

CORNISH IN THE COMMUNITY

A Year of Merce Cunningham

The Cornish College of the Arts Dance Department celebrated modern dance icon and Cornish alumnus Merce Cunningham (1919-2009) with a *minEvent* Project that spanned the 2010-11 academic year. Centered around the staging of a Cunningham *minEvent* (an uninterrupted sequence of excerpts drawn from Cunningham's choreography), project activities included performances, master classes, lectures, open rehearsals, curricular links, and community activities in partnership with local educational and cultural institutions. The *minEvent* project commemorated Cunningham's artistic legacy, honoring his creative partnership with composer John Cage and their association with Cornish.

The *MinEvent* project began with a September 2011 residency conducted by Patricia Lent, a member of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, 1984-93. During her residency, Lent staged the Cornish *minEvent* on students and created specific *minEvents* for each environment in which the dance would be performed, from proscenium theaters to museum galleries. Lent selected excerpts from three Cunningham masterworks for the Cornish *MinEvent*: *Roaratorio* (1983), *Fabrications* (1987), and *Enter* (1993).



Eliza Wiener, Autumn Oftedal, Amy Johnson, and Daniel Hammer in the Cornish Main Gallery. Photo by Michelle Smith-Lewis

In addition to staging the dance, Lent taught master classes to the College and Preparatory Dance Program students, and presented lecture-demonstrations and open rehearsals. The residency culminated in *minEvent* performances in the Cornish Main Art Gallery, in conjunction with the art exhibit



Eliza Wiener and William Christopher in a *minEvent* at Broadway Performance Hall during Fall 2010 Cornish Dance Theater.

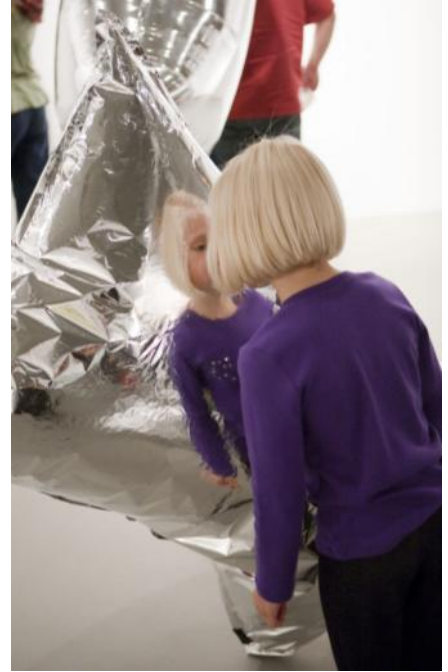
Cunningham in the Northwest featuring archival materials about Cunningham. The Cornish Music Department's Indeterminacy Ensemble performed the music of John Cage for this and subsequent performances on the Cornish Dance Theater Fall 2010 Concert at Broadway Performance Hall.

The *minEvent* project continued during the Spring 2011 semester with site specific performances at ACT - A Contemporary Theater, the Seattle Theater Group's historic Paramount Theater and the Seattle Art Museum, again with live musical performances. Performances and workshops were also presented at the Wing Luke Elementary School and Evergreen High School. Cornish alumna Holley Farmer, a member of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company from 1997-2009 and recent star of Twyla Tharp's *Come Fly Away*, visited the department in February 2011, teaching master classes to department students and directing rehearsals of the *minEvent*.

For the entire academic year, the *minEvent* project was supported by curricular explorations in all departments at Cornish College of the Arts and by a website, www.cornish.edu/merce, that provided details about the project and a historical context for those unfamiliar with Cunningham's work.

(Continued on page 3)

Merce Cunningham *minEvent* Project



Clockwise from top left
Patricia Lent rehearsing with the *minEvent* cast at Kerry Hall. Photo by Michelle Smith-Lewis

An audience member reflects on *minEvent* set pieces designed by Andy Warhol at a performance in the Cornish Main Gallery. Photo by Michelle Smith-Lewis

Performing with the Cornish Indeterminacy Ensemble in the Cornish Main Gallery. Photo by Michelle Smith-Lewis

Patricia Lent teaching a master class at Kerry Hall. Photo by Michelle Smith-Lewis

minEvent at Seattle Art Museum. Photo by Anne A. Lawrence

minEvent Rehearsal at Kerry Hall. Photo by Michelle Smith-Lewis

minEvent performance at Broadway Performance Hall during Cornish Dance Theater. Photo by Chris Bennion

CORNISH IN THE COMMUNITY

(Continued from page 1)

Patricia Lent was impressed with the scope of the project which expanded from a 3-week residency to a year-long celebration of Cunningham's legacy. She commented, "Cunningham invented the *Event* format in order to facilitate performances in nontraditional spaces. The Cornish project took this concept to its limit! The *minEvent* was performed in a variety of venues over the course of the year, including a gallery, a museum, a theater lobby, and a proscenium theater. Each venue presented new challenges for the dancers, developing their flexibility as performers and deepening their understanding of Cunningham's work and aesthetic."

The student cast of the *minEvent* recognized the experience as one that will influence the rest of their dance careers and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the project. Junior Sarah Butler said, "From the beginning of this project, I could sense that I was a part of something much bigger than itself. Since rehearsals were directed and run mostly

by artists who had worked closely with Merce in the past, there was a sense of history throughout and a responsibility in carrying on this history."

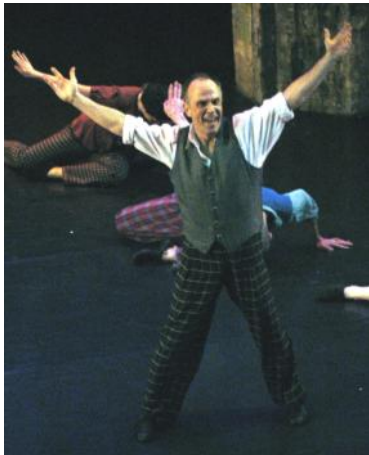
Dance Department Chair Kitty Daniels was pleased that the project provided students with a personal connection to their artistic heritage and lineage. "During the Cornish Gallery performance, I was moved to tears as I watched our students perform Merce Cunningham's choreography in front of photographs of Merce during his Cornish years. It was such a vivid demonstration of how learning the works of masters can help students connect the past to their present and future."

The Cunningham *minEvent* Project was made possible with support from the American Masterpieces in Dance program of the National Endowment for the Arts, The Boeing Company, PONCHO and the Bossak/Heilbron Charitable Foundation.

VISITING ARTISTS

Danny Buraczeski 2011 Residency

Nationally-recognized Jazz dance choreographer Danny Buraczeski will conduct a visiting artist



Danny Buraczeski in *The End*.
Photo by V. Paul Virtucio

residency in the Cornish College of the Arts Dance Department in October 2011. Buraczeski will stage *Swing Concerto*, teach master classes to the department students and present a lecture-demonstration to the community.

After a career on Broadway appearing in such musicals as *Mame* with Angela Lansbury and *The Act*

with Liza Minnelli, Danny Buraczeski formed the original New York City - based JAZZDANCE in 1979. Based in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis/St. Paul from 1992 to 2005, the company performed across the United States, Europe, Russia and the Caribbean.

Buraczeski's works for JAZZDANCE were commissioned by presenters such as the Walker Art Center, Bates Dance Festival, the Joyce Theater, American Dance Festival, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, and the Library of Congress. Buraczeski has also created works for The Boston Ballet, Ballet Memphis, and many repertory companies and universities across the nation. He has received multiple fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, and was the recipient of a 2003 McKnight Artist Fellowship in Choreography. He is currently a Professor of Dance at Southern Methodist University in Texas.

Rhythm and music drive Buraczeski's choreographic explorations, along with thorough research into the vernacular sights, sounds and environments of music and dance. *Swing Concerto* was premiered by JAZZDANCE in 1993. Set to the music of Artie Shaw, Louis Prima/Benny Goodman, and klezmer bands, the dance celebrates the movement and music of the swing era.

Funding for the Danny Buraczeski residency has been provided by the Bossak/Heilbron Charitable Foundation.

DANCE DEPARTMENT FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

2011 Teaching Excellence Award: Pat Hon

Professor Pat Hon received a 2011 Cornish College of the Arts Teaching Excellence Award. Three awards are given each year to outstanding Cornish faculty who are selected by the students in their department.

In addition to being honored at the college commencement ceremonies, recipients receive a monetary award.

Pat Hon has taught at Cornish College of the Arts since 1978. She teaches Ballet, Modern Dance and Pointe courses, and choreographs annually for Cornish Dance Theater. A core faculty member, she is integrally involved with her student's progress on a daily basis.



Professor Pat Hon with Cornish students in the Kerry Hall studios.
Photo by Colleen Dishy

The Dance students who selected Pat Hon for the Teaching Excellence Award recognized her passion for dance as well as her commitment to their artistic development. The student selection panel declared, "Pat demands excellence from her students. She has a natural ability to make her students work and paints a realistic picture of what it takes to make it in the dance world."

...She sees the potential in her students and pushes them to reach it."

Faculty & Staff News

Byron Au Yong developed work as part of the 2011 Sundance Institute Theatre Lab held at the Banff Arts Centre. His performances included *The Mother of Us All* (Spectrum Dance Theater, The Moore Theatre), two compositions as part of *Taiko Unleashed* (Portland Taiko, Newmark Theatre) and a revised score for *3Seasons/ReSet* (Whim W'him, Intiman Theatre). He taught workshops including *Seven Ways to Develop Material* (North American Taiko Conference, Stanford University) and *Chinese Drumming* (Regional Taiko Gathering, University of Washington). Additionally, Byron presented with T. Nikki Cesare at the *Staging Sustainability Conference* (York University, Toronto). He received the 2011 CityArtist Project Award.

Eric Chappelle created original music and sound design for Book-It Repertory Theatre's *Great Expectations*. He performed and created sound design for their *Cider House Rules*. He was the accompanist for Dance for Parkinson's Disease classes sponsored by Evergreen Hospital and Seattle Theatre Group.

Rhonda Cinotto taught Jazz master classes at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Kitty Daniels taught at the Dance Fremont 2011 Contemporary Summer Dance Program, and in the 2011 Mark Morris Dance Group Seattle Summer Intensive. Her dance, *Pantheon*, was restaged on

Fremont Danceworks. She serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Dance Medicine and Science*, and is serving as Vice-President of the Council of Dance Administrators.

Iyun Harrison created a new dance for the Ailey School's Summer Intensive in NYC and choreographed for Sonia Dawkins/Prism. He was the guest teacher for the Second Annual New York Connections Professional Repertory Workshop – 360 Degree Dance Company hosted by Dance Theater Workshop.



Katherine Murphy, Jessica Bagley, Babette McGeady, and Sarah Butler in *Pas de Quatre* by Anton Dolin, staged by Pat Hon.

DANCE DEPARTMENT FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

Pat Hon restaged a dance on the East Side Moving Company. She returned to her native Singapore to serve as a consultant and teach the faculty and staff at the School of the Arts during the summer.

Tonya Lockyer has been appointed as the new Executive Director at Velocity, the Pacific Northwest's hub for contemporary dance-based art. She had work featured at Chop Shop Dance Festival and will be a resident choreographer for Strictly Seattle Dance Festival this summer. Tonya taught master classes in Creative Process at Chop Shop Dance Festival, The University of Washington, and Smith College, MA. She will be teaching improvisation at the Seattle Festival of Alternative Dance this summer. As Project Coordinator for Cornish's year-long celebration of alumni Merce Cunningham, Tonya's writing on Merce was published in Cornish's *Involve* magazine and she gave public lectures on Merce Cunningham around Seattle, including at the Film Forum.

Ryan Love was featured on *Romeo + Juliet's* debut album *Month of May* (Zync Music). He finished recording a fourth album, *The Only Now*, with his band LEENi (Crunchy Co. Records), which also raised over \$7,500.00 for the Red Cross relief efforts in Japan. He performs regularly in Seattle with LEENi ([facebook.com/leenimusic](https://www.facebook.com/leenimusic) & iTunes), and has appeared at *The Controller Magazine vol. 2* launch party, Chop Suey, Georgetown Ballroom, and Neumo's. He also appeared in New York and L.A.

Wade Madsen performed in Dayna Hansen's *Gloria's Cause* in its On the Boards and Vancouver performances, and in a film that has evolved from that production. He taught in the Boulder Jazz Dance Festival. He has been commissioned to collaborate with Rita Giomi and the Seattle Children's Theater on the premiere of *Harold and the Purple Crayon*, which will tour to Austin and Minneapolis.

Lodi McClellan was a guest speaker for the University of Washington Dance Program's Senior Seminar, lecturing about her life in dance, and taught Dance History and Dance Criticism to Pacific Northwest Ballet's Summer Program students. She was Book Display Manager for the Dance Critics Association Conference.

Michele Miller performed at Velocity Dance Center's Fall 2010 Kick-Off Showcase. She taught master classes at Seven Star Women's Kung Fu and taught in the 2011 Strictly Seattle Summer Dance Intensive. She opened her own studio, SH/FT Movement and Healing Arts, in combination with Halfmoon Acupuncture and Pilate's new studio, and produced a weekend workshop with Sifu Michelle Dwyer from San Francisco on Northern Shaolin Kung Fu and Tai Chi Sword.

She adjudicated the 2011 BOOST! Dance Festival. She taught a Pilates Teacher Training course at her studio. She was the Artistic Advisor for Bruce Wong's MFA Thesis at Hollins University.

Alia Swersky performed with Salt Horse and presented choreography on the MID show. She is Co-Artistic Director of Dance Art Group, the producer of the Seattle Festival of Dance Improvisation.



Charlotte Smith and Sam Picart in *Honky Tonkin* by Wade Madsen.

Christine Weh is the Cornish Preparatory Dance Administrative Assistant. She's on the faculty at The Dance School in Everett and is enjoying watching her little girl grow into a one year-old!

Deborah Wolf was co-producer of the Men in Dance Festival, which presented her choreography and that of several Cornish faculty and alumni. She staged two works on the Bellingham Repertory Dance Company and created a new work on the East Side Moving Company. Deb was interviewed by Dance Magazine for their article, "Breaking Bad Habits."

DANCE DEPARTMENT ALUMNI NEWS

Working Together...

Cornish alumni are making their mark at Seattle's On the Boards venue. OTB's 2010 Northwest New Works Festival presented works by **Corrie Befort** (1999), **Amy O'Neal** of AmyO/tinyrage (1999), and **Rainbow Fletcher** (2004) and **Ezra Dickinson's** (2007) *The Offshore Project*, with performances by **Sarah Lustbader** (2010), **Julia Cross** (2010), **Jessica Jobaris** (1997) and **Jim Kent** (2005). The 2011 A.W.A.R.D. Show included alumni **Rainbow Fletcher** (2004), **Ezra Dickenson** (2007), **John Betchtel** (2006), **Jim Kent** (2005), **Marissa Niederhauser** (2002) and **Ellie Sandstrom** (2001). The December 2010 12 Minutes Max featured **Miranda Chisholm-Sims** (2010), **Alia Swersky** (1998) and **Kate Wallich** (2011).



Danielle Hammer, Whitney Hord, and Eliza Wiener in Deborah Wolf's *Crash of Days*.

Catherine Cabeen (2007), **Tim Lynch** (2005) and **Ezra Dickinson** (2007) choreographed for Spectrum Dance Theater's *The Variety Show*.

Corrie Befort's (1999) company Salt Horse presented excerpts from their full evening work-in-progress *Titan Arum* at Velocity's NextFest with performances by **Jessica Jobaris** (1997) and **Alia Swersky** (1998).

Velocity Dance Center presented *TenTiny (valentines) Dances*. Participants included **Corrie Befort** (1999), **Alia Swersky** (1998), **Ellie Sandstrom** (2001) and **Marissa Rae Niederhauser** (2002).

Molly Scott/Jarrad Powell Performance Group premiered *Home* in Seattle with performers **Jim Kent** (2005), **Jess Klein** (2001), **Ellie Sandstrom** (2001), and **Belle Wolf** (2008).

Here/Now concerts in Seattle included Cornish alumni **Marissa Rae Niederhauser** (2002),

Amy O'Neal (1999), **Jessica Jobaris** (1997), **Catherine Cabeen** (2007), **Ezra Dickinson** (2007), and **Ellie Sandstrom** (2001).

The 2011 Seattle Boost Dance Festival featured choreography by **Maya Soto** (2003), **Kate Wallich** (2011), **Christin Lusk** (2010), and **Alana O. Rogers**. Performers included **Karen Grady-Brown** (2006), **Teresa Hanawalt** (2003), **Anne Motl** (2003), **Lavinia Vago** (2010), **Natascha Greenwalt-Murphy** (2005), **Christin Lusk** (2010), and **Julia Cross** (2010).

Seattle's Alloy Dance Project and Dance Contemporary presented MELD. Performers included **Clarissa Espino** (2007), **Lilianna Koledin** (2007), **Sarah Glesk** (2006), **Tesee George** (2003), **Kara Burrows** (2006), **Karen Grady-Brown** (2006), and **Jessica Schroeder** (2007).

Darkhorse: A Choreographer's Showcase, featured choreography and performances by many Seattle Cornish alumni including **Tesee George** (2003), **Karen Grady-Brown** (2006), **Lilliana Koledin** (2007), **Jessica Schroeder** (2007), **Natascha Greenwalt Murphy** (2005), **Markeith Wiley**, **Anna-Lizette Conner** (2009), **Paul Montalvo**, **Elissa Eskridge** (2010), **Clarissa Espino** (2007), and **Sarah Glesk** (2006).

Evoke Production's Full Tilt 2010 included choreography by **Alana O'Farrell Rogers**, **Markeith Wiley** and dancers **Calie Swedberg** (2010) and **Julia Cross** (2010).

Soil Movement Collective members **Markeith Wiley**, **Elissa Eskridge** (2010), **Geoff Johnson** (2008), and Chris MaCallister presented their first show at Velocity Dance Center.



Deborah Corrales and Irene Folkerts in Steve Casteel's *Incite*.

DANCE DEPARTMENT ALUMNI NEWS



Elise Landles, Camryn Kelly, Kiana Harris, Katherine Shepersky, Katherine Murphy, Elise Walker, Arianna Lawson, and Aubrey Hallett in Rainbow Fletcher's *Refined Slang*.

1978

Dean Speer continues to teach for the Arlington School of Dance and Seattle Civic Dance Theatre, and guest taught at Fort Wayne Ballet (IN), New Haven (CT), and SW Washington Dance Center. He attended multiple signing events for his book *On Technique* which was excerpted in *Dance Studio Life*.

1981

Marian (Bengie) Santos has created several productions that explore Filipino American culture. She is currently working on a multi-media production celebrating life's journey and purpose.

1985

Nancy Burtenshaw performed in *Faith* with the Pat Graney Company in Seattle and Dallas.

1987

Rhonda Copeland opened In Step Dance Studio in Walla Walla, WA.

Kate Pagliasotti is an acupuncturist in Portland, OR.

1988

Aidan Thompson performed with Anne Mackesey and Danny Lepkoff in NYC while presenting her own choreography. After earning a MFA in Creative Writing from Mills College, she published two books of poems. She is currently completing a PhD in Literature at State University of New York at Albany, teaching classes in writing and literature.

1990

Sara Pickett is President of the Oregon Occupational Therapy Association.

1992

Valerie Kardonsky teaches Vinyasa Yoga in Seattle.

1993

Kristina Dillard was the project director and choreographer for *Break a Heart*, an evening of dances about love by nine Seattle choreographers, presented at Seattle's On the Boards. She received an artist residency at Centrum for a new work presented at Seattle's 2010 BOOST Festival. She directs the Mountlake Terrace City dance and fitness programs, and has choreographed community college musicals. **Jenny Eakes** does TV commercials and operates At Home Pilates in Los Angeles.

1994

Holley Farmer starred on Broadway in Twyla Tharp's *Come Fly Away*, garnering critical praise. She conducted a 1-week residency in the Cornish Dance Department, teaching classes and overseeing Merce Cunningham *minEvent* rehearsals.

Mark Haines teaches at Riverside Community College, CA.

Vanessa Gebers Wylie teaches dance in the Cornish Preparatory Dance Program.

1995

Beth Huerta is the Senior Program Associate at Dance Advance, one of the seven grant-making initiatives housed at the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage in Philadelphia.

Shane (Belau) Szabo co-directs Bodycenter Stott Pilates Studios in Seattle. She is a licensed Massage and DFA/Somatic Pattern Recognition practitioner.

DANCE DEPARTMENT ALUMNI NEWS

Gerard Theoret is touring internationally in Cirque du Soleil's *Saltimbanco*, playing the role of The Baron. His dance, *Crash*, choreographed on Northwest Dance Project, was presented at Seattle's Men In Dance Festival.

1996

Maria Rosman-Allison teaches at Pacific School of Dance in Coos Bay, OR.



Matthew Drews and LaTeisha Baek in *Honky Tonkin* by Wade Madsen.

1997

Alethea Adsitt is pursuing a Doctorate in Physical Therapy at Long Island University, and will be working with neurologically involved children in the NYC public school system upon graduation. She traveled to Les Cayes, Haiti in March to work in a rehab center as part of a volunteer medical team providing physical therapy services to earthquake survivors.

Michelle de la Vega is a visual artist, designer and welder in Seattle. Her work has been seen at the Seattle *Columbia City Gallery* and Bellevue Bellwether Art Walk.

Juliana Pearl-Beebe completed a Didactic Program in Dietetics at San Francisco State University last spring.

Alia Swersky presented work at Seattle Festival of Dance *Improvisation's Off the Cuff: Dance Innovators in Concert*. She teaches in the Cornish College Dance Department.

1999

Rachel Feinberg is the director of a small yoga studio in Brooklyn, NY. She teaches at the studio and in corporations.

Megan Knotz is performing with the Broken Clock Cabaret in San Francisco

Alianna Jaqua received a grant from King County's 4 Culture to produce her one-woman show, *34 Candles*, at Seattle's Rendezvous' Jewelbox Theater.

Noelle Stiles was awarded a Caldera Artist Residency in 2009 for *BLANKET*, created in collaboration with visual artist Danielle Kelly. *BLANKET* was presented at the 2010 Portland, OR PICA Time-Based Art Festival.

2000

Liz Cortez choreographed for Open Circle Theater in Seattle and performed in Lucia Neare's *Lullaby Moon*.

Christina McNeil is pursuing an MFA in Dance at the University of Washington.

Tara Mosier-Coker dances with Lineage Dance, based in Pasadena, CA.

Rebecca Smedley directs the dance course at Wycombe College in London, where she is also an acupuncturist. She is enrolled in the Masters in Dance Science at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance.

2001

Steve Casteel teaches dance in the Cornish College Preparatory and College Dance Programs, and at other Seattle studios.

Ashley A. Friend performed at Judson Memorial Church with Movement Research NYC.

Jeffrey Froome is a massage therapist and GYROTONIC® trainer in Seattle.

Rebecca Levy completed her MFA in Dance at CalArts.

2002

Kelly Anderson is Artistic Director of Rainier Ballet Academy. She is developing a new dance studio software management program.

Anne Motl presented choreography in a show produced by Dance Contemporary in Seattle. She continues to collaborate with NorthWest Dance Syndrome and is also dancing with Marlo Martin/bad marmar and Maya Soto/Soto Style. She teaches at Studio 1 and eXit SPACE School of Dance.

Marissa Niederhauser presented an installation series at Project: Space. She also performed in Degenerate Art Ensemble's *Sonic Tales*.

Tatiana (Margitic) Phillips is teaching Modern Technique and Contact Improvisation for UNC-Chapel Hill's modern dance company Modernextension in North Carolina.

DANCE DEPARTMENT ALUMNI NEWS

Jessica Zarins is a Feldenkrais Practitioner in Hollywood, CA, where she has been working as a contortionist, circus artist, and fire performer on the sets of music videos, commercials, television shows, and major motion pictures.

2003

Taylor Cathcart is pursuing an acting career in Los Angeles.

Elizabeth Dilley dances with John Passafiume in NYC and pursues an acting career. She has two feature-length films in production.

Benjamin Maestas is pursuing a Masters of Architecture at the University of Washington.

Trez McBean performed with Corrie Befort (1999) at the 2010 Northwest New Works Festival.

Maya Soto teaches dance at Evergreen High School Arts and Academics Academy in Seattle. Her solo performance venture Soto Style, examining the relationships among Street Dance styles, Breaking, and Modern Dance, has been featured in festivals throughout Washington, at Seattle's Pink Door Restaurant, the 2011 BOOST Festival, and Annex Theater.

2004

Bianca Cabrera dances with Kim Epifano and Ben Levy in San Francisco, where she choreographed for ODC Dance Common and is Artist in Residence at LevyDance's Studio Gracia.

Rainbow Fletcher is the Dance Director and Choreographer for Seattle's Can Can Castaways which performed at Bumbershoot, the Moore Theater, and Benaroya Hall. She co-directs The Offshore Project with Ezra Dickinson (2007). Their work was presented at the 2010 Northwest New Works Festival and placed as a finalist in Seattle's *The A.W.A.R.D. Show!* Rainbow choreographed for Coriolis Dance Collective and Cornish Dance Theater, and was included on The Stranger's Genius Awards Theater Shortlist.

Courtney Harris completed her MFA in Dance at Ohio State University and accepted a faculty position at Virginia Commonwealth University..

Stephanie Koltiska joined Apex Dance Company in Denver, CO.

Rachel Närhi teaches at Western Washington University where she has founded a dance preparatory program.

Kate Walker teaches at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas, and choreographs for local festivals and schools.

Tukwila Zimmerman teaches dance at Woodinville Dance Academy and performs with 127th St. Dance.

2005

Brian Devine is pursuing an MFA in Dance at Ohio State University.



Lavinia Vago, Kelton Roth, Danielle Hammer, William Christopher, Sarah Butler, Ingrid Porter, Eliza Wiener, and Katherine Bing-Borella in *Fitter. Happier. More Productive.* by Tonya Lockyer.

DANCE DEPARTMENT ALUMNI NEWS

Yula Montoya directs and teaches in a Norwegian-funded curriculum and professional development project at the National School of Dance in Maputo, Mozambique.

Paige Phillips is pursuing an MFA in Dance at Ohio State University.

Christine (Sandstrom) Weh is Administrative Assistant for Preparatory Dance at Cornish College of the Arts, and teaches at The Dance School in Everett.

2006

Gia Enriquez is completing pre-med courses with the goal of becoming an orthopedic surgeon.

Cassie Geremia teaches in Napa Valley, CA.

Jamie Karlovich danced in Seattle's *Full Tilt 2011*, and teaches at Seattle's All-That-Dance.

Brenna Pierson-Tucker danced with *Against the Grain Dance Project* in Chicago and is Co-Artistic Director of *Esoteric Dance Project*, the Chicago-based company she has created with fellow Cornish alum,

Christopher Tucker (2006).

Pilar Villanueva presented *Inside* and *A Drop of Soul* in Madrid.

2007

Catherine Cabeen performed her own collaborative work this year in group shows in Dar Es Salaam, New York, Santa Fe, Taos, Albuquerque and Seattle. Catherine Cabeen and Company presented an evening-length work, *Into the Void*, at Seattle's On the Boards, and performed a full evening of repertory at the Joyce Soho, NY. Catherine was the Emerging



Babette McGeady and Brent Kehoe in Ilyn Harrison's *Meeting Ground*.



Charlotte Smith and Sam Picart in *Honky Tonkin* by Wade Madsen.

Choreographer at Bates Dance Festival and performed with Richard Move in *Martha @....*.

Ezra Dickenson co-directs The Offshore Project which produced *The Buffoon* at On the Boards Northwest New Works Festival. Ezra also performed in Ten Tiny Dances in Tacoma and Beyond The Threshold Seattle International Dance Festival. His choreography was featured in The Variety Show at Seattle's ACT Theatre.

Tonya MW Goodwillie directs and teaches at Allegro Performing Arts Academy, in Kent, WA

Jessica Schroeder is the Event/Volunteer Coordinator at Town Hall Seattle.

Paula Peters completed her MFA in Dance at the University of Washington.

Rochelle Rapaszky is the Community Education Programs Assistant at Pacific Northwest Ballet.

Zhenjun Zhang teaches dance in Seattle and Everett, WA.

2008

Whitney (Owens) Aguirre teaches a women's community dance class in Seattle to support an anti-trafficking organization.

Kim Almquist teaches Pilates and creates work for Banana Peel Dance with Aaron Draper in Brooklyn.

Katie Bruce is completing an MFA in Dance at University of California Irvine!

Jessica Finn performed in the Annual New York Amalgamate Artist Series and in a PRIDE flash mob.

Lindsay (Bickford) Johns dances with Sixth Day Dance Company and teaches at Reflections School of Dance.

Nicholas Strasburg dances with several companies in the San Diego area.

Brittany Schank is an administrative assistant in the Cornish Admission Office.

2009

Lacey Carter is pursuing her MFA in Dance at Mills College, CA.

Anna-Lizette Conner's company SCRATCH dance debuted in a production at Seattle's Erickson Theater and in SOIL at Velocity Dance Center. She performs with **Alana O. Rogers'** Company and with **Marisa Haga** (2009).

DANCE DEPARTMENT ALUMNI NEWS

Cady Cox danced with Contemporary Dance Wyoming in Jackson Hole and is now dancing in Portland, OR with Agnieszka Laska Dancers.

Jessica Gorbaty is pursuing a K-12 Dance Teacher Certification at Tulane University in New Orleans where she will be teaching high school dance at Chalmette High School.

Elizabeth Malone performed with Seattle's ARC Dance.

Elisa Reed performs with Scorpius Dance Theatre and Dulce Dance Company in Phoenix AZ.

2010

Julia Cross teaches in Seattle at the American Dance Institute and Lowell Elementary School, continuing the program in which she participated during her Cornish course Teaching Creative Movement. She performed with SOIL Movement Collective, Kate Wallich and Lavinia Vago, Greener Grass Dance Project, and RandAll Dance.

Ben Dominick is pursuing stage combat training and certification.

Maia (Lassen-Purser) Erickson is a member of Bellingham Repertory Dance. She teaches at The Dance School in Everett, WA.

Elissa Eskridge performed with Boom! Theater Company in Seattle.



Aubrey Hallett and Elise Landles in Rainbow Fletcher's *Refined Slang*.

Sarah Lustbader performs in New York City and Seattle with Catherine Cabeen and Company, and with JD/Dansfolk in NYC. She is pursuing a GYROTONIC® certification.

Molly Sides joined the Portland, OR company tEETH.

Lavinia Vago has been accepted to Springboard and Northwest Dance Project Summer Intensives.

Chastity Wilson teaches dance in the Tacoma area, and performs with the Barefoot Collective.



Chantael Duke, Whitney Hord, Alannah Pascua, Baylee Reynolds, Jeanette Male, Emilie Hagen, Stephanie Wynant, Aubrey Hallett, Devon Sasaki, Babette McGeady, Ingrid Porter, Megan Stewart, and Sally Kreimendahl in *Luscious Chutney* by Nancy Cranbourne.

SUMMER DANCE NEWS

Residential Summer Students Dive into the Seattle Summer Arts Scene

Summer Dance 2011 at Cornish College of the Arts welcomed students in pre-college classes exploring Music, Art, Design, Dance and new class offerings in Drama. Cornish's Residential Housing positioned summer students in the heart of the city and offered visiting students a full roster of morning and afternoon



Amy Johnson, Autumn Oftedal, and Kelton Roth in Tonya Lockyer's *Fitter. Happier. More Productive.*

classes, chaperoned evening activities, and independent studio time to continue work on portfolios, choreography, or collaborative projects with other summer students.

Cornish College and Seattle Theater Group in collaboration with the Mark Morris

Dance Group auditioned and accepted twenty-four students for the launch of the first West Coast Mark Morris Dance Group Summer Intensive. Students trained with company members, learned Mark Morris Repertory, and participated in a final showing. The six-day workshop celebrating the legacy of Seattle's own Mark Morris was a great compliment to a beautiful summer.

Cornish's three week Dance College Preparation Intensive helped prepare future dance majors for the college application process. Dancers choreographed



Megan Stewart, Carla Negrete Martinez, LaTeisha Baek, and Sally Kreimendahl in *Honky Tonkin* by Wade Madsen.

solos, trained with Cornish faculty and guests, and experienced interdisciplinary collaboration with Art and Theater students.

The Teen Dance Intensive and Pre-Teen Dance Intensive were attended by students from the greater Seattle area and California. Introductory, Beginner and Creative Movement intensives offered focused study for younger dancers seeking strong technical training and a fun summer camp experience.

Summer Dance offered drop in classes in Ballet and Modern and a Musical Theater intensive to build strong performance skills. Students left this summer with new perspectives on their art forms, a Cornish tote, and lifetime friends. Join us next summer for Cornish College of the Arts summer programming 2012.



Kaitlin Keegan and Danielle Hammer in *Crash of Days* by Deborah Wolf

PREPARATORY DANCE PROGRAM

Preparatory Dance News

The Cornish Preparatory Dance Program continues to provide training with the goal of ensuring that all students experience the joy of movement and develop a lifelong appreciation for the art of dance. We continue to build a program that supports the complete dancer by offering a diverse curriculum including Ballet, Modern, Pointe, and rotating genres such as Jazz, Musical Theater, Spanish Dance, and Composition. Throughout the year, we feature seminars in nutrition, injury prevention and foot care, and encourage continuing discussions with our dancers, helping them identify their strengths, address challenges, and progress confidently towards a future in dance.

In 2010-2011, we were able to offer our students master classes with Patricia Lent and Holly Farmer (Cunningham Dance Company), Iyun Harrison (Alvin Ailey II), Summer Lee Rhatigan (London Festival Ballet, National Ballet of Canada, SF Opera Ballet, Lines Ballet, Oakland Ballet, and Director of San Francisco Conservatory of Dance), John Passafiume (Summer Dance Lab, John Passafiume Dancers), Patricia Barker and Alexandra Dickenson (Pacific Northwest Ballet), Edmund Stripe (Ballet Master, Alberta Ballet), and Lauren Grant (Mark Morris Dance Group).

The Cornish Junior Dance Company presented *The Nutcracker* at Shorecrest High School once again, an event that has become a December tradition. Students from Primary through Advanced levels delighted audiences with their enthusiasm and heart at two sold-out shows.

The 2011 Cornish Junior Dance Company Spring Concert was held at Shorewood High School in May. Steve Casteel (former Houston Ballet soloist, and current Cornish College and Preparatory Dance faculty) premiered *Simple Symphony*, a beautiful ballet about romance and relationships. Paula J. Peters (former Spectrum dancer, Cornish alum, and University of Washington graduate student) created the delightfully jazzy, humorous, and youthful *Rainy Day Recess*. Markeith Wiley, (Cornish alum and burgeoning Seattle choreographer) presented *Architecture*, a work created while studying in the Dance Department at Cornish College of the Arts. Kathleen McCormick, Director of the Preparatory Dance Program, set the classical *Dance of the Hours*, as well as *Twink*, challenging the young dancers musically, spatially, and theatrically.



Aja Belcher-Velez, Aya Bisbee, Lillie Brown, Jenna Comstock, Monica Harris, Katy Spencer, Abbey Starling, and Olivia Vasquez in *Rainy Day Recess* by Paula J. Peters. Photo by Colleen Dishy

Student Highlights

Former Preparatory Dance students are making their mark! **Sara Beery** has joined Armitage Gone! Dance, **Aaron Loux** recently joined the Mark Morris Dance Group, and **Christian Poppe** is currently studying at the School of the National Ballet in Toronto, Canada.

Congratulations to our Graduating Seniors!

Lily Cryan - Simon Fraser University
Kayla Dorvel - Arizona State University
Aixa Loor - TBA
Julia Wohlstetter - Bennington College

Summer Dance Intensives our Students are Attending:

Mark Morris Dance Group Summer Dance Intensive at Cornish College of the Arts, Summer Dance Program at Cornish College of the Arts, Dance This (Seattle Theater Group), ARC (Seattle), Summer Dance Lab at Whitman College, Long Beach Ballet (CA), Walnut Hill's Summer Dance Program (MA), Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Burklyn Ballet Theatre (VA), and Los Angeles Ballet



Kayla Dorvel, Tong Yuan Douville, Grace Gedye, Deepa Liegel, Madeline McHale, and Julia Wohlstetter in *Architecture* by Markeith Wiley. Photo by Colleen Dishy

DANCE DEPARTMENT CALENDAR OF EVENTS FALL 2011

Danny Buraczeski Residency

October 10 - 21

Events open to the public. Free Admission.

Classic Jazz Dance:

Celebrating the Vernacular

October 21, 12:15pm-1:15pm

Raisbeck Performance Hall

2015 Boren Ave, Seattle, WA

Lecture demonstration by Danny Buraczeski.

Open rehearsal

October 21, Time TBA

Kerry Hall, Studio 300

710 East Roy Street, Seattle, WA

Open Cornish Dance Theater rehearsal

directed by Danny Buraczeski.

Cornish Dance Theater Fall 2011 Concert

November 18 at 8pm

November 19 at 2pm and 8pm

Broadway Performance Hall, 1625 Broadway

Admission \$10 general. \$5 students, seniors & Cornish alumni

Choreography by Danny Buraczeski, Pat Hon, Wade Madsen, and Jason Ohlberg. Site specific event choreographed by Alia Swersky.

New Moves Concert 2011

December 9 at 8pm

December 10 at 2pm and 8pm

Erickson Theater, 1524 Harvard Ave

Admission \$5 general. \$3 students, seniors & Cornish alumni

Choreography by Dance Department students

Cornish Junior Dance Company presents

The Nutcracker

December 18, Time TBA

Shorecrest High School Auditorium

15343 25th Avenue NE, Shoreline, WA



Kelton Roth and William Christopher in *Fitter. Happier. More Productive* by Tonya Lockyer.

Tickets can be purchased in advance through the Cornish website at www.cornish.edu/events

PONCHO Concert Hall and Kerry Hall Dance Studios are located on the Cornish College of the Arts Capitol Hill Campus at 710 E. Roy St. 98102

Cornish Dance Department Auditions

On campus auditions are held
November 2011 through March 2012

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Dance Department Open House
November 18
Kerry Hall Dance Studios

Off-campus auditions will be held September through March in Idyllwild, CA; Los Angeles, CA; Riverside, CA; San Francisco, CA; Denver, CO; Interlochen, MI; Minneapolis, MN; Dallas, TX; and Houston, TX.

Please contact the Office of Admission
at 1-800-726-ARTS
for more information about applying to
Cornish College of the Arts

DANCE DEPARTMENT CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING 2012



Sarah Butler, Katherine Murphy, Jessica Bagley, and Babette McGeedy
in *Pas de Quatre* by Anton Dolin, staged by Pat Hon.

B.F.A. Dance Concerts 2012

Program 1: February 16-17 at 8pm
Program 2: February 18 at 2pm and 8pm
Program 3: February 23-24 at 8pm
Program 4: February 25 at 2pm and 8pm
Broadway Performance Hall, 1625 Broadway
Admission free (but ticket required for entry);
ticket reservations will be available online at
www.cornish.edu/events in mid-January.
Senior thesis performances

Cornish Dance Theater Spring 2012 Concert

April 27 at 8pm and April 28 at 2pm and 8pm
Broadway Performance Hall, 1625 Broadway
Admission \$10 general. \$5 students, seniors &
Cornish alumni
Choreography by Rhonda Cinotto, Iyun Harrison,
Deborah Wolf and TBA.

Terpsichore's Landing 2012

Date, Times TBA
PONCHO Concert Hall
710 East Roy Street, Seattle
Admission Free
Choreography by Dance Department students

Cornish Junior Dance Company 2012 Spring Concert

May 19, Time TBA
Erickson Theater, 1524 Harvard Ave

Preparatory Dance Program End of Semester Performance 2012

June 1-2, Time TBA
PONCHO Concert Hall
710 East Roy Street, Seattle, WA
Free to student families and friends

Summer Dance Program 2012

June - August
Kerry Dance Studios, 710 East Roy Street
Visit www.cornish.edu/summer

To Purchase Tickets For Any Cornish Dance Department Performance

visit www.cornish.edu/events
or purchase your tickets at the box office
which opens one hour before each
performance.
All tickets are general admission.

Event information is also available on the
Cornish Events Line:
(206) 726-5011
or at www.cornish.edu/events

Tickets for the BFA Concerts will be
available starting in January 2011 at
www.cornish.edu/events

To reach the Cornish
College Dance
Department
call (206) 726-5079
or email
dance@cornish.edu



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Babette McGeady, Brent Kehoe, Kaitlin Keegan, Alex Betka, and Katherine Murphy in *Meeting Ground* by Iyun Harrison. Photo by Chris Bennion.