

VCU Dance news

V i r g i n i a C o m m o n w e a l t h U n i v e r s i t y

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VCU Dance 2008-2009 presents **EDGEWORKS**

Edgeworks Dance Theater's Premiere: *the determining factor*

Richmond, VA---The Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Dance and Choreography will present **EDGEWORKS Dance Theater**, with a premiere of *the determining factor* Friday and Saturday, **September 5 & 6, 2008 at 8:00 PM at the Grace Street Theatre**, 934 West Grace Street. Tickets are \$20 for the general public and \$5 for VCU students with a valid I.D. Tickets can be reserved beginning Monday, August 25th by calling the Grace Street Theatre Box Office at (804) 828-2020. **ATTENTION:** This work contains adult themes, strong language, and sexual content.

EDGEWORKS Dance Theater (EDT) is Washington DC's premier all male contemporary dance company of predominately African-American men. EDT aims to break down stereotypes through dance, utilizing a spectrum of performances, choreographic and teaching styles, reflecting the diversity of experiences and perspectives of both its members and guest artists.

Conceived and directed by choreographer Helanius J. Wilkins, *the determining factor* is a multi-media dance that examines the often difficult issues around gender, sexuality and spirituality. Through choreography that is fast paced and intricately woven into solo, duet, and group vignettes, sexual minorities are accepted as valued participants on the common ground of the human family. Performed by EDT, the work addresses the denial of homophobia and homosexuality that is so prevalent throughout the Black community. It highlights personal introspection, struggle, and success while, at the same time being uplifting, energetic, spirited, and entertaining.

This work is also made possible by: American Dance Institute, The Washington Blade, The DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities, The New England Foundation for the Arts, National Performance Network, Thelma Hill Performing Arts Center, and Human Rights Campaign (HRC).

Edgeworks Dance Theater is the first event of the **VCU Dance 2008-2009 Season**, a thrilling season of concerts, film screenings, master classes and more. The VCU Dance 2008-2009 Season is made possible in

part by funding graciously provided by the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation; the National Endowment for the Arts; the New England Foundation for the Arts, and VCUarts.

The presenting program of VCU Dance is committed to building and engaging dance audiences in the University and Richmond community while providing opportunities for artists to present and create work. Recognized by professional dancers and choreographers as “a place where things are happening,” Virginia Commonwealth University’s Department of Dance and Choreography offers a vibrant and stimulating atmosphere where students prepare for careers in dance.



the determining factor is made possible by a National Performance Network Creation Fund Project co-commissioned by Painted Bride Arts Center (Philadelphia, PA) in partnership with Dance Place (Washington, DC) and the National Performance Network. Major contributors of the National Performance Network are Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Ford Foundation, Nathan Cummings Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency). For more information: www.npnweb.org.



the determining factor is made possible by the Doris Duke Fund for Dance of the National Dance Project, a program administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts with funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, The Ford Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, JP Morgan Chase Foundation and MetLife Foundation.



the determining factor is made possible in part by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, an agency supported by the National Endowment for the Arts.



the determining factor is made possible in part through the sponsorship of The Washington Blade, A Windows Media LLC Publication.

This project is also made possible in part through the generous support of American Dance Institute through its Arts Incubator Program, the Human Rights Campaign Fund, and Embassy Suites Hotel in Washington DC..

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