



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 20, 2007

Cornish College of the Arts presents Cornish Dance Theater Spring 2007 Concert

SEATTLE, WA – Cornish Dance Theater, the performing ensemble of the Dance Department at Cornish College of the Arts, is pleased to present the Spring 2007 Concert featuring choreography by Daniel Cruz, Courtney Harris, Wade Madsen, Amy O’Neal, and Gérard Théorêt.

Cornish Dance Theater Spring 2007 Concert

Friday, April 13 at 8 pm and Saturday, April 14 at 2 pm * and 8 pm

**There will be an informal question and answer period following this performance.*

Broadway Performance Hall, 1625 Broadway Avenue, Seattle

Choreography by Daniel Cruz, Courtney Harris, Wade Madsen, Amy O’Neal, and Gérard Théorêt

Tickets: \$10 general; \$5 students, seniors & Cornish College alumni

Tickets available at Ticket Window at 206.325.6500, www.ticketwindowonline.com or at Ticket Window box offices located at Broadway Market, Pacific Place, Pike Place Market and Bellevue’s Meydenbauer Center

Images available upon request.

About the Performance

The concert includes 5 dances that showcase the work of guest choreographers Amy O’Neal and Daniel Cruz and Cornish faculty members Wade Madsen, Gérard Théorêt and Courtney Harris. Amy O’Neal has crafted a rhythmically complex piece that she describes as humorous and filled with fun, intricate partnering and is performed to live music by Zeke Keeble of locust. Using hip hop, funk and break dance moves, Daniel Cruz creates different images of a car’s dashboard including the speedometer, temperature gauge and radio. Wade Madsen presents a new work, titled *Time* that is set to music by Robert Normandeau. When conceptualizing the groundwork for the piece, Madsen was inspired by *Einstein’s Dreams*, a book by Alan Lightman. Gérard Théorêt’s piece is staged at a dinner party where dancers perform atop a banquet table and sing, speak and play the flute. Courtney Harris will present *Conqueror Worm*, a ballet inspired by select poems by Edgar Allan Poe and set to the haunting scores of Michael Galasso, John Adams, Arvo Pärt and Morton Feldman.

Artist Bios

Daniel Cruz

Daniel Cruz has danced for the artists Prince, Ashanti, *NSync and Michael Jackson and with choreographers Wade Robson, Brian Friedman, Fatima, Margueritte Derricks, Tabitha & Napoleon, on stage, television, commercials, and video. Cruz was in the national tour of the Broadway show, *Fame: The Musical* and also on the cast album. He has appeared and served as Dance Captain in numerous productions at the 5th Avenue Theatre, Village Theater, and Eastside Musical Theater. Cruz has also choreographed for the Sonics Dance Team, Seahawks Half-Time Shows, Microsoft, Nordstrom, the Paramount Theater, Moore Theater, Tacoma Dome, Key Arena, EMP, KIRO, KCPQ and KUBE. Recently, he was the assistant choreographer for the 5th Avenue Theater’s production of *Pippin*.

Courtney Harris

Courtney Harris trained at the Dallas Ballet and Houston Ballet Academies under Vivi Flindt, Nathalie Krassovska, Clara Cravey, and Steve Brule and in 1993, she was honored as a Presidential Scholar of the Arts. Harris was a member of the Houston Ballet from 1993 to 1999 where she performed an extensive repertoire of both classical and contemporary ballets and worked with several noteworthy choreographers, including Jiri Kylian, Christopher Bruce, and past artistic director Ben Stevenson. She also performed and toured with Carlos Acosta & Stars of the Houston Ballet. Upon her retirement from her ballet career and moving to Seattle, Harris performed with both Deborah Wolf and Wade Madsen. In 2000, she received her Pilates certification through the Physicalmind Institute and she currently instructs at Momentum Pilates and Movement Studio. A summa cum laude graduate with a BFA in Dance from Cornish College of the Arts, she earned honors at the American College Dance Festival for her choreography during her studies. Since 2003, Harris has been teaching in the Cornish Preparatory Dance Program as well as choreographing for the Cornish Junior Company.

Wade Madsen

Professor Wade Madsen has been teaching at Cornish College of the Arts for over twenty years where he has premiered nearly twenty dances for Cornish Dance Theater. Madsen has also been producing and performing his own work in Seattle since 1977 with his company, Wade Madsen and Dancers. A former member of the Bill Evans Dance Company and Tandy Beal & Company, Madsen has received choreographic grants and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Washington State, King County, and Seattle Arts Commissions, Artist's Trust, and Allied Arts. His work has been produced in Seattle by the Allegro! Dance Festival, On the Boards, Bumbershoot, Rockhopper Dance, and Composer/Choreographer. He has also performed with various dance groups in Seattle, including Spectrum Dance Theater, d-9 Dance Collective, DanceWorks Northwest, and Co-Motion Dance. His acting credits include *Threshold*, *Crocodile Tears* and *The Notebooks of Leonardo*, a film that was co-produced by the Seattle Repertory Theatre and Chicago's Goodman Theater. He earned his BA from the University of New Mexico and continues his growth as a teacher and dancer by participating in workshops and by performing, choreographing and teaching with various companies and colleges throughout the country.

Amy O'Neal

Amy O'Neal is the co-director of locust, a music/dance/video company in Seattle. She holds a BFA in Dance from Cornish College of the Arts and teaches contemporary dance and funk at Velocity Dance Center. She has also taught and/or conducted residencies at the University of Washington, University of Idaho, University of Oregon, Lane Community College, Northwest Vista College and at Cornish College of the Arts. Her work has been commissioned by Spectrum Dance Theater, Moving Current, and Seattle Theatre Group where she collaborated with Sonia Dawkins and Savion Glover. She has performed with Pat Graney, Scott/Powell Performance, Mark Haim, musician/comedian Reggie Watts, and was the lead singer of the Seattle band Marrow for 3 years. For locust, Amy has received funding from the Seattle Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, DanceWEB, the Mary Levine Fund, Artist Trust, 4 Culture, the Bossak/Heilbron Charitable Foundation, the NEFA, the National Performance Network, and the Creative Capital Foundation. In 2007, Amy will be in residence at Idaho State University, Texas Women's University, the Bates Dance Festival, and she will also tour with locust.

G rard Th or t

Cornish Professor G rard Th or t has been performing, teaching, choreographing and directing classical and contemporary styles of theatre and dance for over 25 years. He has worked for stage, film and television and has worked with world renowned directors and choreographers including Hal Prince, Agnes de Mille, Hans van Manen, John Neville, Ann Reinking, and Gillian Lynne. Th or t has danced in principal roles with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and has acted on London's Young Vic Theatre and Canada's Stratford Festival stages. He served as Ballet Master for the International Opera Federation in Japan and also served as Associate Resident Director for *The Phantom of the Opera* for six years. He is on faculty and has been Associate Director on productions of The Banff Centre's *Opera As Theatre Program*. In Seattle, he has choreographed for Spectrum Dance Theatre, ARC Dance Productions and the *Festival of Men In Dance* of which he is also a founding member and co-producer. Professor Th or t teaches Ballet, Ballet Partnering, Male Technique and Jazz at Cornish College of the Arts.

About Cornish College of the Arts

Cornish College of the Arts provides aspiring artists with the educational opportunities to become professionals in their fields. The College offers Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in Art, Dance, Design,

Performance Production and Theater, and a Bachelor of Music degree. It is one of three private colleges in the United States focusing on both the performing and visual arts, and the only college of its kind in the Northwest. The College is accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design and has a national reputation for its faculty, curriculum, and student performance and exhibition opportunities.

Since its founding by Nellie Cornish in 1914, Cornish College of the Arts has contributed to the nation's cultural and intellectual heritage through its alumni and faculty. Historically, these figures include choreographers and dancers Merce Cunningham, Martha Graham, Syvilla Fort and Bonnie Bird; composer John Cage; painters Mark Tobey, William Cumming, and William Ivey; photographer Imogen Cunningham; educator Calvin B. Cady and broadcaster Chet Huntley, to name just a few. More recently these figures are joined by Brendan Fraser (film actor), Patrick Haskett (painter), Steve Jenson (sculptor), Paul Owen Lewis (illustrator), Lois Rathvon McCarter (dancer/choreographer), Eviind Kang (violinist/composer), Jarrad Powell and Joshua Kohl (composers). And, the College continues to represent the Northwest's largest concentration of professional artists dedicated to instruction.

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