

For Immediate Release

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**PEAK PERFORMANCES @ MONTCLAIR 2009 WINTER/SPRING PROGRAMS
BRIM WITH THEATER, DANCE AND MUSIC PREMIERES, DEBUTS
...AND NEW CHALLENGES**

Seven major world and U.S. premieres by some of the boldest and most provocative theater directors, choreographers and composers working today highlight Peak Performances @ Montclair's 2009 winter/spring season. Jan Fabre's "Orgy of Tolerance," a Rwandan adaptation of Peter Weiss's "The Investigation" and David Rousseve's "Saudade" question contemporary morals in singularly imaginative ways. Susan Marshall's world premiere and JoJi Inc.'s "Lolita" upend traditional notions of stage space and technology's potential to alter perception. Penderecki's freshly minted "String Quartet No. 3 – Leaves from an Unwritten Diary" challenges the musicians' speed leaving audiences and artists equally breathless.

**DOUBLE DOSE OF GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING BAND, THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS,
JANUARY 17**

Times: January 17 at 4pm and 8pm

The Grammy Award-winning alternative rock band They Might Be Giants presents two shows on January 17: A 4pm matinee for kids featuring "Here Come the ABC's" and an 8pm evening performance for adults that promises its 1990 classic "Birdhouse in Your Soul," among other hits.

**U.S. PREMIERE OF BELGIAN ARTIST JAN FABRE'S "ORGY OF TOLERANCE,"
JANUARY 22-25**

Times: January 22, 23 at 7:30pm, January 24 at 8pm, January 25 at 3pm

Using ten musicians, dancers and actors to create a satiric and terrifying look at the potential consequences of our P.C. culture, "Orgy of Tolerance" by Belgian director/visual artist/choreographer Jan Fabre, is comprised of absurd sketches provoking laughter that chokes. Politics, sex, consumerism, love are all moral targets.

**CARLA KIHLMSTADT AND SATOKO FUJII OF "MINAMO" PRESENT DUETS DRAWN
FROM BARTOK AND CECIL TAYLOR, JANUARY 31**

Time: January 31 at 8pm

Carla Kihlstadt, the California-based violinist and Satoko Fujii, the Japan-based pianist, make their east coast debut with "Minamo," a jazz series of free improvisation duets drawn from rock, Bartok and Cecil Taylor. "Minamo" is conceptually based on the duo's 2007 CD of the same name.

MORE

REBEL CHAMBER MUSIC GROUP PRESENTS “IRREGULAR PEARLS: BAROQUE MUSIC FROM EUROPEAN COURTS AND CHAMBERS,” FEBRUARY 1

Time: February 1 at 3pm

Rebel (pronounced Re-BEL) will present “Irregular Pearls: Baroque Music from European Courts and Chambers,” a program of 17th and 18th century Italian, German and French chamber music highlighted by selections of Vivaldi, Corelli, Rossi, Leclair and Telemann. Currently in residence in New York City’s Trinity Church on Wall Street, Rebel was founded in the Netherlands in 1991.

AMERICAN DEBUT OF RWANDA’S URWINTORE THEATER IN PETER WEISS’S “THE INVESTIGATION,” FEBRUARY 5–8

Times: February 5, 6 at 7:30pm; February 7 at 8pm; February 8 at 3pm

The Rwanda-based theater company Urwintore makes its American debut with its production of Peter Weiss’s contemporary classic, “The Investigation.” The Urwintore adaptation of Weiss’s examination of the German Holocaust gives the play universal power, becoming a conceit for the horrifying genocide that destroyed Rwanda in 1994. Directed by Dorcy Rugamba, the play is performed in Kinyarwanda with English subtitles.

CHOREOGRAPHER DAVID ROUSSÈVE PRESENTS EVENING LENGTH PREMIERE OF “SAUDADE,” FEBRUARY 12–15

Times: February 12, 13 at 7:30pm; February 14 at 8pm; February 15 at 3pm

David Roussève will present the tri-state premiere of “Saudade” (February 12–15), a full-evening dance that uses folklore, historical fact and personal experience to examine the single, indescribable moment when joy and agony are fused. In Portuguese, “Saudade” conjures up the complex mixture of sadness, pain, nostalgia, joy and love that is at the core of Fado music, which accompanies the dance.

AMERICAN PREMIERE OF KRZYSZTOF PENDERECKI’S “STRING QUARTET NO. 3 – LEAVES FROM AN UNWRITTEN DIARY” TO BE PRESENTED BY SHANGHAI QUARTET, FEBRUARY 21

Time: February 21 at 8pm

A highlight of the Shanghai Quartet’s February 21 concert is the American premiere of Krzysztof Penderecki’s “String Quartet No. 3 – Leaves from an Unwritten Diary,” commissioned by Peak Performances. Although only a single movement, its sections are clearly defined by a contemplative beginning, which transforms into a breathtaking vivace pattern yielding to a soft, gentle, gypsy-like concluding melody. The performance also includes Mozart’s “Quartet No. 15 in D Minor, K. 421” and Debussy’s “Quartet in G Minor, Op. 1.”

SUSAN MARSHALL & COMPANY PRESENTS WORLD PREMIERE, MARCH 26–29

Times: March 26, 27 at 7:30pm; March 28 at 8pm; March 29 at 3pm

Marking a significant departure for the choreographer, Susan Marshall’s world premiere (title to come) incorporates technology into its choreographic structure inviting spontaneous improvisation by its six dancers. Many of the usually hidden elements of the stage, its pipes, lighting and ropes are exposed and creatively manipulated to challenge the audience’s visual and aural perception and expectations. Peter Whitehead is composing the original score.

MORE

**BELGIUM-BASED THEATER COMPANY, JOJI INC. PRESENTS STAGED VERSION OF
NABOKOV'S "LOLITA," APRIL 3-5**

Times: April 3 at 7:30pm; April 4 at 8pm; April 5 at 3pm

Why Joji Inc.'s "Lolita" (April 3-5) is described as "an imaginary opera" is literally a question of point of view. Although based on the Nabokov classic, Wooster Group founding member Jim Clayburgh (director), Joshua Fineberg (composer), Johanne Saunier (choreographer) and Kurt d'Haeseleer (video) turn tables on the novel's original themes. The opera takes place entirely within the obsessive mind of its narrator Humbert Humbert (François Beukelaers), who stands on a platform that suggests a witness box. Cameras record and screens reveal every change in his facial expression as the evening proceeds.

**U.S. PREMIERE OF VIA KATLEHONG'S "WOZA," A VIBRANT CELEBRATION OF
AFRICAN DANCE AND MUSIC, MAY 7-10**

Times: May 7, 8 at 7:30pm; May 9 at 8pm; May 10 at 3pm

Johannesburg's Via Katlehong Dance will present the American premiere of "WOZA," a vibrant celebration of the movement and rhythms of natural forces, wind, and animals. Filled with energetic, powerful and aggressive dancing amplified by strong stamping feet, hand clapping and loud voices, "WOZA" combines *Pantsula* — the South African township urban dance — and traditional Gumboots dance, mixed with African contemporary dance. The dance is accompanied by vocals and live music played on traditional and nontraditional South African instruments.

TICKET AND TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

All tickets are \$15, and are available at the Alexander Kasser Theater Box Office or by calling 973-655-5112 or online at www.peakperfs.org

Van or bus service is available from New York City (\$10 per person, roundtrip) from the Maritime Hotel on 9th Avenue and 16th Street to the Alexander Kasser Theater for selected performances. Bus reservations may be made by calling 973-655-5112. For train service, available only on weekdays, go online to: www.njtransit.com or call 1-800-772-2222.

Montclair State University is located at 1 Normal Avenue, Montclair, New Jersey 07043.

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PLEASE SEE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR DATES AND TIMES

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PEAK PERFORMANCES @ MONTCLAIR
JANUARY 17 – MAY 10, 2009

<u>DATE/TIME</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
January 2009		
Jan. 17 at 4:00pm and 8:00pm	THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS (USA)	<i>No!/Here Come the ABC's</i> (Children's 4:00pm Program) <i>Don't Let's Start/Birdhouse in Your Soul</i> (8:00pm Program)
Jan. 22, 23 at 7:30pm Jan. 24 at 8:00pm Jan. 25 at 3:00pm	JAN FABRE (Belgium)	** <i>Orgy of Tolerance</i>
Jan. 31 at 8:00pm	^^CARLA KIHLSTADT/SATOKO FUJII (USA/Japan)	<i>Minamo</i>
February 2009		
Feb. 1 at 3:00pm	REBEL (USA)	<i>Irregular Pearls: Works by Vivaldi/Corelli/Rossi/Leclair/Telemann</i>
Feb. 5, 6 at 7:30pm Feb. 7 at 8:00pm Feb. 8 at 3:00pm	^URWINTORE (Rwanda)	** <i>The Investigation</i>
Feb. 12,13 at 7:30pm Feb. 14 at 8:00pm Feb. 15 at 3:00pm	DAVID ROUSSEVE (USA)	*** <i>Saudade</i>
Feb. 21 at 8:00pm	SHANGHAI QUARTET (USA)	<i>Quartet No. 15 in D Minor, K. 421 (Mozart)/Quartet in G Minor, Op. 10 (Debussy)/**String Quartet No. 3 – Leaves from an Unwritten Diary (Penderecki)</i>
March–May 2009		
Mar. 26, 27 at 7:30pm Mar. 28 at 8:00pm Mar 29 at 3:00pm	SUSAN MARSHALL & COMPANY (USA)	* <i>World Premiere</i>
Apr. 3 at 7:30pm Apr. 4 at 8:00pm Apr. 5 at 3:00pm	JOJI INC (Belgium)	** <i>Lolita</i>
May 7, 8 at 7:30pm May 9 at 8:00pm May 10 at 3:00pm	VIA KATLEHONG (South Africa)	** <i>WOZA</i>

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*World Premiere **U.S. Premiere ***Tri-State Premiere ^American Debut ^^East Coast Debut



Montclair State University, Alexander Kasser Theater • 1 Normal Ave, Montclair, NJ 07043
Box Office: 973-655-5112 • www.peakperfs.org • TICKETS: \$15 all performances

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