



For Immediate Release

U.S PREMIERE OF "REPLICA" AT THE HARMAN CENTER IN WASHINGTON, D.C., JULY 1

Choreographer, dancer and media artist Jonah Bokaer will present the U.S premiere of "REPLICA" at the Harman Center in Washington, D.C. on July 1st at 12 noon. The most recent result of Bokaer's fascination with the potential of technology to open new choreographic possibilities and alter perception, "REPLICA," was commissioned by the National Academy of Sciences, marking the first choreographic commission by NAS.

"REPLICA," a collaboration between Bokaer, visual artist Daniel Arsham and performer Judith Sanchez Ruiz, explores movement, memory and amnesia through the use of E.M.D.R. (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing) testing technologies. Each performance of the 50-minute dance utilizes Arsham's customized set design, whose wall erosions and sculpted cavities symbolize memory loss. The production also makes use of "creative geography" in video (footage by Bokaer and Arsham); by watching the dancers on previously recorded video, while simultaneously witnessing them interacting with Arsham's décor in live performance, the audience experiences a conflation of real and fictional time. The commissioned score is by ARP, the musical name of the pioneering Greek composer Alexis Georgopoulos.

Initiated by J.D. Talasek, Director of Cultural Programs for the NAS, "REPLICA" was commissioned by NAS to encourage Bokaer's integration of choreography and technology and his research in the relationship of neuroscience to dance. Following the noontime premiere of "REPLICA," that evening a panel of scientists, scholars and artists including Bokaer, will discuss the role of visual imaging in contemporary choreography. The discussion entitled, "Neuroscience, Memory, and The Performing Arts," will be moderated by Kevin Finnernan, Director of Issues In Science & Technology, University of Texas.

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“REPLICA” represents a partnership between the NAS, and the Harman Center’s “Happenings At The Harman” program. The dance, which received its world premiere in Valencia, Spain on May 28th at IVAM (Instituto Valenciana d’Arte Moderna), is designed for varied performance spaces including stage, gallery or site-specific locations. It will receive its New York City premiere at The New Museum, on December 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th.

Bokaer’s ongoing explorations of digital media and 3D animation have led to the development of a rare, multi-disciplinary approach to choreography. His study of technology was formed through a dual major in Visual and Media Studies at The New School, where he received the Joan Kirnsner Memorial Award. Bokaer’s creative applications of new media were fueled by the pioneering technological collaborations of Merce Cunningham (Now 27 years old, Bokaer is the youngest dancer to have ever performed with the great modern dance icon.)

Bokaer’s work has been presented in venues throughout the United States and abroad including the MIT Museum, Cornell University, Dance Theater Workshop, Danspace Project, Dixon Place, La Mama ETC, P.S. 122, Symphony Space. Outside of the United States his work has been seen at ISB (Bangkok), Naxos Bobine, Studio Théâtre de Vitry, and La Générale (Paris), Les Subsistances (Lyon), La Compagnie (Marseille), La Ferme Du Buisson (Marne-la-Vallée), De Singel (Belgium), International Tanzmesse NRW (Germany), PSi (Copenhagen), Kunsthalle St. Gallen (Switzerland), and others. Recent engagements include the Attakalari Performance Biennale (Bangalore), Teatro dell’ Opera (Rome), Teatr Wielki (Warsaw), and Sens Lab (Montréal).

His choreography for the recent theater and opera productions by Robert Wilson include FAUST, which premiered at the Teatr Wielki, Polish National Opera, 2008; AÏDA, which premiered at Teatro dell’ Opera di Roma, Italy, 2009; KOOL, which premiered at the Guggenheim Museum, New York City, 2009; and FRONTERAS, which premiered at IVAM in Valencia, Spain, 2009.

In 2008/09 Bokaer became the first dance artist to be appointed a Young Leader of the French American Foundation. This year he also received the Alumni Award from the North Carolina School of the Arts.

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