

DANCEstl

**SPRING to
DANCE
FESTIVAL 2008**



Tickets for *SPRING TO DANCE* are just \$10 and are available at the Touhill Ticket Office and the Dance St. Louis box office. The Touhill Ticket Office is located on the campus of the University of Missouri-St. Louis at One University Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63121, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. The Dance St. Louis box office is located at 3547 Olive St. at the Centene Center for Arts and Education in Grand Center, St. Louis, MO 63103, Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Tickets are also available by calling the Touhill at 314-516-4949 or 866-516-4949 toll free and Dance St. Louis at 314-534-6622, and online via touhill.org and dancestlouis.org. Additional information on *SPRING TO DANCE* is available at springtodance.com.

SPRING TO DANCE performances include:

Ballet Memphis will perform *In Dreams*, a contemporary ballet with choreography by Trey McIntyre and music by the late Roy Orbison who recorded much of his work in Memphis.

BalletMet Columbus performs the *Dracula pas de deux* – an excerpt from the full-length ballet – for the festival. The contemporary ballet thrills audiences with the passion and seduction of the world’s most famous vampire character. The evocative imagery of Bram Stoker’s 1897 gothic horror tale is brought to life through the choreography of David Nixon and haunting music. Dance St. Louis and the Touhill Performing Arts Center will present BalletMet’s complete *Dracula* at the Touhill on October 23-26, 2008.

Tap is also represented at *SPRING TO DANCE*. The performing arm of the Chicago Human Rhythm Project – **Bam!** – performs *Sweet Jazz*, a suite of three short works. The first, *Autumn Leaves*, features swing music. The second, *How Insensitive*, is set to Latin sounds, and the last, *Laura*, is traditional rhythm tap.

The contemporary ballet company **Cedar Lake Dance** will perform *Decadance 2007* for *SPRING TO DANCE*. The piece is set to a wide variety of music ranging from Beethoven and Vivaldi to Dick Dale and the theme from TV's *Hawaii Five-O*. Choreographer Ohad Naharin describes *Decadance* as a reconstruction of existing works that teaches something new about the love of dance and paying attention to details without forgetting the whole. Based in New York City, Cedar Lake was founded in Columbia, Missouri.

Christine Knoblauch-O'Neal will perform Jennifer Medina's *Courtesan*, a solo, for *SPRING TO DANCE*. A Senior Lecturer in the Performing Arts Department at Washington University in St. Louis, MO, she performed for 20 years with such companies as American Ballet Theater, the National Ballet, Dancers, and the Cincinnati Ballet. Ms. O'Neal danced in the film *Turning Point*, performed as Kristine in *A Chorus Line*, toured with Dancers to Italy's Spoleto Festival and danced in a live telecast of *Live from Lincoln Center* featuring ABT's *Swan Lake*.

The classic story of *Romeo and Juliet* will be told in dance by the **Cincinnati Ballet** in a love duet from the complete ballet. Praised as choreographer Victoria Morgan's signature work, the piece is set to Prokofiev's rich and passionate score. The company's artistic director emeritus, Frederic Franklin, CBE, appears in the role of Friar Lawrence.

Indianapolis' **Dance Kaleidoscope** will be performing excerpts from *iconoGlass* at the festival. The contemporary dance, a signature work of the company, is a breathtaking, athletic work of pure dance driven by the relentless pulse of the music of Philip Glass.

The Dancing Wheels Company of Cleveland is America's first physically integrated modern dance company. They will be performing *Echoes of an Angel's Fall* at

SPRING TO DANCE. The work is choreographed by Rebecca Anderson Darling from Pilobolus Dance Theater in collaboration with the Dancing Wheels Company. The dance, which explores the coming together of a community even when individuals feel they are falling apart, is set to a compilation of music featuring selections from Moby, The Penguin Café Orchestra, Jeff Buckley, Radiohead and Isan.

Still Lives is the work that will be performed by the **Dayton Ballet** for *SPRING TO DANCE*. Founded in 1937, Dayton Ballet is the second-oldest dance company in the United States. They present new works and traditional American dance classics.

Deeply Rooted Dance Theater will perform *Adagio*, a contemporary dance focused on images of the civil rights movement. The Chicago-based company chooses works that embody the rich traditions of African-American dance theater and music.

The **Eisenhower Dance Ensemble**, a contemporary dance company, performs *Night Music* for *SPRING TO DANCE*. With music by Mozart, the humorous dance involves six dancers and a small sofa. Choreography for the Rochester, Michigan-based company is by Laurie Eisenhower.

Bolero will be performed by the **Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater** of Chicago. The neo-classical dance to Maurice Ravel's most popular composition combines Flamenco and Spanish classical movements called a "grand rush of spectacle complete with swirling capes and flourished fans" by the *Chicago Tribune*.

Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago, a repertory company that presents both traditional and contemporary jazz dance, will perform *Prey*, choreographed by Ron DeJesus. The piece, set to the Kodo Drummers, is a dramatic, sensual and heart-stopping work that has won a Chicago Dance Award.

The Chicago-based contemporary/modern dance company **Hedwig Dances** will perform an excerpt from choreographer Jan Bartoszek's 2006 dance, *Short Stories* for *SPRING TO DANCE*. The dance is created in an episodic structure around a moving platform that becomes, in turn, a boat, a window, a bed and a room. The melodic and rhythmic music changes and shifts to support a dance that traces a brief, shared history

in the lives of four characters. Designers David Christopher Krause (set), Tatjana Radisic (costumes) and Margaret Nelson (lighting) create an intimate landscape of memory that is performed to a haunting original score by composer Richard Woodbury.

Kinetic Head is the contemporary ballet to be presented by the **James Sewell Ballet** of Minneapolis at *SPRING TO DANCE*. The work, which uses the music of J.S. Bach, continues Sewell's exploration of multiple coordination in ballet, pushing the patterns and layers to a new level of structural complexity. This solo is part of a larger work by the same name.

In the Shadow of Nina Simone will be performed by the Chicago-based **Joel Hall Dancers**. Writing about the work, *Ballet Review* says, "Hall matches Simone in creating a desert of the mind, an emotional vastness. An emptiness punctuated with vivid harsh truth." The performance features the music of chanteuse Nina Simone who was known as the High Priestess of Soul.

The world-renowned **Joffrey Ballet** will perform the *Kettenbrücke Waltz* for *SPRING TO DANCE*. The piece is one of 10 movements from *KETTENTANZ*, Joffrey co-founder Gerald Arpino's salute to the Old Vienna of court balls and weingartens, inspired by the company's acclaimed visit to Vienna in 1969. It is set to the music of Johann Strauss, Sr. The Joffrey Ballet makes its permanent home in Chicago.

Two classic pieces, *The Dying Swan* and *Dark Elegies*, will be presented by the **Kansas City Ballet** at *SPRING TO DANCE*. *The Dying Swan*, choreographed by Michel Fokine to the music of Camille Saint-Saens, was first performed by Anna Pavlova in 1905. The solo is considered to be one of the most famous in the world of dance. It will be performed by St. Louis native Kimberly Cowen. Cowen and Paris Wilcox will dance the *pas de deux* from *Dark Elegies*, created in 1937 by Antony Tudor to Gustav Mahler's *Kindertotenlieder*. The ballet depicts the grief of village peasants at the loss of their children. *Dark Elegies* will be performed in tribute to Tudor's centennial year.

Lucky Plush will perform *Surrelium*, a quartet set to the music of Biosphere and excerpted from an evening-length work of the same name. Offering visual metaphors for the ways we experience confinement and release, enchantment and transformation, the

full piece draws on a child's fascination with a helium balloon. The company is based in Riverside, Illinois.

The **Luna Negra Dance Theater** of Chicago creates, performs and teaches contemporary dance by Latino choreographers and artfully blends ballet and contemporary dance movements strongly flavored by Latin and Afro-Caribbean dance forms. For *SPRING TO DANCE*, the company will perform *Azucar Cruda* (Sugar in the Raw). The piece, choreographed by Michelle Manzanales with music by Gustavo Santaolalla, explores people in their purest form – coarse, jagged, even unsightly, but able to soften, melt and reveal sweetness.

MADCO (Modern American Dance Company), a St. Louis company, will present *Fast Brass* at *SPRING TO DANCE*. The piece is set to *Fanfare Ciocarlia* and is choreographed by Janice Garrett – an internationally active choreographer and dance educator who directs her own San Francisco company.

Excerpts from *Concrete Abstraction* will be performed by the **Minnesota Dance Theatre**. The work, a contemporary ballet, features music by J.S. Bach, Steve Reich and various artists. Choreographer Dwight Rhoden brings together different artists exemplifying their uniqueness and culture, race and background. The piece is a reflection of a shared intensity, freedom and the energy of our time.

The **Missouri Contemporary Ballet** continues its tradition of adding a twist to ballet by performing *Unbreakable Code* at *SPRING TO DANCE*. The contemporary ballet *en pointe* is set to the powerful music of the rock band Tool, rearranged by the Tool Tribute String Quartet. The piece, inspired by the drive of the music, is choreographed by Karen Mareck Grundy to show the athleticism and strength of the dancers while complementing their beauty and grace.

An excerpt from *Quest* will be presented at *SPRING TO DANCE* by **Mordine & Company Dance Theater**. The contemporary piece is set to music composed and performed live by Alison Chesley. *Quest* is inspired by Jose Saramago's *The Stone Raft* in which a cataclysmic event separates the Iberian Peninsula from Europe. Six survivors

are set adrift to confront the themes of dislocation and eruptions that cause extreme changes.

The Nashville Ballet will present *Time/Return/Memory*, a ballet set to Orphée Suite composed by Phillip Glass. The work – based on the Greek myth of Orpheus – is reflective. As time rushes by, people strive to continually move forward, never looking back.

Norm and Cleo will be performed by Ashland Ohio's **Neos Dance Theatre**. Set to Bach's *Toccatà and Fugue in D Minor*, the piece tells the story of a pastor and his wife dealing with terminal brain cancer. The *Cleveland Plain-Dealer* wrote that the dance offered "beautifully narrative images" and "emotionally charged choreography that stuttered and paused in dramatic poses that communicated anguish, desperation and pleas for divine intervention."

Minneapolis-based **Ragamala** brings the energy of *Sva (Vital Force)* to Spring to Dance. The work for six dancers and four drummers from the Wadaiko Ensemble Tokara of Nagano, Japan embodies the rhythm and flow of life and the primordial sound that unites all of creation. Choreographers Raneer Ramaswamy and Aparna Ramaswamy join forces with virtuoso composer/drummer Art Lee to bring classical dance from Southern India together with Japanese Taiko.

River North Chicago Dance Company presents *Habaneras, The Music of Cuba* at *SPRING TO DANCE*. The piece celebrates the most well known Cuban composer, Ernesto Lecuona, along with some of Cuba's most recognizable voices.

The George Balanchine Trust's *Serenade* will be performed by the **St. Louis Ballet**. Set to the music of Tchaikovsky, the work is a milestone in the history of dance. As the first original ballet Balanchine created in America, it originated as a lesson in stage technique performed by 28 dancers in blue costumes set before a blue background.

The Seldoms, a Chicago-based company, will present *Monument*, a contemporary and multidisciplinary performance set to electronic, manipulated and

found sound sources combined with spoken and recorded voice. The dance theater work follows the voracious, frenzied course of individual acts of consumption along the one-way ride to the trash heap. This final destination, the landfill – that accidental social sculpture – looms large in *Monument*, a physical culmination of desire and expenditure.

Also from Chicago, **VADCO**, Valerie Alpert Dance Company, presents contemporary work that is athletic, passionate and diverse. For *SPRING TO DANCE*, the company performs *Tango for Three*. The contemporary tango is inspired by the powerful and passionate aesthetic movement of the tango and the dynamic energy between the partners who dance it.

Verb Ballets, Cleveland's national repertory dance company, will perform *Duet*, choreographed by Ohio Ballet founder Heinz Poll. Poll was inspired by the neoclassical style of George Balanchine, regarded as the foremost contemporary choreographer in ballet. His use of J.S. Bach's "Adagio" from his *Organ Toccata in C*, arranged for cello and piano by former Ohio Ballet Music Director David Fisher, showcases Poll's musical mastery.

The **Wylliams/Henry Contemporary Dance Company**, a modern dance repertory company from Kansas City, brings *Ritual* to *SPRING TO DANCE*. The work, with choreography by Amber Perkins, is a dramatic and breathtaking physical duet set to the poignant music of Arvo Pärt. *Ritual* showcases the technical brilliance of the dancers in a primal mating ritual between a man and a woman that promises to leave the audience spellbound.