



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 25, 2008

**CORNISH COLLEGE OF THE ARTS PRESENTS
CORNISH DANCE THEATER SPRING 2008 CONCERT**

*Choreography by
Courtney Harris, Pat Hon, Alex Little, Wade Madsen and Michael Rioux*

SEATTLE, WA – Cornish Dance Theater, the performing ensemble of the Dance Department at Cornish College of the Arts, is pleased to present their Spring 2008 Concert.

Cornish Dance Theater Spring 2008 Concert

Choreography by Courtney Harris, Pat Hon, Alex Little, Wade Madsen and Michael Rioux

Friday, April 25 at 8pm

Saturday, April 26 at 2pm & 8pm

Broadway Performance Hall, 1625 Broadway Avenue, Seattle

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

Tickets can be purchased through Ticket Window at 206.325.6500, at www.ticketwindowonline.com or at Ticket Window box offices located at Broadway Market, Pacific Place, Pike Place Market, Bellevue's Meydenbauer Center.

About the Performance

The Cornish Dance Theater Spring 2008 Concert includes five dances that showcase the work of guest choreographers Alex Little and Michael Rioux, in addition to Cornish faculty members Courtney Harris, Pat Hon and Wade Madsen. Pat Hon's *Five Etudes* is a ballet on pointe set to music by Alexander Scriabin and Karol Szymanowski. First premiered in 1985, *Etudes* is a study of speed and romantic lines and features pas de deux and ensemble sections. Inspired by 60s and 70s funk, Wade Madsen's *What is Hip?* invites the audience to experience a dance party with fun music by Nina Simone, Sharon Jones, and Laura Nyro. Michael Rioux's piece - *alone, in a room, together* - is a modern dance piece set to original music by Mikhail Kaschock. Rioux's choreographic process is largely founded in collaboration and improvisation techniques. Courtney Harris' dance is about the Canadian pianist Glenn Gould and his life philosophies. Harris uses four quotes by Gould to inspire this contemporary ballet. Set sometime between the 1940s and 1960s, Alex Little's jazz dance, with music by Charles Mingus, Duke Ellington, Paris Combo and Sonny Criss, follows a group of women through dating rituals at a night club as they spend an evening out on the town.

Please note: the Saturday, April 26 matinee performance will be followed by an informal question and answer period.

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Biographies

Courtney Harris was a member of the Houston Ballet from 1993-99 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 retirement from her ballet career and moving to Seattle, Courtney performed with both Deborah Wolf and Wade Madsen. Courtney trained at the Dallas Ballet and Houston Ballet Academies under Vivi Flindt, Nathalie Krassovska, Clara Cravey, and Steve Brule. In 1993, she was awarded a Presidential Scholar of the Arts Honoree. Courtney received her Pilates certification through the Physicalmind Institute in 2000. 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. Courtney has been teaching in the Cornish community since 2003, working with students in the Preparatory program and college and choreographing for Cornish Junior Company and Cornish Dance Theater.

Pat Hon performed extensively for 10 years with ballet companies in France, Austria, Spain, and Germany. In 1983 she received the National Endowment for the Arts' Choreographic Fellowship and since then has choreographed for the Atlanta Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet's Summer Inventions, Singapore Ballet, Ballet Concerto of Miami, Goh Ballet in Canada, Federal Ballet Company of Malaysia, Ballet Petit, and for dancers competing in the International Ballet Competitions in Jackson, Mississippi. Before coming to Cornish in 1978, she taught at the Morelli Studios in New York and in Florence, Italy. Pat began studying ballet at the age of 10 in her native Singapore and continued her studies at Rosella Hightower's Centre de Danse Classique in France. She also studied Flamenco and Classical Spanish dance in Madrid, Spain, and performed with the foremost Spanish dance company, Antonio and his Ballets of Madrid, before coming to New York to attend the Joffrey School and the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance. She has been teaching for 30 years as Professor in the Dance department at Cornish College of the Arts.

Alex Little, a native of Seattle, lived and worked in Los Angeles for eight years before returning to the Pacific Northwest this past fall. She has been a featured performer in numerous Los Angeles shows and Industrials, including the annual *Tarbell Realtor Awards Show* for the past five years, for which she was also the Head Choreographer for the dancers, singers, larger-than-life puppets and in-line skaters. Alex was the assistant choreographer and featured performer for a television special called *The Radio Hour with the Young Americans*. At Knotts Berry Farm, Alex was a guest choreographer for *It's Christmas*, *Snoopy* and *The World According to Snoopy*, both full production figure skating shows. Female figure skater Amber Crowin's short program, performed at the National Ladies Figure Skating Championship January 2005, featured Alex's choreography. Alex teaches and choreographs all over the country and Canada, and recently she traveled to Gibraltar, UK as their guest of honor. Alex has taught and performed with the Young Americans' Outreach Tours in Australia and New Zealand, and directed two tours in Germany. Alex teaches, choreographs and coordinates the *International Dance Festival Dance Excellence!* event annually and is also a faculty member of the convention *LA DanceSource*. In addition, she choreographs and performs with Interweave Dance Theater, while teaching at the Boulder Jazz Dance Workshop every summer. Alex was featured in an article titled *Pro Portrait: Alexandra the Great* in the August 2005 edition of Dance Spirit Magazine. She is thrilled to be working with Cornish College of the Arts this Spring.

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Professor **Wade Madsen** has been teaching at Cornish college of the Arts for over 20 years and has premiered nearly 20 dances for the college dance company. He continues his growth as a teacher with various workshops and performances throughout the country. Wade has been producing and performing his own work with his company Wade Madsen and Dancers in Seattle since 1977. A former member of the Bill Evans Dance Company and Tandy Beal & Company, Wade 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. Wade has performed, choreographed, and taught for various companies and colleges throughout the country. His acting credits include "The Notebooks of Leonardo," co-produced with the Seattle Repertory Theatre and Chicago's Goodman Theater, as well as the films "Threshold" and "Crocodile Tears." He earned his BA from the University of New Mexico.

Michael Rioux is a visual and performing artist living and working in Seattle. Rioux hails from Chicago where he began his career with River North Dance Chicago. He has also danced with The Chicago Ballet, Luna Negra Dance Theatre, Mordine & Co. Dance Theatre, Nandanse, Lucky Plush Productions, Same Planet Different World, The James Kelly Choreography Project, and Jump Rhythm Jazz. In 2001 Michael founded Impetus Dance Theater and served as Artistic Director and resident choreographer for four years. His choreography is in the repertoire of Mordine & Co., Instruments of Movement, The Chicago Dance Crash, Lehua Dance Theatre, and Gus Giordanos Jazz Dance. Michael has been on faculty at Lou Conte Dance Studio, home of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, the school of Spectrum Dance Theatre, and currently is teaching at Velocity Dance Center.

To request images or receive additional information on the Cornish College of the Arts Spring Events Calendar, please contact Meike Kaan or Beth Fleenor (see info above) or visit www.cornish.edu.

About Cornish College of the Arts

Cornish College of the Arts, founded by Nellie Cornish in 1914, 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 Commission on Colleges and Universities, and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

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