

# 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 **VCU Dance NOW** Works by Faculty and Guest Artist

**Richmond, VA--** Virginia Commonwealth University's Department of Dance and Choreography will present **VCU Dance NOW** on **Thursday, Friday and Saturday, February 26, 27 & 28, 2009 at 8:00 PM** at the Grace Street Theatre, 934 W. Grace Street. Tickets are \$15 for general public and \$5 for students with a valid VCU I.D., and may be reserved beginning February 16 by calling the Grace Street Theatre Box Office at 804-828-2020.

**VCU Dance NOW** features a range of **choreography by VCU Dance faculty Christian Von Howard, James Frazier, Robbie Kinter, Scott Putman, and Judith Steel, and guest artist Gerri Houlihan,**

Choreographer and master teacher **Gerri Houlihan** visited VCU Dance during fall, 2008 and set her duet **Morengo**, to music by Thomas Oboe Lee, on VCU Dance majors. She also created a charming duet for two women set to a song by Alessandro Scarlatti.

VCU Dance was delighted to have dancer/choreographer/teacher **Christian von Howard** join the faculty this year as Assistant Professor. During fall and spring, von Howard has been working with Dance majors on two pieces. **De Materie** is a contemporary ballet that deconstructs and interconnects a pulsating physical language crawling with moments of intricate phrase work and instances of abstract gesture. *De Materie* is dynamically supported by a beautifully rich score by composer David Lang. In addition, powered by the electrifying timbre of Aretha Franklin, **Soul Serenade** is an energetic ensemble work where each section emulates the life, breath and impassioned spirit of the 1960's and 70's.

The contained intensity of VCU Dance Chair James Frazier's *Trilogy* is colored by a swirling score both passionate and mysterious. By elongating time and drawing out pacing toward a delayed peak, Frazier pulls viewers into a lush world of bridled sensuality. Performed by three male dancers, *Trilogy* subtly contends with emotion through fluid motion.

The haunting and moving lieder song from a selection from Schubert's *Winterreise* sets the tone for **Judith Steel's *Their Path Lies in Shadow*** in which a couple find themselves at a still point in their journey together. Unable to move forward, yet bound by the past, a distilled restlessness exists between them that matches the austerity of their circumstances.

***Absorbing the Lost Language of Space***, created by **Scott Putman**, investigates the many layers of space within space. The work explores a labyrinth of physical and spiritual challenges, seeking to quiet the chaos of our internal space in order to listen for the voice lost inside our external space. This work is the first section of a larger work that will premiere in its entirety at Amaranth Contemporary Dance's "Exit to All Worlds" Concert, May 1 and 2 at the Grace Street Theater. This work is part of a multi-year project in which Scott Putman is investigating the Architectonics of Space and Time.

***The View From Above*** by **Robbie Kinter** delves into the shifting relations of a quartet of men. The work relies heavily on partnering, lifting and displays athletic agility as well as endearment. The original score is by George Lowe and performed by Rattlemouth.

VCU Dance NOW is the seventh 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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**Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Dance & Choreography**

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