

Peak Performances

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Ellen Jacobs Associates
611 Broadway #403 New York, NY 10012 USA
eja@ejassociates.org <http://www.ejassociates.org>
212.245.5100

EXCEPTIONS RULE THROUGHOUT PEAK PERFORMANCES' 2012/13 SEASON



The Unconventional Trumps the Expected in New Works by Romeo Castellucci, David T. Little, Benjamin Millepied, Richard Alston, Vusi Mdoyi, Robert Wilson, Laurie Anderson with the Kronos Quartet, and Jasmin Vardimon Company Concerts by ARTEK, Shanghai Quartet, Lionheart Vocal Ensemble with ACME, Sarah Rothenberg and Marilyn Nonken

MONTCLAIR, New Jersey - Peak Performances has been rapidly making Montclair State University a major cultural destination, even for New Yorkers. Consider the below.

Nine premieres including stunning, often startling, new music, dance and theater works by composers David T. Little, Laurie Anderson; choreographers Benjamin Millepied, Richard Alston, Vusi Mdoyi, Jasmin Vardimon; directors Robert Wilson and Romeo Castellucci are among the highlights of the 2012/13 Peak Performances season. Peak is where exceptions rule.

"Even shockingly new ideas always have a history," said Peak Performances' Artistic Director Jedediah Wheeler, "which is what our 2012/13 season is planned to reveal. Would

MORE

there be a David T. Little had there not been a Laurie Anderson or a Schubert? Would there have been a William Forsythe had not Merce Cunningham and George Balanchine broken important ground? Probably, but their work would also probably be different. These iconoclasts, these exceptions to the rule, while unique in their own creative spirit, owe a debt to pioneering artists whose work is now revered as classic. This is what we want to celebrate in the wide range that distinguishes this season's lineup."

PLEASE NOTE: BLUE = OPERA, PURPLE = DANCE, ORANGE = THEATER, GREEN = MUSIC

**DAVID T. LITTLE, ROYCE VAVREK, ROBERT WOODRUFF, JUDY BUDNITZ,
ALAN PIERSON**

Dog Days

SEPTEMBER 29–OCTOBER 7, *Times: September 29 and October 6 at 8pm, September 30 and October 7 at 3pm, October 5 at 7:30pm*

The season opens September 29 with the long-anticipated world premiere of David T. Little's darkly comedic "Dog Days," which combines elements of opera, musical theater and rock-infused concert music to shape its horrifying prediction of the future. Set in an imagined, war-torn United States, the opera poses a series of dangerous questions: Is it madness, delusion, or sheer animal instinct that guides us through perilous times? If necessary, when should man yield to his animal instincts to survive? Based on a short story by Judy Budnitz, and performed by a cast of six singers and an actor, "Dog Days" is tough, funny, and ultimately, deeply humane. Royce Vavrek is the librettist and Alan Pierson, the music director. This Peak production is being produced in association with Beth Morrison Projects.

BENJAMIN MILLEPIED/L.A. DANCE PROJECT

New work by Benjamin Millepied, *Quintett* by William Forsythe, *Winterbranch* by Merce Cunningham

OCTOBER 25–28, *Times: October 25, 26 at 7:30pm, October 27 at 8pm, October 28 at 3pm*

The east coast debut of the L.A. Dance Project, the new six-member company by Benjamin Millepied, one of the fastest rising stars on the international dance scene, takes place at Peak, October 25-28. The repertory features the revival of Merce Cunningham's still-controversial "Winterbranch" (1964) set to La Monte Young's two-note score; William Forsythe's "Quintett" (1993) set to Gavin Bryar's looping "Jesus' Blood Never Failed Me Yet," and a premiere by Millepied (to be titled) set to a new score by his close musical collaborator Nico Muhly, with a visual design by painter Christopher Wool.

MORE

RICHARD ALSTON DANCE COMPANY

A Ceremony of Carols, Roughcut, Unfinished Business

DECEMBER 13-16, Times: December 13, 14 at 7:30pm, December 15 at 8pm, December 16 at 3pm

The United States premiere of Richard Alston's "A Ceremony of Carols" is scheduled for December 13-16 when the London-based Richard Alston Dance Company makes its Peak Performance debut. Premiered in February 2012, the dance, which reaffirms Alston's fame as one of contemporary dance's most original and musical choreographers, was created to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Benjamin Britten. The award-winning Montclair State University chorus, featuring MSU students and directed by Heather J. Buchanan, will accompany the dance on stage, along with harpist André Tarantiles. The program also features "Roughcut," a fiercely athletic dance set to the driving force of Steve Reich's score and "Unfinished Business," a lively, elegant work set to Mozart.

**ROBERT WILSON, BERNICE JOHNSON REAGON, TOSHI REAGON,
JACQUELINE WOODSON**

Zinnias: The Life of Clementine Hunter

JANUARY 26-FEBRUARY 3, Times: January 26 and February 2 at 8pm, January 27 and February 3 at 3pm, January 31 and February 1 at 7:30pm

A new chamber opera based on the life of renowned African-American artist Clementine Hunter, "Zinnias" is an intimate exploration of one of America's greatest natural talents. Born on a plantation in Natchitoches, Louisiana, Hunter's experiences revealed an innate talent for depicting life in the early 20th century through her paintings. Now, using her artwork and stories, Clementine Hunter's touching and unique journey is brought to the stage through the collaboration of Robert Wilson, Bernice Johnson Reagon, Toshi Reagon and Jacqueline Woodson. This Peak production was workshopped at The Watermill Center (Summer 2011) and at Montclair State University's Alexander Kasser Theater (May 2012).

SOCIETAS RAFFAELLO SANZIO/ ROMEO CASTELLUCCI

On the Concept of the Face, Regarding the Son of God

FEBRUARY 14-17, Times: February 14, 15 at 7:30pm, February 16 at 8pm and February 17 at 3pm

One of Europe's most controversial and celebrated artists Romeo Castellucci and his Italian theater company, Societàs Raffaello Sanzio, return to Peak Performances, February 14-17, with one of the director's most hotly argued about works to date, "On the Concept of the Face,

MORE

Regarding the Son of God." The story of a son morally compelled to care for his aging, incontinent father who has lost all control of his bowels, the play takes place on an antiseptically white stage with a huge portrait of an enigmatically smiling Christ hanging behind the couch. Graphic in its smell and smearing use of excrement, Castellucci's newest work challenges the audience not to turn its eyes from its riveting and complex subject matter: shame, degradation, duty, and love. A U.S. premiere, "On the Concept of the Face, Regarding the Son of God" has already been seen at Barbican in London, the Chekhov International Theatre Festival in Moscow, Festival d'Avignon in France, Théâtre de la Ville in Paris, among other major international venues.

VIA KATLEHONG DANCE

Katlehong Cabaret

MARCH 16-24, Times: March 16, 23 at 8pm, March 17, 24 at 3pm, March 21, 22 at 7:30pm

Via Katlehong Dance, South Africa's exuberant dance troupe of eighteen performers, returns to Peak Performances, March 16-24, with the U.S. premiere of "Katlehong Cabaret." Life in the township of Katlehong, a notorious war zone during the uprisings in the '80's, is the inspiration. Greeted with overwhelming enthusiasm by the Parisian press at its premiere this year, "Katlehong Cabaret" employs the company's signature combine of gumboots, tap, hip hop, a cappella singing, and percussion to capture and share the indomitable spirit and optimistic energy of their hometown. Vusi Mdoyi is the choreographer, Siphwe Nkosi is the artistic director, and Hlengiwe Lushaba is credited with the conception.

JASMIN VARDIMON COMPANY

Freedom

APRIL 18-21, Times: April 18, 19 at 7:30pm, April 20 at 8pm, April 21 at 3pm

The Israeli-born Jasmin Vardimon, an Associate Artist at the Sadler's Wells since 2006, will present the American premiere of "Freedom" at Peak Performances. The work, which will receive its world premiere in London this coming fall, is forecasted to combine Vardimon's bold physicality, innovative technologies, text and movement to explore the ways in which the imagination can be kept free. Plans also include visuals that fuse animation with the live action on stage. The April 18-21 Peak engagement marks the Company's east coast debut, and only second visit to the U.S.

MORE

LAURIE ANDERSON AND KRONOS QUARTET

World Premiere (title to come)

MAY 10-11, Times: May 10 at 7:30pm and May 11 at 8pm

Two of the music world's great trailblazing heroes, Laurie Anderson, who continues to marry new music, poetry, text and rock into something gorgeously unexpected, and the Kronos Quartet, which has introduced some of the most wildly experimental music to audiences, will present the premiere of a sixty minute work by Anderson. The new work (title to come) includes a series of twelve three-minute songs for processed violin, as well as twelve integrated stories, each using the same situation to describe the way time passes, while each describing it from a different point of view. In trademark Anderson fashion, the stories will be spoken over rhythmic underscoring, this time provided by the Kronos musicians, who both improvise and play slow-moving atmospheric clusters.

OF MUSICAL NOTE

One-Day Only Specials

The season will also include one-night stands by some of the most original music groups working today.

The first is **ARTEK's** production of "I'll Never See the Stars Again" on **October 20 at 8pm**, which turns early music composer Claudio Monteverdi and his contemporaries into an emotional mosaic of compelling, innovative theater through its postmodern staging.

On **October 21 at 3pm**, the **Shanghai Quartet**, artists-in-residence at Montclair State University, will present a concert of music by Haydn, Ravel, and Schubert followed by a concert on **April 12 at 7:30pm**, featuring music by Shostakovich, Mozart and Dvořák.

On **February 9 at 8pm**, **Lionheart Vocal Ensemble**, the adventure-loving, all-male a cappella group (two tenors, two baritones, a countertenor and a bass), will present "Wayfaring Stranger," a program embracing music from the Renaissance to the late folk hero Laura Nyro. Then in a new twist, a string quartet drawn from **American Contemporary Music Ensemble (ACME)** will amplify The Lionheart singers in two works by Ingram Marshall, including the East Coast premiere of his "Psalmbook."

MORE

"The Rite of Spring" will be given something of a rewrite when pianists **Sarah Rothenberg and Marilyn Nonken** present the Stravinsky classic for two pianos in a program entitled "The Grand Gesture" on **April 13 at 8pm**. Also scheduled for the concert will be Messiaen's "Visions de l'Amen" for two pianos.

TICKET, TRANSPORTATION AND DINING INFORMATION

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

Charter bus service is provided from New York City's Port Authority Bus Terminal – arcade on 41st Street between 8th and 9th Avenues – to the Alexander Kasser Theater (\$10 per person, roundtrip) for all Saturday and Sunday performances. Bus reservations may be made by calling 973-655-5112 or by visiting <http://www.peakperfs.org>. For train service, available only on weekdays, go online to www.njtransit.com or call 973-275-5555.

For restaurants close to the Alexander Kasser Theater, visit <http://www.destinationmontclair.com>

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

Photography Credits for first page (L to R):

Row 1: James White, Jeppe Gudmundsen-Holmgreen, Tristram Kenton, Chris Nash

Row 2: Arens, Klaus Lefebvre, Laurie Anderson, Annley Boucher

Row 3: Tristan Cook, Ben Harries, Edward Edahl, Alastair Muir

###

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED SCHEDULE

050712

2012–13 Season by Date

DATES	COMPANY/ARTIST	PROGRAM
Sept. 29 & Oct. 6 at 8pm Sept. 30 & Oct. 7 at 3pm Oct. 5 at 7:30pm	Direction by Robert Woodruff Composed by David T. Little Libretto by Royce Vavrek Music direction by Alan Pierson Based on the story by Judy Budnitz (U.S.)	<i>Dog Days*</i>
Oct. 20 at 8pm	ARTEK (U.S.)	<i>I'll Never See the Stars Again</i>
Oct. 21 at 3pm	Shanghai Quartet with guest artist Jan Vogler (U.S.)	<i>String Quintet</i> by Franz Schubert
Oct. 25 & 26 at 7:30pm Oct. 27 at 8pm Oct. 28 at 3pm	Benjamin Millepied/L.A. Dance Project (U.S.)	<i>Quintett</i> by William Forsythe <i>Winterbranch</i> by Merce Cunningham New work by Benjamin Millepied***
Dec. 13 & 14 at 7:30pm Dec. 15 at 8pm Dec. 16 at 3pm	Richard Alston Dance Company (U.K.)	<i>A Ceremony of Carols**</i> <i>Roughcut</i> <i>Unfinished Business</i>
Jan. 26 & Feb. 2 at 8pm Jan. 27 & Feb. 3 at 3pm Jan. 31 & Feb. 1 at 7:30pm	Concept, Direction, Set and Light Design by Robert Wilson Libretto and Music Composition by Bernice Johnson Reagon and Toshi Reagon Book by Jacqueline Woodson (U.S.)	<i>Zinnias: The Life of Clementine Hunter*</i>
Feb. 9 at 8pm	Lionheart Vocal Ensemble with ACME (U.S.)	<i>Wayfaring Stranger</i> <i>Psalmbook</i> by Ingram Marshall
Feb. 14 & 15 at 7:30pm Feb. 16 at 8pm Feb. 17 at 3pm	Societas Raffaello Sanzio/Romeo Casetlucci (Italy)	<i>On the Concept of the Face, Regarding the Son of God**</i>
Mar. 16 & 23 at 8pm Mar. 17 & 24 at 3pm Mar. 21 & 22 at 7:30pm	Via Katlehong Dance (South Africa)	<i>Katlehong Cabaret**</i>
Apr. 12 at 7:30pm	Shanghai Quartet with guest artist Ying Huang (U.S.)	<i>ChinaSong</i>
Apr. 13 at 8pm	Sarah Rothenberg and Marilyn Nonken (U.S.)	<i>The Grand Gesture</i> featuring Igor Stravinsky's <i>Le Sacre du Printemps</i> and Olivier Messiaen's <i>Visions de l'Amen</i>
Apr. 18 & 19 at 7:30pm Apr. 20 at 8pm Apr. 21 at 3pm	Jasmin Vardimon Company (U.K.)	<i>Freedom**</i>
May 10 at 7:30pm May 11 at 8pm	Laurie Anderson and Kronos Quartet (U.S.)	Untitled Collaboration



*World Premiere

**American Premiere

***Regional Premiere

PRESS CONTACT: ELLEN JACOBS ASSOCIATES

611 Broadway #403 • NYC 10012 USA • T: 212.245.5100 • eja@ejassociates.org • www.ejassociates.org

2012–13 Season by Discipline

DATES	COMPANY/ARTIST	PROGRAM
OPERA		
Sept. 29 & Oct. 6 at 8pm Sept. 30 & Oct. 7 at 3pm Oct. 5 at 7:30pm	Direction by Robert Woodruff Composed by David T. Little Libretto by Royce Vavrek Music direction by Alan Pierson Based on the story by Judy Budnitz (U.S.)	<i>Dog Days*</i>
Jan. 26 & Feb. 2 at 8pm Jan. 27 & Feb. 3 at 3pm Jan. 31 & Feb. 1 at 7:30pm	Concept, Direction, Set and Light Design by Robert Wilson Libretto and Music Composition by Bernice Johnson Reagon and Toshi Reagon Book by Jacqueline Woodson (U.S.)	<i>Zinnias: The Life of Clementine Hunter*</i>
DANCE		
Oct. 25 & 26 at 7:30pm Oct. 27 at 8pm Oct. 28 at 3pm	Benjamin Millepied/L.A. Dance Project (U.S.)	<i>Quintett</i> by William Forsythe <i>Winterbranch</i> by Merce Cunningham New work by Benjamin Millepied***
Dec. 13 & 14 at 7:30pm Dec. 15 at 8pm Dec. 16 at 3pm	Richard Alston Dance Company (U.K.)	<i>A Ceremony of Carols**</i> <i>Roughcut</i> <i>Unfinished Business</i>
Mar. 16 & 23 at 8pm Mar. 17 & 24 at 3pm Mar. 21 & 22 at 7:30pm	Via Katlehong Dance (South Africa)	<i>Katlehong Cabaret**</i>
Apr. 18 & 19 at 7:30pm Apr. 20 at 8pm Apr. 21 at 3pm	Jasmin Vardimon Company (U.K.)	<i>Freedom**</i>
THEATER		
Feb. 14 & 15 at 7:30pm Feb. 16 at 8pm Feb. 17 at 3pm	Societas Raffaello Sanzio/Romeo Castellucci (Italy)	<i>On the Concept of the Face, Regarding the Son of God**</i>
MUSIC		
Oct. 20 at 8pm	ARTEK (U.S.)	<i>I'll Never See the Stars Again</i>
Oct. 21 at 3pm	Shanghai Quartet with guest artist Jan Vogler (U.S.)	<i>String Quintet</i> by Franz Schubert
Feb. 9 at 8pm	Lionheart Vocal Ensemble with ACME (U.S.)	<i>Wayfaring Stranger</i> <i>Psalmbook***</i> by Ingram Marshall
Apr. 12 at 7:30pm	Shanghai Quartet with guest artist Ying Huang (U.S.)	<i>ChinaSong</i>
Apr. 13 at 8pm	Sarah Rothenberg and Marilyn Nonken (U.S.)	<i>The Grand Gesture</i> featuring Igor Stravinsky's <i>Le Sacre du Printemps</i> and Olivier Messiaen's <i>Visions de l'Amen</i>
May 10 at 7:30pm May 11 at 8pm	Laurie Anderson and Kronos Quartet (U.S.)	Untitled Collaboration

*World Premiere

**American Premiere

***Regional Premiere

PRESS CONTACT: ELLEN JACOBS ASSOCIATES

611 Broadway #403 • NYC 10012 USA • T: 212.245.5100 • eja@ejassociates.org • www.ejassociates.org