

## SBDA NEW WORKS 2007 Press Release



### For Immediate Release

#### [High resolution 300dpi photos](#)

**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 12 – 14, 8 pm each night

**Who:** Choreographers Robin Bisio, Valerie Huston, Misa Kelly, Peter Cheng and Lindsey Shapiro, Janna Diamond, Adriana Mitchell and Taryn Wayne, Marcos Doran, and Stephanie Nugent.

**Public information number:** Center Stage Box Office, 805-963-0408 or visit online at <http://www.centerstagetheater.org>

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### ***New Works Premier at Center Stage Theater***

"Snake. Rattle. Roll," "Don't Have to Tell," and "Folly," 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 12 – 14, 8 pm, at Center Stage Theater. The Dance Alliance will also present its 10th Annual Lifetime Achievement Award at the opening performance

on Friday night.

Dances based on themes ranging from the tragedy at Abu Ghraib, to romance in medieval times, to the enjoyment of a new yellow paper tutu, showcase accomplished dancers in solos and ensemble pieces, beautiful and quirky costumes, and inventive lighting design. With its great facilities and comfortable new seating, Center Stage is the perfect venue to enjoy this evening of drama and humor.

In November a panel of judges reviewed live auditions and videotapes to select the program of eight pieces:

Mixing foolery with good sense, **Robin Bisio's "Folly"** is a solo danced with abandon by Erika Kloumann dressed in a wild yellow paper tutu.

A work for eight dancers, **Valerie Huston's "Concentric Incident"** portrays a relationship and mutual attraction in the dark environment of medieval times. It starts with early music (Canciones de Amigo and Santiago de Murcia codex No. 4 c. 1730) and curvilinear walking patterns that move into a circle dance Tarantella building to a mysterious conclusion.

**Misa Kelly** explores the tragedy of the events at Abu Ghraib prison in **"Lion's Fire"**, a collage of highly athletic movement, visual art and poetry to a sound track mix created by Stephen Kelly.

**"Don't Have to Tell"**, a duet by **Peter Cheng and Lindsay Shapiro's** illustrates inner struggle and loneliness juxtaposed with the comfort and passion of sensitive touch. It reminds us of hidden aspects in our lives we mask with fake smiles and nods, which, when unmasked resolve into inter-dependence.

**Janna Diamond's "Snake. Rattle. Roll."** was inspired by the numerous snake-like qualities in human beings. Exploring confrontation, vulnerability, and ultimately, the struggle for survival, four dancers coil, slither, rattle, and roll to fast-paced rhythms by Julia Wolfe. The UCSB Dance Company will show the piece in March at The American College Dance Festival in Montana.

**Andriana Mitchell and Taryn Wayne** have created a playful, spooky duet evoking Halloween type spirits and mischief.

**"Coma 4", Marcos Doran's** new work for 6 dancers, plays with fear, disorientation, inner confusion and frenzy to the music of Icelandic band, Sigur Ros.

**Stephanie Nugent's "Broken/UnBroken"** is an exploration of how individuals construct meaning out of bits of information and how, once broken, an idea, object or relationship, can never truly become 'unbroken'. With daring lifts and falls and numerous surprises, the work begins as a solo followed by a duet danced to music by John Cage.

Bringing new dance works to life is one of the many ways that Santa Barbara Dance Alliance meets its mission to promote dance and awareness of dance in Santa Barbara County. For more information and ways you can take part in the Santa Barbara dance scene, call Santa Barbara Dance Alliance 805 966-6950 and see our website [www.sbdancealliance.org](http://www.sbdancealliance.org).

For tickets to New Works and information, call Center Stage box office at 805 963-0408 or visit online at [www.centerstagetheater.org](http://www.centerstagetheater.org).

Artists' Bios:

**Robin Bisio** spent over a decade creating the Coastal Project a large-scale beach project involving local dancers and artists. Her films have been shown at festivals in the US and Europe and will be seen in the upcoming Santa Barbara Film Festival. Her choreography has been seen in many Dance Alliance concerts and she won the 1995 Choreography Award from the Arts Fund.

**Valerie Huston** is on the UCSB dance faculty. She has received three National Endowment Fellowships in choreography, has directed the Valerie Huston Dance Theatre, and is a guest teacher worldwide. She was awarded an Independent Artist Award for Choreography in 1995 by the Arts Fund in Santa Barbara and, in 1999, she was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award in Dance from Santa Barbara Dance Alliance.

**Misa Kelly** is the Artistic Director of SonneBlauma Danscz Theatre (founded in 1996) & co-founder & Executive Director of the Future Traditions Foundation. She has performed in the choreography of Christine Loizeaux, Christina McCarthy, Christopher Pilafian, & Tonia Shimin and has worked with the Mark Parisian Mime Troupe, James Donlon, Motion Dance Theatre, Smudges Performance Group, Santa Barbara Dance Theatre, & DPHS gymnastics team. She has received many awards & honors for her choreography and in the field of ombudsmanship having received international commendation for her writing, research, and Internet resources.

**Peter Cheng** began training at the age of 17 at UCSB and has danced in works by Tonia Shimin, Christopher Pilafian's and student works. He has presented works in SBDA's Teen Choreography Showcase. Peter has also trained with ODC Dance/San Francisco and Alonzo King Lines Ballet

**Lindsay Shapiro** studied modern dance with Shelby Curtis and ballet with Kathleen Burnett and trained with the Alvin Ailey summer dance program in New York. Now a senior at UCSB, Lindsay is the apprentice for the UCSB Dance Company and will graduate in spring with a BA in dance. She has performed in works by Nancy Colahan, Valerie Huston and with the UCSB Dance Company in 2006.

**Janna Diamond** has performed with Stephanie Nugent Dance, in works by Valerie Huston and Tonia Shimin, and with various artists in L.A. and NYC. She is a native of Los Angeles and a senior BFA Dance, a Political Science major at UCSB and a member of the UCSB Dance Company.

**Andriana Mitchell** is from Santa Barbara and taught at Dance Warehouse, graduated from Cal Arts and is currently dancing with a Los Angeles based company.

**Taryn Wayne** was a gymnast in her early years and then spent time as a professional ballet dancer at Pacific Northwest Ballet Company in Seattle, WA. She is currently a professional modern dancer, a certified Pilates Instructor, and a Master Reiki Practitioner.

**Marcos Doran** has just earned his BFA from UCSB's dance department and has had work shown in NEW WORKS for the past 2 years. He received the Mathew Plaskett Scholarship and the Patricia Sparrow Scholarship for summer study to attend the Doug Varone and Dancers Summer Workshop 2005. In 2006 he received the Corwin Award's Honorable Mention in Choreography, produced *In the Bedroom* - an evening length Honors Project in collaboration with choreographer Heather Carney, and toured with the UCSB Dance Company.

**Stephanie Nugent** is a choreographer, performer and educator with special interest in dance/theater and improvisational dance forms. She is Artistic Director of Nugent Dance, a vehicle for her creative work in solo performance and group choreography. Nugent is also a company member of Keith Johnson / Dancers, a performer with choreographer Victoria Marks, and is an Associate Professor of Dance at the University of California Santa Barbara, where she specializes in teaching modern dance techniques, improvisation, and contact improvisation. She holds a BFA from the North Carolina School of the Arts and a MFA from California State University -Long Beach. Nugent also currently serves as Vice President of Iridian Arts, Inc. and on the board of Santa Barbara's Center Stage Theater.

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