

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 **THE DANCE SHOW** Fall, 2008 Senior Project Concert

Richmond, VA-- Virginia Commonwealth University's Department of Dance and Choreography will present **THE DANCE SHOW: Fall 2008 Senior Project Concert** on **Thursday, Friday and Saturday, November 20, 21 and 22 at 8:00 PM** at the Grace Street Theatre, 934 W. Grace Street. Aptly titled, **The Dance Show** features seven original choreographic works by Senior Dance and Choreography majors who have worked on all aspects of production including not only choreographing and performing but marketing, fund raising, music, costuming, and lighting design. Tickets are \$10 for general public and \$5 for students with a valid VCU I.D., and may be reserved beginning November 13 by calling the Grace Street Theatre Box Office at 804-828-2020.

The Dance Show is a collage of seven dances, incorporating concepts and movement ideas individual to each choreographer and his/her work. There is only one underlying theme connecting one piece to the next: each dance uses the moving human body as a means of expression.

All of the Above, choreographed by **Kevin L. Jones**, will reveal a childhood adventure through dance in which a group of four takes turns creating a collective drama. The dancers will be accompanied by two live musicians who serve as narrators, unfolding the story with Flamenco guitar and Latin percussion. The project celebrates the creative and collaborative spirit of youthful play and seeks to inspire viewers of any age.

Trusting Time, created by **Amanda Gay**, explores the internal struggle of letting go of the past and embracing the future. Five dancers progress on a journey to find their destiny through the hope and trust they find in each other. The smooth, spiraling movement coupled with the harmony of the strings and piano create an emotive and delicate atmosphere.

In Strangers and Soundtracks **Charli Brissey**, in collaboration with her 12 person ensemble, investigates the questions of personal space and the subtle relationships developed between strangers. Through movement and song the dancers pour throughout the space, creating and embracing situations for one another in an attempt to figure out what they may all have in common.

Citizens Moving, created by **Zakia Wilder** explores our “on the go” society. Through pedestrian/abstract movement, six dancers move through intricate spatial patterns, creating staccato yet fluid motions to a mellow, steady pulse. In the end, life moves pretty fast and if you don’t stop to look around you could miss it.

Ashley Narvaez takes you on a journey called *Along the Way*, an autobiography of her past experiences and future expectations. With Filipino dance influence, five performers fuse present day modern dance into a series of progressive movement. The two worlds collide and evoke detailed gestures, paying special attention to dynamic rhythmic patterns.

In **Aaron Burr Johnson’s** *A Vanishing Point*, seven performers create a rigid environment by taping geometric patterns on the stage floor. Inspired by Greek mythology, Utopian literature, and personal rituals, the work reveals a path of simultaneous creation and destruction; hope and despair. A sonic landscape by John Luther Adams accompanies a section of the dance while another uses an epic song by Joan Armatrading.

In *:::* by **Erin Dalton**, dancers twist and shift conforming a single breathing mass, alive with an old history. This mass spills out four figures that will weave a contorted tapestry through tumbling ambient sounds and distant voices rising through static.

The Dance Show is the fifth 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.

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