



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 29, 2005

CORNISH DANCE THEATER SPRING 2005 CONCERT

Friday, April 15 at 8 pm; Saturday, April 16 at 2 pm & 8 pm

Choreography by José Limón, Peter Kyle, Wade Madsen and Gerard Théorêt

Broadway Performance Hall, 1625 Broadway Avenue, Seattle

Produced in collaboration with the Performance Production Department.

Tickets: \$8 general, \$4 students and seniors & Cornish College alumni.

Tickets can be purchased through Ticket Window at 206.325.6500, www.ticketwindowonline.com or in person at Ticket Window's box offices located in the Pike Place Market, Harvard Market, and Bellevue's Meydenbauer Center.

For information, please call 206.726.5011.

SEATTLE, WA – Cornish Dance Theater, the performing ensemble of the Dance Department at Cornish College of the Arts, is pleased to present its Spring 2005 concert. With works ranging from the classical to the contemporary, the concert includes work by faculty choreographers Wade Madsen and Gérard Théorêt, and guest choreographers José Limón and Peter Kyle.

A program highlight will be José Limón's "Suite from A Choreographic Offering", restaged by Limón authority Gary Masters. Originally premiered in 1964 at the American Dance Festival, "A Choreographic Offering" was created as a tribute to Limón's mentor Doris Humphrey. It contains variations, paraphrases and motifs from fourteen Humphrey works and is set to "Musical Offering" by Johann Sebastian Bach. The Cornish Dance Theater production of "Suite from A Choreographic Offering" will present excerpts from the hour-long work. Reconstructor Gary Masters joined the Limón Dance Company as a dancer in 1969. The originator of many roles in the Limón repertory, he later served as associate artistic director of the company. In 1994, he created Limón West Dance Project, the company's West Coast training center and ensemble. Masters is a key reconstructor for the Limón Institute, and has staged Limón's choreography around the globe. A renowned choreographer himself, Masters has received choreographic fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Arts Council Silicon Valley. His choreography has been commissioned by the Limón Dance Company, Diablo Ballet, Nashville Ballet and Dance Kaleidoscope, among others; Masters also created dances for the Mathews Masters Dance Company in New York. He is currently a member of the Dance faculty at San José State University and Co-Artistic Director of sjDANCEco.

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In his new work, Faculty choreographer Wade Madsen examines love's many nuances. His sensual ensemble piece explores the joy, pain and power that accompany infatuation. 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, the Seattle Arts Commissions, Artist 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. A Cornish College of the Arts faculty member since 1985, Madsen received the Dance Department's Outstanding Teacher of the Year award in 2002.

"The Regional Balkan Touring Dance Theatre Ensemble IV- An Evening of Mixed Repertoire Excerpts" is Gérard Théorêt's farcical look at an eastern block performance troupe. The tension and hilarity unfold as dancers claw their way to the top fighting for coveted star positions. A former soloist with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Théorêt trained at The Drama Studio in London, and has acted on stage and for film and television. In Seattle, he has performed with Spectrum Dance Theater and choreographed for ARC Dance Productions, and Men in Dance. He received his BFA in Dance from Cornish College of the Arts, and holds a Teaching Diploma from the Canadian College of Dance in Toronto.

Inspired by the cataclysmic variable binary star systems Epsilon Eridanus, Tennessee Williams' short story "Saud" and e.e. cummings' poem, "I like my body when it is with your body", Peter Kyle examines the partnership and pursuit of synchronicity between bodies in his new piece for Cornish Dance Theater. Incorporating an ever changing duet offset by a chorus, he uses sweeping movement that forces dancers to share their weight in an attempt to maintain verticality. Since 1990, Kyle has performed internationally with numerous dance companies including Murray Louis and Nikolais Dance, Erick Hawkins Dance Company, Gina Gibney Dance, Works/Laura Glenn Dance, Dance Alloy, and Chamber Dance Company. He performs annually with Mark Morris Dance Group, and his own choreography has been seen locally and nationally since 1993. Kyle joined the faculty of the University of Washington Dance Program in 2000, where he serves as Lecturer. He earned his BA in Dance and German Area Studies from Kenyon College in 1990 and his MFA in Dance from the University of Washington in 1996.

Images available upon request.

ABOUT CORNISH COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Cornish College of the Arts is the premier, accredited arts college in the Northwest, inspiring the highest standards of artistic and academic excellence. Founded in 1914 by Nellie Cornish, Cornish College is the only private, accredited college in the region offering baccalaureate degrees in visual and performing arts. Cornish College offers a Bachelor of Music and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in art, dance, design, theater and performance production. Uniquely, Cornish College provides a rigorous educational environment for the cultivation of technical mastery, artistic integrity and practical knowledge. The faculty at Cornish is comprised of practicing master artists and professional educators, renowned in their respective fields. The college maintains a low student to faculty ratio, allowing for individualized teaching and mentoring. Cornish College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

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Over the years, Cornish has hosted a parade of important artists in the roles of students, teachers or as visiting artists-in-residence, including John Cage, Merce Cunningham, Martha Graham, Ping Chong, Kenny Werner, Obo Addy, Mark Morris, Meredith Monk, Rinde Eckert, Bebe Miller, Ruth St. Denis, Ted Shawn, Robin Holcomb, Chet Huntley, Syvilla Fort, Ralph Towner, Thornton Wilder, Lou Harrison, Bill Frisell, Morris Graves, Jane Ira Bloom, Kraig Patterson, Musicians Accord, Bun Ching Lam, Brendan Fraser, Myra Melford, Sharon Isbin, Joanne Brackeen, Oliver Lake, California Ear Unit, Colorado Quartet, and Gary Peacock, among others.

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