



For Immediate Release



"IMAGO" BY KARL HUGH

"GALLERY" BY ROSALIE O'CONNOR

"TEMPLE" BY P. BURCH-CELENTANO

**HISTORY IN 3-D (WITHOUT THE GLASSES)**  
**A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE WORK OF ALWIN NIKOLAIS PRESENTED**  
**BY HUNTER COLLEGE'S 'SHARING THE LEGACY' PROGRAM**  
**AT THE KAYE PLAYHOUSE, APRIL 15 & 16 AT 8PM**  
**PERFORMANCES CONCLUDE U.S. ALWIN NIKOLAIS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION WITH**  
**SERIES OF RARELY SEEN MASTERPIECES**

The spectacular Alwin Nikolais Centennial celebration concludes its U.S. performances in New York City at The Kaye Playhouse with a long look back at Nikolais's career that features an unusual showcase of the multimedia master's rarely seen works, many of which have not been staged in New York in over a quarter of a century. The Kaye Playhouse performances, which take place April 15 and 16 at 8PM, are part of Hunter College Dance Department's *Sharing the Legacy* series.

Featuring major works created between 1955 and 1985, the historic program, once again affirming Nikolais's frontier challenging forays into multimedia, ranges from his pure dance works such as "Mechanical Organ," which premiered in 1980 and was last seen in New York in 2003 to the imagistically complex doomsday message of "Gallery," premiered in 1978 and last seen in New York in 1988. In "Pond," a lyrical blend of light, sound and music, the dancers float like fantasies across a watery surface, while in "Water Studies," first performed as part of "Sanctum" in 1964 and last seen in New York in 1992, the dancers' movement and costumes are transformed by floods of changing light.

**MORE**

Premiered in 1978 and seen in New York only in 1979, "Aviary" is a celebration of birds in flight, while "Temple," 1974, is far more grounded in its celebration of the intricate exteriors of ancient and contemporary Asian houses of faith. "Temple" was last seen in New York in 1982.

The show also includes "Tensile Involvement," the 1955 classic in which the dancers create and recreate a cat's cradle; "Crucible," the 1985 masterpiece, in which, through a dazzle of magic, Nikolais expresses his philosophic belief that man is only a part of the universe; and "Imago," 1963, in which the dancers and scenery are indivisible partners. All three had been seen in New York last spring.

*Sharing the Legacy* was created by the Hunter College Dance Program's Director Jana Feinman to help ensure the preservation of modern dance masterpieces through performance. College dance departments throughout the United States are offered the opportunity to have their students taught major American modern dance classics, which they are then invited to perform at The Kaye Playhouse.

*Sharing the Legacy* 2011 participants are Muhlenberg College, Tulane University, Middle Tennessee State University, DeSales University, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Southern Utah University, University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Marymount Manhattan College and Hunter College. Alberto del Saz, Artistic Director and Repertory Director of the Nikolais-Louis Foundation for Dance, set the works on the students, except "Aviary," which was taught to the Hunter College dancers by former Nikolais dancer Gerald Otte. In addition to the public performances, *Sharing the Legacy* offers its participants panel discussions, master classes, composition classes and improvisation workshops.

The Nikolais Centennial celebration, which has presented a wide range of Nikolais's greatest works throughout the world over the past 18 months, concludes with a six week French tour, May 5-June 17, performed by the Ririe Woodbury Dance Company, with performances at La Coursive, Scène Nationale La Rochelle in La Rochelle (May 5-6), Opéra national de Paris in Paris (May 11-14), Théâtre national de Bordeaux en Aquitaine in Bordeaux (May 17-21), Scène Nationale de Sète in Sète (May 23-27), La Passerelle, Scène Nationale de Saint-Brieuc in Saint-Brieuc (May 30-June 1), l'Opéra de Lille in Lille (June 7-10) and Châteauvallon, Ollioules in Châteauvallon (June 16-17).

**MORE**

The evening curtains for the April 15 and 16 performances of *Sharing the Legacy* are at 8pm. Tickets, which are \$17 apiece and \$12 for students and seniors, can be purchased at the box office located at East 68<sup>th</sup> Street (between Park & Lexington Avenues) or by calling 212-772-4448. The Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College is located at 695 Park Avenue.

<http://kayeplayhouse.hunter.cuny.edu/index.shtml>

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<b>PERFORMER</b>	<b>WORK</b>	<b>WORLD PREMIERE</b>	<b>LAST NY PERFORMANCE</b>
Muhlenberg College	<b>Crucible</b>	1985	2010
Tulane University	<b>Temple</b>	1974	1982
Hunter College	<b>Aviary</b> (Excerpts)	1978	1979
Middle Tennessee State University	<b>Pond</b>	1982	1993
DeSales University	<b>Tensile Involvement</b>	1955	2010
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	<b>Water Studies</b>	1964	1992
Southern Utah University	<b>Imago</b> (Excerpts)	1963	2010
Marymount Manhattan	<b>Mechanical Organ</b> (Excerpts)	1980	2003
University of North Carolina School of the Arts	<b>Gallery</b> (Excerpts)	1978	1988