

SUMMER STAGES DANCE

AT CONCORD ACADEMY

News Release

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**SUMMER STAGES DANCE AT CONCORD ACADEMY PRESENTS
THE 2011 MEET THE ARTIST PERFORMANCE SERIES
AT THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART/BOSTON AND CONCORD ACADEMY
July 15-30, 2011**

CONCORD, Mass. - Summer Stages Dance at Concord Academy presents the **2011 Meet the Artist Performance Series**, featuring faculty and resident artists from this acclaimed summer dance festival performing their work and participating in conversations with the audience.

For the fifth year, Summer Stages Dance at Concord Academy (SSD/CA) and the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston (ICA) are collaborating to present dance at the ICA/Boston. Two performances explore the legacy of Bill T. Jones, one of the world's leading contemporary choreographers. On **July 15 and 16, *Summer Reunion*** brings together six choreographers - **Arthur Aviles, Alexandra Beller, Seán Curran, Lawrence Goldhuber, Heidi Latsky, and Andrea E. Woods** – all former stars of the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company who have gone on to their own successful choreographic careers to present short works from their repertory and discuss Jones' and Zane's influence on their work.

On **July 23, Alexandra Beller/*Dances*** premieres an intriguing new evening-length work, *other stories*, created with composer **Robert Poss**, founder of the legendary noise rock group Band of Susans, as part of the ongoing Co-Lab: Process + Performance Series.

Summer Stages launches its **15th Anniversary Celebration** with the **July 28** performance of the Philadelphia-based dance company **Illstyle & Peace Productions** at Concord Academy's Performing Arts Center. Named one of the top 10 dance performances of 2010 by the *New York Times*, prepare to be dazzled by a show the *Times* calls a "hip hop revue with killer dancing." This 20-member company presents the Boston debut of their thrilling *Same Spirit Different Movement*.

And, the festival returns to the ICA on **July 30** for **David Parker & the Bang Group's *Backward and in Heels***, a brilliant family performance that explores the use of humor and rhythm in dance by a true master of both! That same day, the performance series closes with a glimpse of the future - the **Choreographers' Project Showcase**, featuring original work by choreographer **Edisa Weeks** and the Choreographers' Project Fellows.

The Meet the Artist performances give audiences the chance to meet and engage in dialogue with today's leading contemporary choreographers and artists in an intimate and informal setting. *The New York Times* calls it "intelligent and thought-provoking," and *The Boston Globe* says "the Summer Stages Dance festival always packs a punch with stellar guest artists." For more information visit summerstagesdance.org, or call 978-402-2339

2011 MEET THE ARTIST PERFORMANCE SERIES

Friday July 15 & Saturday July 16 at 7:30 pm at ICA/Boston **Summer Reunion! Work by Alumni of the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company**

Presented in partnership with the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston

Summer Stages Dance at Concord Academy and the ICA host *Summer Reunion*, a once-in-a-lifetime event reuniting six alumni of the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company - Arthur Aviles, Alexandra Beller, Seán Curran, Lawrence Goldhuber, Heidi Latsky, and Andrea E. Woods. Now successful choreographers themselves, these artists look back at Jones's influence on a new generation of dance. The program presents short works by each of the alumni and a post-performance conversation about Jones's legacy.

Performances include:

Arthur Aviles Typical Theatre: *Elysian Fields* and *This Pleasant and Grateful Asylum*

Alexandra Beller/Dances: *egg*

Seán Curran Company: *Aria/Apology* (duet excerpts)

Lawrence Goldhuber/BigManArts: *Trellis* (Excerpt)

Heidi Latsky Dance: *Gimp* (Excerpt) 2010, and *Grace* (1989)

Andrea E. Woods/Souloworks: *Kujichagulia* (Self Determination) to the Max

Barbara Lee Family Foundation Theater, The Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston

\$25, ICA Members, seniors and students \$22 (with identification)

icaboston.org or summerstagesdance.org

Saturday July 23 at 7:30pm at ICA/Boston

other stories by Alexandra Beller/Dances with Composer Robert Poss

Commissioned by Co Lab: Process + Performance, a joint project of Summer Stages Dance at Concord Academy and the Institute of Contemporary Art/ Boston.

“Strong, deft, emotionally resonant.”—*The New York Times*

In choreographer Alexandra Beller's evocative and moving *other stories*, dancers combine word and movement to portray themes of love, betrayal and other intimate experiences. In this **Boston Premiere** performance, Beller looks at the impact of personal and cultural narratives on movement, engaging audiences in an exploration of how we live within our stories, and experience those around us. The work is accompanied by interactive sound designed by composer Robert Poss, founder of the noise rock Band of Susans, including live sampling through microphones placed on the bodies of the dancers.

According to Beller, “I believe that we store emotional, intellectual, psychological and spiritual material in our neuromuscular system, skeletal system, and in the energetic pathways of the body. The fallout from our lives, like flakes of snow in a snow globe, is suspended inside of us. I am working to find a way to describe our lives physically and emotionally, through unconscious storytelling.”

Co Lab: Process + Performance is a series commissioned and presented by the ICA and Summer Stages Dance at Concord Academy. Now in its second year, Co Lab brings together some of the country's finest artists in dynamic collaborations between visual arts, music, poetry and dance.

Following each performance, the artists share comments about the work and the collaboration, offering a unique look at the elements and practices that go into their creative process.

*Barbara Lee Family Foundation Theater, ICA/Boston, 100 Northern Avenue, Boston
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Thursday July 28 at 7:30pm at the Performing Arts Center, Concord Academy
Illstyle & Peace Productions: with Brandon "Peace" Albright

"[Illstyle & Peace] displayed some of the most dazzling breaking techniques I've ever seen, while Mr. Albright's choreography possessed a sly humor and an adept sense of spatial composition. Watching these dancers was like watching the greatest ballet virtuosos, each fighting gravity and the appearance of effort, and demanding and getting the impossible from the human body. They were fabulous." □ – The New York Times

Summer Stages kicks off its 15th anniversary celebration with a performance of Illstyle & Peace Productions (I&PP), named one of the Top 10 Dance Companies of 2010 by *The New York Times*. Based in Philadelphia, I&PP was founded in 2002 by Brandon "Peace" Albright, of Rennie Harris Puremovement, and Forrest "Getemgump" Webb of the Illstyle Rockers. The company creates work rooted in contemporary and old school hip-hop blended with an eclectic mix of dance and performance disciplines including tap, ballet, DJing and Beatboxing. They have toured to critical acclaim nationally and internationally and are committed to delivering a positive message to audiences young and old.

Watch Illstyle and Peace in motion!

*Performing Arts Center at Concord Academy, 166 Main Street, Concord
\$150 for performance + party tickets, \$50 performance only tickets.
For tickets and information, visit summerstagesdance.org or call 978.402.2339. Make it a complete experience and come early to picnic on the lawn!*

Saturday, July 30 at ICA/Boston at 12pm
David Parker & The Bang Group in 'Backward and in Heels'

FREE Family Event!

"[The] Bang Group is a dance company dedicated above all things to the sheer joy of dancing...and that joy is irresistible." -- theatreguide.london

Performing a suite of dances displaying The Bang Group's trademark rhythm and humor, Choreographer David Parker and his dancers will open up their process and show how they build humor out of rhythm and predicament using Velcro costumes, bubble-wrap, Chinese take-out, elbow grease, their voices and their own eight feet. A touchstone for the performance will be *Slapstuck*, Parker's iconic, award-winning dance for two men in Velcro costumes. In addition to the performances, there will be an interactive exploration of the company's improvisational work, wide-ranging use of percussive dance forms, and how they generate kinetic wit.

*Barbara Lee Family Foundation Theater, ICA/Boston, 100 Northern Avenue, Boston
Free tickets will be available on the day of the event only. Space is limited; first come, first served.
Co-presented with the ICA as part of their monthly "Play Date" Family Programs.
Please visit the ica.boston.org for details.*

Saturday July 30 at ICA/Boston at 3:30pm **Choreographers' Project Showcase**

Featuring new work by Edisa Weeks of Delirious Dances and Choreographers' Project Fellows

A showcase of new work developed by Summer Stages Dance Choreographers' Project Fellows and featuring an original piece by Edisa Weeks, performed by Summer Stages Workshop participants.

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Summer Stages Dance at Concord Academy works in partnership with leading artists to offer exceptional training that fosters skill and creativity, and performances that engage a discerning, ever widening audience for contemporary Dance. The SSD intensive workshop and *Meet the Artist Performance Series* have earned a distinctive reputation for the emphasis on mentorship and on the creation of new work, and for presenting leading contemporary dance artists in an acclaimed series of public events. The Workshop, July 10-30, takes place in a 2,500 square foot state-of-the-art dance studio space designed by award-winning architect Graham Gund on the campus of Concord Academy, an independent secondary school where the performing and visual arts are a central part of the curriculum. Public performances take place at Concord Academy's 400-seat Performing Arts Center (PAC), and at the stunning harbor front Barbara Lee Family Foundation Theatre at The Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston.

For information and tickets, visit summerstagesdance.org or call 978-402-2339.

For further information, interview requests, and high-resolution images please contact

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