Huston Dance Theater, a ten-member professional contemporary ballet touring company based in Santa Barbara. She is the recipient of three National Endowment Fellowships in choreography and created works for Dance Peninsula Ballet, Naomi Iizuka's Theatre Lab and for Catherine Cole and Nicole Koon. She joined the UCSB dance faculty in 1983 and serves on the Board of Directors of the Ensemble Theatre Co.

Misa Kelly's (Santa Barbara) work "Tutu Head " shows four bodies in space expressing a passion for dancing as if there were no tomorrow. Her inventive and wild movement transports the audience to a different space.

Misa is the Artistic Director of SonneBlauma Danscz Theatre, & the Future Traditions Foundation, a non-profit. She has a degree in business economics/dance & earned an M.F.A from California Institute of the Arts. She is an accomplished visual artist and ombudsman and has shown works for Dance Alliance concerts.

Ilana Morgan's (Santa Barbara, Goleta) "Keeping My Story" examines the interplay of gesture and setting. With her distinctive use of time and dynamics, Ilana Morgan draws the viewer into her landscape- a living room, a chair, and a lamp. Performed to New Slang by The Shins, Ilana Morgan weaves contemplation with kept emotion.

Ilana has a BFA from Ohio University, danced in summer stock productions.

Since 2000, Ilana has worked for the Children's Creative Project as a resident dance artist in area public and private schools. She received a grant from the City of Santa Barbara to create an evening length concert, Heritage, in celebration of Women's History month. Ilana also contributed to the National Dance Education Organization's Research in Dance project as a researcher to help create a comprehensive database for research in dance education in America from 1926 to the present. Ilana is currently creating a set of solo works to incorporate into her Green Dress Project.

J'aime Morrison's (Santa Barbara, Northridge) new adaptation of Beckett's prose poem "Ill Seen Ill Said" a solitary woman inhabits a landscape of memory that brings her in touch with momentary glimpses of her past. Beckett's language conjures the images and objects that surround her as she moves toward her own end. It is elegant, glowing at times and at others mysterious, evoking an atmosphere of memory. A Japanese composer, Yashuti Kamata, created the music over a distance.

J'aime began dancing in Santa Barbara at the age of 4 and has worked as a choreographer for dance and theater in Ireland, Europe, New York and LA. She collaborates with Mabou Mines, an avant-garde theater company in New York, where she was an artist in residence from 1998-2003. She holds a Ph.D. in Performance Studies from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and currently teaches dance and performance in the Theater Department at California State University, Northridge. She holds a Ph.D. in Performance Studies from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and currently teaches dance and performance in the Theater Department at California State University, Northridge.

Emily Proctor's (Santa Barbara) "Resuscitate" is an exploration of breaking and creating patterns. It is about the human struggle of overcoming obstacles within one's self. This is a modern piece dealing with the unseen forces from within and the process of understanding them. She performs the solo attached to a rope that dictates, expands and restricts her movement.

Emily received her B.A. in Performance & Choreography from Connecticut College in 2001. In NYC from 2001-2003, she danced with Jeremy Nelson. Since moving to Santa Barbara in late 2003, she has danced with the Motion Theater Dance Co. and has been working with Stephanie Nugent. This past July she presented a solo piece, "Open" in the "Then Again" Concert at Center Stage, and was one of 3 local choreographers to present work in Summerdance's Dance About Town.

Santa Barbara Dance Alliance

Santa Barbara Dance Alliance celebrates 27 years of service to the dance community in 2006!

SBDA is a non-profit arts service organization whose mission is to foster, promote, and increase the awareness and quality of dance and other performing arts in Santa Barbara, and to bring the dance/arts community and its resources together. SBDA annually presents

- NEW WORKS: Santa Barbara Choreographers
- BASSH: Ballroom, Argentine Tango, Swing, Salsa & Hip-Hop (April 8-9)

- SANTA BARBARA DANCE DAY (April 23)
- ON THE VERGE: Teen Choreographer's Showcase (May 27)
- The Multicultural Dance & Music Festival (August 19 & 20)
- Master Classes with Julio Bocca (Bocca Tango), Alivin Ailey Co., Paul Taylor Co.

guest artists throughout the year in collaboration with UCSB Arts & Lectures.

- SBDA also publishes Dance Scene (a tri-annual newsletter)
- Serves as a clearinghouse for dance events in the community
- Provides scholarships for under-served young dancers.

Visit our web site at www.sbdancealliance.org.

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