

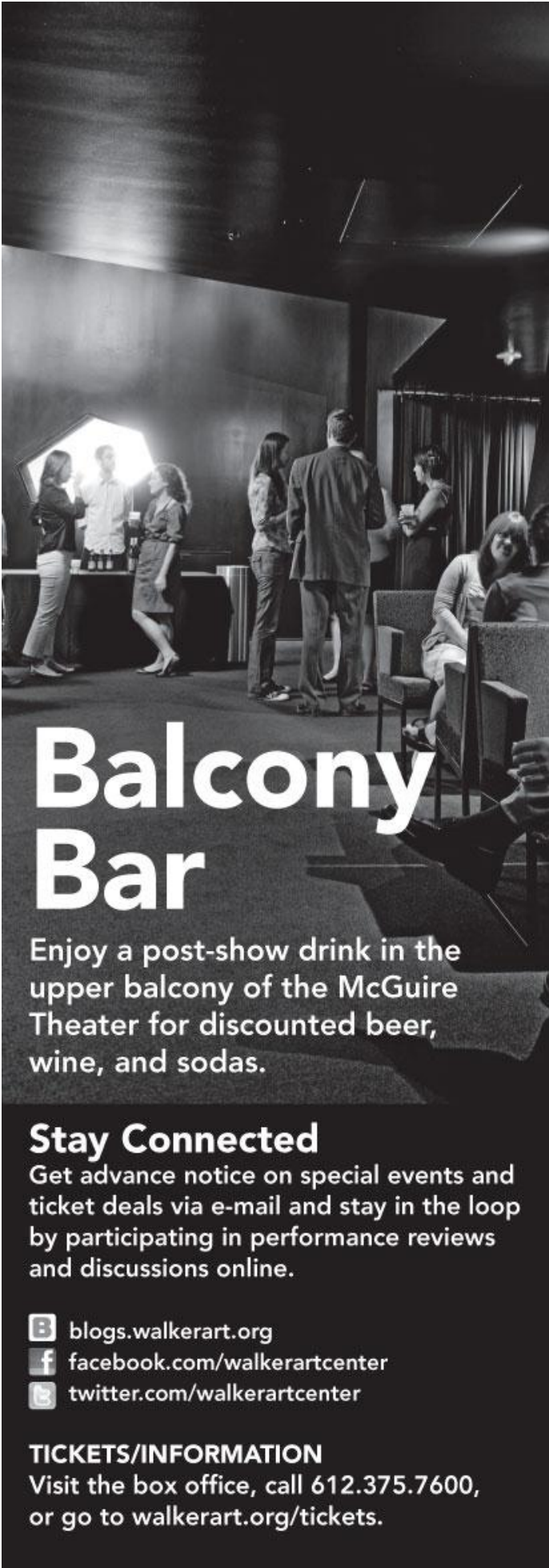
The Walker Art Center presents

# **Choreographers' Evening** **Curated by Susana di Palma**

Saturday, November 27<sup>th</sup> 2010, 7:00 & 9:30pm

McGuire Theater





# Balcony Bar

Enjoy a post-show drink in the upper balcony of the McGuire Theater for discounted beer, wine, and sodas.

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## TICKETS/INFORMATION

Visit the box office, call 612.375.7600, or go to [walkerart.org/tickets](http://walkerart.org/tickets).

## CHOREOGRAPHERS' EVENING

Curated by *Susana di Palma*

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Whitney McClusky & Fodé Bangoura

James Sewell

Giselle Mejia & Dario Mejia of Curio Dance

Christ Up Dance Crew

SuperGroup

Paulino Brener

Gerry Girouard & Rebecca Abas

Jim Lieberthal

John Munger

Carl Flink & Black Label Movement

Peter O'Gorman

Alanna Morris

Luke Olson-Elm

## NOTES FROM THE CURATOR

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'Tis the season to celebrate traditions. The Walker Art Center's Choreographers' Evening has been part of my seasonal ritual since its beginning 38 years ago... (Yes, I attended the very first incarnation of this event as a mere child.) Through these decades, CE has been a unique and inspiring evening where dance epitomizes the unification of this community's soul and body. Being curator this year is indeed a treasured honor for me.

This summer's auditions brought out close to 60 choreographers whose impressive works made the job of choosing just thirteen performances an agonizing challenge. I am pleased that the dance selections presented to you tonight comprise a dazzling kaleidoscope of movements from many cultures, whose visions are expressed by dancers who range from seasoned performers to neophytes. What is common to all the dances you will see tonight is a profound sense of sacred celebration... one that I fervently hope will carry with you throughout this magical season and beyond. Let the dance continue forth....

—*Susana di Palma*

## PERFORMANCE & BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

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### **Whitney McClusky & Fodé Bangoura**

#### ***La Ronde des Sons***

Choreography: Whitney McClusky & Fodé Bangoura

Dancers: Whitney McClusky, Cynthia Matthews, Fatim Bangoura

Music: Fodé Bangoura

Drummers: Fodé Bangoura, Fara Bangoura, Dan Handeen, Mamady Sano, Mangué Sylla

A protégé of the late, great Mohamed Kemoko Sano, Fodé Bangoura is now an internationally recognized artist and one of the most respected and sought after drummers of his generation. Born in Conakry, Guinea, he has worked with acclaimed ensembles such as Les Merveilles de Guinée and Les Ballets Africains, and was the resident drummer for the Alvin Ailey School in NYC. In addition to teaching in Japan, Europe, and the U.S., Bangoura has toured with Sekouba Bambino, Sekouba Kandia Kouyate, and Les Ballets Africains and performed with respected African dance leaders such as Youssouf Koumbassa, Mamady Sano, and Djoniba Mouflet. He has appeared in venues as diverse as MTV, Lincoln Center, Walt Disney World, and The Apollo Theater and in 2007 was the featured guest artist at Imanga Bette Doho, a drum and dance conference in Milan, Italy. He has recorded with numerous groups including Phish and Badenya and in 2007 released a personal tribute album to his family's history, *Fakoly*.

Whitney McClusky began learning African dance at the Djoniba Dance and Drum Center, NYC and has since studied with master dancers Djoniba Mouflet, William Atchouellou, Mamady Sano, Marietou Camara, and Youssouf Koumbassa. McClusky has performed with Les Gitanes under the direction of William Atchouellou since 2001 and has choreographed for Dance in the Dark, Black Choreographers' Evening, B-Girl Be, and Elements in Translation. She has studied intensively in Senegal with Yama Faye (2003) and in Guinea with Fodé Bangoura and Les

Ballets Africains (2008). McClusky is the founder and director of Duniya Drum and Dance, a grass roots organization established in 2009 whose mission is "to build a diverse community in support of the arts of the African Diaspora, specifically drum and dance."

Bangoura and McClusky collaborated in 2008 to organize the First Annual Fakoly Dance and Drum Project in Minneapolis, a week of master drum and dance classes with guest artists from Guinea, and together have offered residencies, weekly classes, and performances in the Twin Cities and beyond.

### **James Sewell**

#### ***Bodypuzzle***

Choreography: James Sewell

Dancer: James Sewell

Music: Q-Burns Abstract Message

James Sewell was a lead dancer with Feld Ballets/NY for six years and has performed as a guest artist with the New York City Ballet. He has choreographed more than 70 ballets for companies in the U.S. and around the world. Projects include the New York City Ballet's Choreographic Institute, the NY State Council on the Arts grant to create *Independence In Dependence* for Feld Ballets/NY; *Aida* (1998) for the Minnesota Opera and 11 other opera companies; *She Loves Me* (2005) and *1776* (2007) for the Guthrie Theater. Sewell received a Bush Foundation Artist Fellowship (2002), a Choo-San Goh Award for Choreography from the Choo-San Goh and H. Robert Magee Foundation (2006), and a McKnight Artist Fellowship for Choreography (2007).

### **Giselle Mejia & Dario Mejia of Curio Dance**

#### ***Search for Country***

Choreography: Giselle Mejia & Dario Mejia

Dancers: Giselle Mejia, Dario Mejia

Music: Bomba Salsera, Rodrigo y Gabriela

*Search for Country* taps the core universal life experience of the immigrant displaced by deprivation or natural disaster and the desire

for a better life. The piece artfully weaves sentiments in the immigrants' journey from a sustainable life to displacement, expressing the human strivings in rebuilding a life, infused with spirit and energy from their past.

The choreographic team, Dario Mejia and Giselle Mejia, received specialized training in the styles of modern, contemporary, and traditional dance forms, from The Juilliard School and SUNY Purchase College, respectively. Their many endeavors in the metro area include teaching with the Cowles Center for Dance and Performing Arts, Academy of Russian Ballet, Premiere Dance Academy, Lundstrum Center for the Performing Arts, and setting original choreography for the Main Street School of Performing Arts. In January of 2009, they launched a dance company, Curio Dance, with a premiere evening length duo performance. Since then, they have aired on MN Original, were highlighted in a documentary of Latino voices in Minnesota, orchestrated a week long artist-in-residence in Hood River, OR, and provided introductory dance workshops at the Minnesota Institute of Arts. They feel privileged to be a "piece of the whole" in the Walker's Choreographers' Evening, and are most thankful for you, the audience.  
[www.curiodance.com](http://www.curiodance.com)

### **Christ UP Dance Crew** **Christ UP Movements**

Choreography: Christ UP Dance Crew  
Dancers: Anthony Clark, Trika Pruitt  
Music: Michael Jackson, Usher, Lil Wayne  
featuring Eminem, Omarion featuring  
Gucci Mane, and the Black-Eyed Peas

Christ UP Dance Crew first came together in March 2010. Founded by Anthony 'Tony' Clark (TC Boogie), Christ UP is a group of positive minded young adults ages 18-30 with positive goals for the future. All 8 members are dedicated dancers, some with ballet and/or tap dance backgrounds and the majority of its members began dancing as early as the age of 4. Since last March, Christ UP dance crew has

performed at Choreographers' Evening at Patrick's Cabaret, Hip Hop Takes Action at Varsity Theater, Move on a Mission (Acknowledge Hungry & Homeless) at Macalester College, as well as Minneapolis National Night Out, St. Paul Public Housing Annual Picnic, Korean Independence Day Festival, and several St. Paul Housing high-rises. Coming soon, look for Christ UP on MySpace.

### **SuperGroup** **Spring Dance Unrated**

Choreography: SuperGroup  
Dancers: Erin Search-Wells, Sam Johnson,  
Byrd Shuler, Jeffrey Wells  
Music: J.S. Bach

SuperGroup is a collaborative performance company created in 2008. Since its inception SuperGroup has been seen around Minneapolis at the Bedlam, the Red Eye, the BLB, the Walker, and the Southern, as well as in the lobby of the Casket Arts Building and in New York at BAX. For more info, check out their website at [supergroupshow.biz](http://supergroupshow.biz).

### **Paulino Brener** **Credo**

Choreography: Paulino Brener  
Dancer: Paulino Brener  
Music: Ariel Ramirez

*Credo* explores movements based on *chacarera*, a traditional dance from Argentina. The music chosen is a fragment of *Misa Criolla*, a take on a Catholic mass using popular rhythms.

Paulino Brener is from Santa Fe, Argentina. He grew up learning, dancing and teaching traditional dances and acting. Later on in life, he received some informal training in modern dance. For this piece he will be wearing traditional *botas* (boots), *bombacha de gaucho* (Argentine gaucho pants) and *faja* (sash).

## **BODYTALK**

### ***Cross-Pollination***

Improvisation: Gerry Girouard & Rebecca Abas  
Dancers: Gerry Girouard, Rebecca Abas  
Music: Alex Krebs

BODYTALK is grounded in the improvisational aspects of Argentine Tango and mixes in modern dance, capoeira, and contact improvisation to create artful play. BODYTALK is spontaneous, relational and serendipitous, bringing lyrical sense of line and design to their improvisations.

Rebecca Abas has been a lifelong dancer in many partner dance styles and is the owner of 4 Seasons Dance Studio on Loring Park where she teaches ballroom, Latin, swing and Argentine tango.

Gerry Girouard is a local dancer/choreographer who has over the last 20 years studied modern dance from Nancy Hauser, capoeira from Yoji Senna and Argentine tango from Florencia Taccetti.

### **Jim Lieberthal/FootHolds Project *Blue Channel Rivulets***

Choreography: Jim Lieberthal  
Dancers: Brian Evans, Jim Lieberthal,  
Christine Maginnis, Kari Mosel,  
Hai Dang Nguyen, Sarah Steichen  
Music: Philip Glass

*Blue Channel Rivulets* is inspired by dolphins, undersea water currents and these beautiful dancers.

Dedicated to American Tenor Lawrence Brownlee, whose feedback at a critical moment provided a framework allowing this work to become the piece that it is, and for the loving support of the RENOVATE showcase panel for whom this work was auditioned.

Jim Lieberthal believes he has grown with the ever increasing depth and variety of dance that is the Twin Cities dance community. He has enjoyed creating movement for dancers,

singers, actors, and movement artists employing wheelchairs and crutches as assists to their abilities. He feels incredibly fortunate to be working with this group of notable artists tonight. His choreography has been seen at the Guthrie Theater with Open Door Theater, the Minnesota Dance Festival, Fringe Festival #8, Arizona Studios, PBS Wisconsin, Bryant Lake Bowl, RENOVATE showcase at the Ritz Theater, and commissions from Warhol Ensemble and Kanopy Dance in Madison, WI. He was awarded a McKnight Fellowship for Choreography in 1986. He is especially grateful to Susana di Palma, to be included in such a distinguished group of artists for Choreographers' Evening.

Hai Dang Nguyen is a company member of Kinetic Evolution Dance Company under the direction of Sarah LaRose. He is also very fortunate to perform in the works of Danielle Robinson-Prater, Cathy Wright, Deborah Jinza Thayer, Matthew Smith, Julie Warder and Jim Lieberthal. His own work has been performed at Kinetic Kitchen.

Christine Maginnis, a former long-time member of Zenon Dance Company, has recently performed in the works of local artists Penelope Freeh, Deborah Jinza Thayer, Cathy Wright, Matthew Smith, Julie Warder, and of course, Mr. Lieberthal. Her works have been presented by the Red Eye Collaboration, L-1 Dance Lab in Budapest, Minnesota Dance Theater and the 2010 Minnesota Fringe Festival. She has enjoyed teaching dance at the U of MN and is the recipient of a McKnight Fellowship for Dancers.

Kari Mosel hails from Eau Claire, WI and received her BFA in Dance from the U of MN in 2004. She has danced professionally with Shapiro and Smith Dance, Stuart Pimsler Dance & Theater, Time Track Productions, Kat D and the Paneer Project, Marciano Silva dos Santos, Cade Holmseth, Jim Lieberthal, and Julie Warder. Mosel has apprenticed with Zenon Dance and serves as an administrative assistant for both Shapiro and Smith Dance and Stuart Pimsler Dance & Theater, where she

also has served as choreographic assistant for several of SPDT's residencies. In addition to Mosel's local choreographic projects, for the past two years, the University of River Falls dance program has commissioned her choreography.

Brian J. Evans is a recent graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College. Since arrival to Minneapolis, he has had the privilege of working with a vast array of choreographers including Stuart Pimsler Dance & Theater, Flying Foot Forum, Becky Heist, Julie Warder, Maria Tierney, Marciano Silva dos Santos and Denise Armstead. Evans was recently honored with the 2009 - 2010 Sage Award for Outstanding Performer.

Sarah Steichen graduated from St. Olaf College in 2008. She has had the pleasure of working with many modern dance artists including Keith Johnson, Shen Wei, Doug Varone, Adriane Fang, Stephen Schroeder, and Cathy Wright and is currently in her second season with Arena Dances by Mathew Janczewski. In addition, Steichen is the School Coordinator at Prairie School of Dance, and teaches throughout the metro-area.

### **John Munger** ***Trayage***

Choreography: John Munger  
Dancer: John Munger  
Music: John Phillip Sousa

SAGE-Award winning choreographer John Munger, now aged 65, has danced, acted, choreographed, directed, sung, spoken, and spear-carried in countless plays, dance concerts, musicals, recitals, films, ballets, TV productions, operas, and assorted events in a large number of cities, towns, and other locations in several states and nations over a life-sized number of decades. He is Artistic Director and founder of the Third Rabbit Dance Ensemble, dance blogger for the MN Fringe Festival, director of the ongoing Rabbit Show showcase at Bryant Lake Bowl, and Director of Research for Dance/USA, the

national service organization for professional dance.

### **Carl Flink & Black Label Movement** ***For She—A Little Found Object***

Choreography: Carl Flink  
Dancers: Crystal Runk (7pm),  
Julie Brant McBride (9:30pm)  
Music: M83, Mike McCarthy, Mogwai  
Costume Design: Angie Vo  
Lighting Concept: Marcus Dilliard  
Set Design: Marcus Dilliard

Carl Flink is the choreographer and artistic director of the performance group Black Label Movement based in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN. A Limón Dance Company member from 1992 – 1998, Flink has also performed for Creach/Koester Men Dancing, Joanna Mendl Shaw, Paul Taylor, Janis Brenner, and Shapiro & Smith Dance. Dance programs across the United States have presented his choreography including Stanford University, University of Iowa, Mount Holyoke College, Brigham Young University, University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana (upcoming January 2011) and Roger Williams University. He is the Nadine Jette Sween Professor of Dance and Chair of the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance at the U of MN-Twin Cities where he offers contemporary dance and partnering technique and dance making. In 2008, he received a Boomerang Fund Artists Award and a McKnight Artist Fellowship for Choreography. [www.blacklabelmovement.com](http://www.blacklabelmovement.com)

### **Peter O'Gorman** ***Serif***

Choreography & Music: Peter O'Gorman  
Performers: Joe Chvala, Karla Grotting,  
Peter O'Gorman

*Serif* is a trio that uses brushes to turn air into a musical instrument and space into a three dimensional canvas. The title refers to the final stroke of a pen as it is lifted from the page. *Serif* received its world premiere at the Alvin

Ailey Citigroup Theater in NYC as part of the Harkness Dance Festival.

Peter O’Gorman is a percussionist, interdisciplinary artist, and a 2010 McKnight Composer Fellow. His work has been performed by the Bang on a Can All-Stars, New York percussion quartet Ethos, and numerous other performers. Locally, O’Gorman has worked with Black Label Movement, CRASH, Flying Foot Forum, and Zenon Dance Company.

The Flying Foot Forum re-imagines the potential of all forms of percussive dance and percussion. This mission has led to numerous incarnations of the group including their trio show, *The Percussion Project* (which includes *Serif*). Flying Foot Forum's new production, *Heaven* will open at the Guthrie Theater in March.

*Serif* was commissioned by the Flying Foot Forum and underwritten by the American Composers Forum with funds provided by the Jerome Foundation.

### **Alanna Morris**

#### ***Dreams: A Solo***

Choreography: Alanna Morris  
Dancer: Renée Copeland (7pm),  
Alanna Morris (9:30pm)

Music: So Percussion

Excerpts from speeches:

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Zaire  
schoolchildren

In the Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples in Japan, fortunes are traditionally written on folded strips of paper. Unrolling the Omikujii reveals the message inside. The Japanese often tie the Omikujii if the fortune is good. This dance is for all those who dream of something better. I invite the audience to cast their own dreams and hopes on paper and tie them to the Wishing Tree designed by Zoran and Ilene Krug Mojsilov, located in the Hennepin Lobby.

Alanna Morris was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, is a graduate of La Guardia High School of Music & Art and the Performing Arts and the Juilliard School, and is currently a company member of TU Dance. She has studied at Creative Outlet Dance, Ballet Hispanico, The Ailey School, Joffrey Ballet, and Springboard Montréal. In 2003, she was awarded a Level One A.R.T.S. award in modern dance from the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (N.F.A.A.) and is a Presidential Scholar in the Arts Semifinalist. When she is not performing with TU Dance, Morris collaborates with local artists and pursues her passion for youth and community development by building creative artistic workshops. Special thanks to Renée Copeland, Zoran and Ilene Krug Mojsilov, Jim Smith, Wing Young Huie, Deborah K. Ultan Boudewyns and the U of MN, Mildred M. Brunson, Bobby Lay, the families of the children of Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, Horizons Youth Program @ Sabathani Community Center, and the Pollard family for use of images.

### **Luke Olson-Elm**

#### ***The Evaporation of Time***

Choreography: Luke Olson-Elm

Dancers: Kurt Blomberg, Galen Higgins,  
Katherine Lung, Genevieve Muench,  
Luke Olson-Elm, and Renee Starr

Music: Michael Giacchino

Luke Olson-Elm began his training at The Dance Shoppe in Plymouth, MN and is a U of MN graduate. He has worked with various companies including Disney, Broadway Dance Center, and St. Joseph’s Ballet of Anaheim (CA) as well as with choreographers such as Jerry Evans, Rita Miller, and Linda Talcott Lee. As an undergraduate, he performed works by José Limón, Anna Sokolow, Shapiro & Smith Dance, and Mathew Janczewski and has participated in movement workshops in Ghana and China. Olson-Elm choreographs and teaches at the Summit Dance Shoppe and is a full-time company member with ARENA Dances. In addition to his dance work, Olson-Elm is also an aspiring filmmaker, DJ, and

video/sound artist. This is his professional premiere as a choreographer and he is excited to present the Lucas Daniel Dance Company at the Walker.

Katherine Lung is a Taiwanese-Cantonese American and Third Cultural Kid, raised in San Gabriel, Honolulu, Tokyo, and Singapore. She is a graduate of the U of MN, where she has performed the works of Pat Graney, Trisha Brown, Nathan Trice, José Limón, Diyah Larasati, and Shapiro & Smith and has studied with Toni Pierce-Sands, Shapiro & Smith, Doug Varone & Dancers, and Gallim Dance. Professionally, Lung has had the opportunity to work with Erica Pinigis, Erinn Liebhard, Deepa Dharmadhikari, Wil Swanson, Shapiro & Smith, ARENA Dances, and was also a part of Trisha Brown's *Planes* installation at the Walker. Her first dance film *Over Land and Water* premiered at Minneapolis' Dance Film Project in 2009, and was screened in New York City, Houston, TX, and Guangzhou (China). It can be seen online at [www.denizenmag.com](http://www.denizenmag.com).

Genevieve Muench is an undergraduate at the U of MN, where she has worked with artists Laurie Carlos, Eiko Otake, Keisha Turner and Laurie Taylor of Urban Bush Women, Nathan Trice, and David Gordon, among others and enjoys archiving, biking, and researching dance pedagogies. A loud shout out to Jin-Ming Lai for both her role in this work and generous consent.

Galen Higgins is an undergraduate at the U of MN and has studied dance at The Dance Shoppe and Summit Dance Shoppe. Higgins has appeared in the Ordway's 2009 production of *Singing in the Rain* and as a stand in for the Rhythmic Circus' production of *Feet Don't Fail Me Now* as part of their national tour and occasionally teaches at studios throughout Minnesota, including Summit Dance Shoppe in Plymouth, and the Chanhassen School of Dance.

Renee Starr received a BFA in Dance from the U of MN, where she had the pleasure of performing works by Trisha Brown, Sardono W.

Kusumo, Bebe Miller, and Robin Stiehm. After two years as an apprentice, Starr is currently in her first year as a full-time company member of Mathew Janczewski's ARENA Dances.

Kurt Blomberg is a South Korean adoptee who grew up in Mounds View, MN and received his B.A. in dance from the U of MN. He has had the pleasure of working with Black Label Movement, Time Track Productions, and Eclectic Edge Ensemble and is a company member with Stuart Pimsler Dance & Theater. Blomberg has also performed with the Minnesota Opera in *Romeo and Juliet* (2008) and with UW-River Falls Dance Theatre 2004-2006.

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## DIGGING DEEPER WITH WALKER DANCE

Did you know...

- Who really named Ralph Lemon's performance *How Can You Stay In the House All Day And Not Go Anywhere?*
- How Viola Farber influenced John Jasperse's recent Walker commission?

Visit **TALK DANCE** on the Walker Channel (<http://channel.walkerart.org/series/talk-dance/>) to hear the answers to these questions and listen to any of the bite-sized podcast interviews between local choreographer Justin Jones and the choreographers who've recently performed here in the McGuire Theater.

Our **SpeakEasy** discussion series will recommence for every Saturday night of our *Out There* performance festival, followed by Saturday, February 19 for Sarah Michelson/Richard Maxwell's *Devotion*, and Saturday, April 9 for Lucinda Childs' *Dance*. Come share your experiences watching dance!

## **WALKER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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Choreographers' Evening 2010 is made possible by generous support from Producers' Council members Sage and John Cowles and by the McKnight Foundation.

### **The Walker Art Center's Dance Season is sponsored by**

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Additional support is generously provided by Engaging Dance Audiences, administered by Dance/USA with funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the James Irvine Foundation.

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## **Walker Art Center Producers' Council**

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## **WALKER ART CENTER STAFF**

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