



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 26, 2003

**CORNISH COLLEGE AND LEGENDRE PERFORMANCE GROUP
PRESENT BLUESPACE**

SEATTLE, WA – Cornish College of the Arts and the LeGendre Performance Group are pleased to present *BLUESPACE (a nod to the staircase)*. Performances are Friday, October 17, Saturday, October 18 and Sunday, October 19 at 8 pm, at Velocity MainSpace Theater, 915 East Pine Street, 2nd floor, in Seattle. Tickets are \$14 at the door, \$12 with advance reservations and \$10 for students, seniors and Cornish College alumni. Call 206.726.5151 x1018 for ticket reservations.

BLUESPACE is the culmination of "From the Studio to the Stage," an innovative partnership between a professional modern dance company, LeGendre Performance Group (LGPG) and the Dance Department at Cornish College of the Arts. The project offers advanced college dance students the opportunity to work directly with a professional choreographer and her company, learning first hand about professional expectations and realities while experiencing the rigorous investigations of the creative process at a professional level.

BLUESPACE includes the premiere of *Pluto Water*, a collaboration between LeGendre Performance Group and Cornish College of the Arts. "*Pluto Water* looks at the phenomenon of 'metaphysical leaking' - how we hold personal and historic events under our skin, and how and when these histories covertly and overtly leak out to others," explains Amii LeGendre, founder of LGPG. Also on the program is *Coney Island*, originally choreographed by LeGendre in spring 2003 for Cornish Dance Theater, the performing ensemble of the Cornish College Dance Department. In *Coney Island*, LeGendre captures a sense of nostalgia and awe for Carnivals and 'Freaks.' Drawing creative inspiration from the images of photographer Diane Arbus, the work seeks to recover the essence of lost times, spaces and sensibilities. The concert will also include *The Lottery*, a piece which looks at our "lot" in life. Choreographed in a time of war, the work was sparked by a process of asking questions about our own responsibilities as Americans, about our fractured identities regarding who and what an American actually is, and dealing with the unspeakable luck and horror of being cast as American in this particular lifetime. The work is loosely informed by Shirley Jackson's classic short story by the same title.

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An independent choreographer, dancer, and teacher, **Amii LeGendre** founded the LeGendre Performance Group in 1994. The company has received critical acclaim for LeGendre's intricately layered choreography and innovative collaborations with visual, music, and theater artists. LeGendre's choreographic process is deeply influenced by the principles and aesthetic of contact improvisation; her company works and creates material in a lab environment in which improvisation is used as a primary language with which to discover and discuss relationship, gravity, subtext, narrative, and other materials. LGPG has performed at numerous locations locally, regionally, and nationally, including several International Festivals in Ecuador. LeGendre teaches courses in modern technique, improvisation and composition at Cornish College of the Arts, and is a regular faculty member at Velocity Dance Studio in Seattle. She holds a BA in Dance and Religious Studies from Connecticut College.

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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.

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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