

WALKER ART CENTER

PERFORMING ARTS 2008—2009



MUSIC DANCE THEATER PERFORMANCE

9/18 SEASON PREVIEW

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5/28-30 HOIPOLLOI THEATRE



Photo: Frank Huneeus



Rainbow Quarry, photos: Cameron Wittig

MUSIC DANCE THEATER PERFORMANCE



Photo: Paris Court



Photo: Steven Hicks

Welcome to our 2008/2009 season,

It is hard to imagine a more spectacular and fitting way to open a Walker performing arts season than by restaging, on the floor of a breathtaking granite quarry, the monumental Ocean. The most ambitious project ever conceived by Merce Cunningham and John Cage, two of the 20th century's towering artistic figures, this work embodies key hallmarks of our program—high-level artistry, interdisciplinary innovation, audacious risk-taking, partnership, site-specific production, and a sustained commitment to artists—but pushes them to new, previously unimagined levels.

Ocean is, however, only the opening chapter of this diverse season's story. The 27 events reflect our world through the eyes of artists—what it means to be human and where our culture may be heading. The Walker's decision to commission seven new works for the season, one of the largest numbers in our history, helps fill a critical gap in the American cultural landscape, a place where many of our most essential innovators don't have standard support structures to sustain their work.

This year, the genre of music-theater is radically rethought by artists of distinctly different generations and backgrounds: David Gordon, Cynthia Hopkins, and Jay Scheib. The UK Performance Now! series surveys the rich and diverse "live art" scene in England and Wales, introducing four artistic voices new to the Walker and the United States. Some of the season highlights reflect on the social whiplash of our times (The Builders Association, Toshiki Okada/Chelfitsch, Young Jean Lee, Tim Crouch), while others look back to 20th-century history/artworks to rethink the age we live in now (National Theater of the USA, David Gordon, Jay Scheib).

The creative ferment bubbling up in the outer reaches of the rock and pop universe is reflected through rare concerts or special projects by such mavericks as Stephin Merritt/The Magnetic Fields, Will Oldham (Bonnie "Prince" Billy), Dean and Britta, and Dave Longstreth/Dirty Projectors, who join a mix of global music innovators, modern classical composers, and new jazz heroes to round out one of the most fertile music lineups in recent years.


Extreme intimacy and expansive spectacle; increasingly blurred lines between disciplines; surprising, sometimes disturbing visions; new performance art forms offered in new kinds of ways—I look forward to sharing these adventures with you over the coming year.

Philip Bither
William and Nadine McGuire Senior Curator, Performing Arts

Performing Arts Season Preview

Thursday, September 18, 7 pm Free McGuire Theater

Senior performing arts curator Philip Bither illuminates the entire 2008–2009 season with personal stories and accounts; music and video highlights, including samples from Eiko & Koma and the Builders Association; highlights from Out There 21, the popular January performance festival; and the four-part series UK Performance Now! (winter/spring 2009) that introduces new performance innovators from across the pond.

Target Free Thursday Nights sponsored by 

Dig Deeper

This season, nearly all of the events offer chances to interact with the artists through workshops, discussions, or opportunities to perform. Information is online, along with music and video clips for each upcoming project, including the Ocean TV spot and the season trailer. You can also join conversations about what you've seen and reference articles, reviews, and interesting facts about each event. It's all only a click away at walkerart.org.



Photo: Cameron Wittig

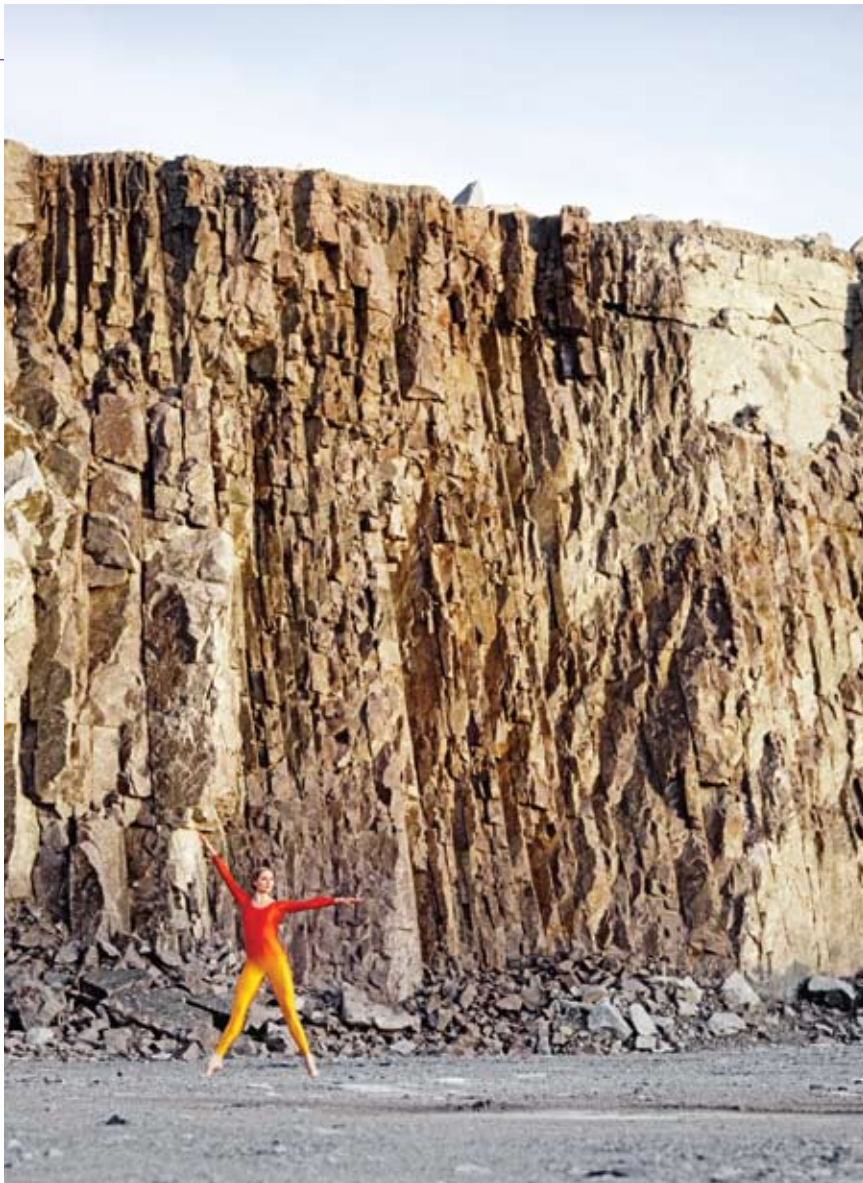


Photo: Cameron Wittig

MERCE CUNNINGHAM DANCE COMPANY OCEAN



Merce Cunningham Dance Company

Thursday–Saturday, September 11–13, 8 pm \$50 (\$45)
Rainbow Quarry, Waite Park, Minnesota (near St. Cloud)

As the September sun sets, descend 150 feet below the earth’s surface, into a massive granite quarry, to experience a once-in-a-lifetime production of Merce Cunningham and John Cage’s monumental Ocean. Cunningham’s most ambitious work, rarely performed in America due to its scale, features his 14-member dance company, an orchestral score by Andrew Culver (inspired by Cage) performed by 150 musicians, including the St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra, and an electronic score by longtime Cunningham collaborator David Tudor. With a unique Cageian flair, the orchestra fully encircles the audience, which encircles the dance. Experience one of contemporary dance’s epic achievements.

More Merce—catch films, talks, tours, and workshops leading up to Ocean. Visit calendar.walkerart.org/ocean for details about related events and information about shuttles and parking for the performances.

Coproduced by the Walker Art Center and the Cunningham Dance Foundation, with the Benedicta Arts Center of the College of Saint Benedict and Northrop Dance at the University of Minnesota. Major support is generously provided by Sage and John Cowles and the National Endowment for the Arts American Masterpieces: Presenting program. Additional support provided by The Minneapolis Foundation: Goodale Arts Fund, Leni D. & David Moore, Jr. / The Moore Family Fund for the Arts, and the Dale Schatzlein and Emily Maltz Fund; HRK Foundation: Hayes Fund, Hynnek Fund, Art and Martha Kaemmer Fund, Pugsley Fund, and the Mary H. Rice Foundation; Russell Cowles; Josine Peters; Molly Davies; Michael J. Peterman and David A. Wilson; Noa and Ted Staryk; Penny Rand Winton; and the Sewell Family Foundation. Media partner Charter Communications. Special thanks to Martin Marietta Materials and the city of Waite Park.

The Walker Art Center’s Dance Season is sponsored by Gray Plant Mooty.

“A gorgeous spectacle, conceptually complex yet sensuously gratifying.... Like the sea itself, Ocean teems with life.” — NEW YORK TIMES

Charlie Haden's Liberation Music Orchestra
with Special Guest Carla Bley

Saturday, September 27, 8 pm \$35 (\$30)

Ted Mann Concert Hall, University of Minnesota, West Bank campus

For more than four decades, Charlie Haden has been widely recognized as one of the most inventive and respected bass players, composers, and bandleaders in all of jazz. He formed the Liberation Music Orchestra in 1969 as an artistic statement against the Vietnam War, and reassembles it only at key political/historical moments—such as the 2008 presidential election. Longtime collaborator and pianist/composer Carla Bley, a member of the original group, returns with her gorgeous arrangements that mix gospel with jazz, hymns with folk tunes, and big band with civil rights anthems. Copresented with Northrop Jazz at the University of Minnesota.

Sponsored by Macy's Foundation. Media partners 89.3 The Current and Vita.mn.

“The music is dedicated to creating a better world; a world without war and killing, without poverty and exploitation....” — CHARLIE HADEN



Photo: Thomas Dorn

CHARLIE HADEN'S LIBERATION MUSIC ORCHESTRA WITH SPECIAL GUEST CARLA BLEY





Photos: 2007 Gregory Georges /ADF

EIKO & KOMA HUNGER

DANCE — WORLD PREMIERE / WALKER COMMISSION

Eiko & Koma

Thursday–Saturday, October 9–11, 8 pm

\$18 (\$15) Thursday \$25 (\$21) Friday–Saturday

In this intimate quartet, legendary choreographer/dancers Eiko & Koma poetically explore the elemental theme of hunger. Using butoh-inspired, glacially slow movement and stunning real-time “action painting,” this new work reflects on physical want and familial themes as it ebbs and flows from the lovely to the violent, the poignant to the passionate. For *Hunger*, Eiko & Koma expand their “dance tribe” into a quartet that includes two young Cambodian visual artists/performers whom they began working with during a residency in Phnom Penh in 2004.

Commissioned by the Walker Art Center with support provided by the William and Nadine McGuire Commissioning Fund and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Presented in association with the Asia Society.

Sponsored by Gray Plant Mooty.



“This Japanese-American duo has been creating mesmerizingly slow, agonizingly full work for more than three decades, and to see it is to experience something that has no parallel elsewhere.” — NEW YORK TIMES

The Magnetic Fields

Friday, October 10, 8 pm \$29

State Theatre, 805 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis

A rare Twin Cities stop on a very limited U.S. tour by the Magnetic Fields, led by New York City singer/songwriter Stephin Merritt. Critically hailed as one of the most significant indie pop bands of the last two decades, the Magnetic Fields has built a rabid following for its personal yet poppy dance/noise/synth sound underlying literate lyrics that are ironic, bittersweet, and bitingly humorous. This acoustic evening features songs from the band's latest release, Distortion, as well as music from their influential 1999 triple album 69 Love Songs, called "an essential guide to loving music" (Guardian, UK). Copresented with the Cedar Cultural Center.

Support provided by The McKnight Foundation.

Sponsored by Macy's Foundation. Media partners 89.3 The Current and Vita.mn.

"Seriously smart pop music...

Self-consciously smart. Aggressively smart.

Flamboyant, sentimental, funny, corny.

Merritt brought to the public ear the kind of small-scale, crystalline, clever songs that for the most part have not been written since the heyday of musical theater." — NEW YORK TIMES



Photo: Marcelo Krasilic

THE MAGNETIC FIELDS

MUSIC



Photo: dbox

THE BUILDERS ASSOCIATION CONTINUOUS CITY

THEATER — WALKER COMMISSION

The Builders Association

Thursday–Saturday, October 23–25, 8 pm

\$18 (\$15) Thursday \$28 (\$23) Friday–Saturday

See the future of theater today. New York City–based wizards the Builders Association (Aladeen, Super Vision), with fingers firmly pressed to the pulse of today's changing world, weave an engrossing fable about ways that constant connectivity alters our sense of distance and intimacy. A globe-hopping father and his homebound daughter, whose lives are transformed by digital speed and failing cell phones, and the other intriguing characters who populate this story are propelled by leading-edge computer animation, electronic music, and live performance. A participatory Web site (www.continuouscity.org) and local filming of key scenes further conflate the global and the local, the mediated and the real.

Commissioned by the Walker Art Center with support provided by the William and Nadine McGuire Commissioning Fund, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support provided by the Performing Arts Fund, a program of Arts Midwest, and Mike Sweeney.

“The Builders Association is itself an innovator in multimedia theater, using video, animation, sampled sounds, and god-knows-what sorts of computerized gizmos to produce gorgeous illusions.” — VILLAGE VOICE

Choreographers' Evening

Saturday, November 29, 7 and 9:30 pm \$20 (\$16)

For more than 30 years, Choreographers' Evening has served as the major gathering for the Twin Cities' vital independent dance community. Witness and celebrate the remarkably diverse range of Minnesota dance—from established choreographers playing with new ideas to some of the freshest talent on the scene. This evening of short works has ranged from ballet to clogging, classical Indian dance to Spanish flamenco, dramatic dance-theater to comic vignettes. Curated by Sally Rousse, vaunted dancer/choreographer and cofounder of James Sewell Ballet.

Support provided by The McKnight Foundation.

Sponsored by Gray Plant Mooty.



“[An] annual smorgasbord of classic, offbeat, up-and-coming, or just plain zany talent.” — THE RAKE



Photos: Cameron Wittig

CHOREOGRAPHERS' EVENING CURATED BY SALLY ROUSSE





Photo: Kevin Ramos

YUSEF LATEEF WITH DOUGLAS EWART, ROSCOE MITCHELL, AND ADAM RUDOLPH

MUSIC

Yusef Lateef with Douglas Ewart, Roscoe Mitchell, and Adam Rudolph
Saturday, December 6, 8 pm \$35 (\$30)

In a rare appearance—his first time in the Twin Cities for more than a decade—legendary Grammy-winning composer/multi-instrumentalist Yusef Lateef and longtime collaborator/percussionist Adam Rudolph join forces with Twin Cities-based composer/instrument builder Douglas Ewart and longtime Art Ensemble of Chicago saxophonist Roscoe Mitchell for an evening of freewheeling free jazz. Nearly 50 years ago, Lateef was one of the first musicians to deeply study global musical traditions, stirring them into his own compositions with abandon and leading the way for many of today's world music fusions. Copresented with Northrop Jazz at the University of Minnesota.

Sponsored by Macy's Foundation. Media partners 89.3 The Current and Vita.mn.



Photo: Michael DiDonna

“Yusef Lateef is an artist in the purest
form of the word.” — JAZZ WEEKLY

Jay Scheib, Anthony Gatto, Zeitgeist, JACK, and Chris Larson
Friday–Saturday, December 12–13, 8 pm \$25 (\$21)

Gertrude Stein’s groundbreaking “cubist” novel, The Making of Americans, is the launching pad for this innovative, media-rich chamber opera. Celebrated Boston-based experimental theater director Jay Scheib, ex-Minneapolis composer Anthony Gatto, local new-music stalwarts Zeitgeist, and upstart New York string quartet JACK conspire to reimagine Stein’s groundbreaking history of all humanity. This ambitious collaboration unfolds in front of sets by Minneapolis artist Chris Larson and Scheib’s signature live and processed video streams. In addition to JACK’s strings, live chorus, and six principal singer/actors, the unusual instrumentation includes accordions, autoharps, hurdy-gurdies, scrap-yard percussion, and church bells.

Commissioned by the Walker Art Center and Zeitgeist with support provided by the William and Nadine McGuire Commissioning Fund and Meet the Composer.

Sponsored by Macy’s Foundation. Media partners 89.3 The Current and Vita.mn.

“Scheib may be the most acclaimed experimental American director whose work you have never seen.” — TIME OUT NEW YORK



Still from Crush Collision (2006), a film by Chris Larson

THE MAKING OF AMERICANS AN OPERA BY JAY SCHEIB AND ANTHONY GATTO BASED ON THE NOVEL BY GERTRUDE STEIN

NEW OPERA — WALKER COMMISSION / WORLD PREMIERE

As is fitting for a series that has always brought provocative, exhilarating, unexpected theatrical experiences to the Twin Cities, Out There celebrates its 21st season by presenting four ensembles whose breathtaking combinations of movement, media, theater, and physical drama are helping point the way to the future of live performance art.



Photo: Y. Duenyas

NATIONAL THEATER OF THE USA CHAUTAUQUA!

PERFORMANCE — WALKER COMMISSION

National Theater of the USA

Thursday–Saturday, January 8–10, 8 pm

\$18 (\$15) Thursday \$20 (\$16) Friday–Saturday

Step right this way for a festive night celebrating the Chautauqua Circuit (1874–1935), a wildly popular national network of traveling lecturers, performing artists, and entertainers. The National Theater of the USA transforms the McGuire Theater into the Chautauqua “big-top” experience as it mixes music, dance, debates, scientific experiments, circus arts, vaudeville, and feats of strength that were the hallmark of the circuit. All the while, this highly inventive New York City collective, joined by local luminaries, investigates and reinvents a distinctly American form of art and entertainment while posing questions about community, capitalism, and “high” and “low” culture. Note: contains nudity.

Copresented with the National Performance Network (NPN).

Commissioned by the Walker Art Center with support provided by the William and Nadine McGuire Commissioning Fund and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support provided by Roger Hale and Nor Hall, and The McKnight Foundation.



Photo: Bushwick Starr

“One of the most exciting and eccentric young theater companies in town.” — [NEW YORK TIMES](#)

Toshiki Okada/chelfitsch

Thursday–Saturday, January 15–17, 8 pm

\$18 (\$15) Thursday \$20 (\$16) Friday–Saturday

This quirky and darkly humorous work recounts the daily lives of four adolescents in Tokyo's trendy suburbs of Shibuya and Roppongi during the first five days of the U.S.-Iraq war in 2003. Their colloquial language is real enough, but it allows for a curious dislocation between their words and actions. In the dark spaces between the natural and the surreal, director Toshiki Okada juxtaposes reality with altered time, intimate human stories with the ominous event of a war at its inception. In Japanese with English surtitles.



Photos: Thomas Bremond

“Set against the backdrop of the U.S. launching attacks on Iraq, this poignant and intimate production emphasizes the confusion of an isolated younger generation.” — TIME OUT SINGAPORE

OUT THERE 21 — THEATER / PERFORMANCE

A tiny space ship in the vast outer space
where the air is quiet and transparent



**TOSHIKI OKADA/
CHELFITSCH
FIVE DAYS IN MARCH**

THEATER

OUT THERE 21 — THEATER / PERFORMANCE



© The Heart by Jane Prophet Photo: Steve Payne

TIM CROUCH ENGLAND

UK PERFORMANCE NOW!

Tim Crouch

Thursday, January 22, 9 pm

Friday–Saturday, January 23–24, 7 and 9:30 pm

\$18 (\$15) Thursday \$20 (\$16) Friday–Saturday

Walker Art Center galleries

The charming playwright/actor Tim Crouch wants to meet you. He's heard about you and has important things to tell you. His is a tale of England, but it's about an empire of a different kind. Minimalist and mesmerizing, England is performed in the Walker's galleries by two "guides" (Crouch and actress Hannah Ringham) who disregard the distinction between audience and actor, theater and life. This tour through space and across borders—from an art gallery to a jam factory, from Edinburgh to Osaka—is a journey to the end of the world. Score by award-winning sound designer Dan Jones. Very limited seating.

Support provided by the British Council.

"By the time the show comes to its quietly explosive conclusion, one finds that Crouch and Ringham have, like theatrical pickpockets, insinuated their way into one's thoughts and feelings." — DAILY TELEGRAPH, UK

Young Jean Lee

Thursday–Saturday, January 29–31, 8 pm

\$18 (\$15) Thursday \$20 (\$16) Friday–Saturday

Playwright/director Young Jean Lee, whose Songs of the Dragons Flying to Heaven was the sold-out hit of Out There 19, returns with her most stirring and potentially disturbing work. Even as Church's charismatic and left-leaning central preacher defies traditionally held Christian assumptions, he conveys a passionate message about religion having the power to transform lives, backed up by two female ministers. Hear the word and feel the power as the preaching, dance, and a full gospel choir deliver "a work so enjoyable, so intricate, and so thought-provoking [that] it's only appropriate to give thanks and praise" (New York Sun).

Special Church-related tour Thursday at 7 pm (free with event ticket).

Copresented with the National Performance Network (NPN). Church is an NPN Creation Fund Project commissioned by the Walker Art Center in partnership with the Philadelphia Live Arts Festival & Philly Fringe and the NPN. Support provided by the William and Nadine McGuire Commissioning Fund and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support provided by Leni and David Moore, Jr. / The Moore Family Fund for the Arts of The Minneapolis Foundation.

OUT THERE 21 — THEATER / PERFORMANCE



Photo: James M. Lee

"Her slyly subversive drama ambushes its audience with an earnest and surprisingly moving Christian church service that might be the most unlikely provocation produced in years." — NEW YORK TIMES

YOUNG JEAN LEE CHURCH

THEATER — WALKER COMMISSION



Photo: J-M Lubrano

JON HASSELL

MUSIC

Jon Hassell

Thursday, February 12, 8 pm \$25 (\$21)

Björk, Bono, DiFranco, Townsend, Basquiat, and Glass have raved about Jon Hassell, the master innovator and visionary creator of what he calls “worldly music”—a mysterious hybrid of ancient and digital, composed and improvised, Eastern and Western. Early in his career, he worked with Karlheinz Stockhausen, La Monte Young, Terry Riley, and raga master Pandit Pran Nath, whose Hindustani vocal style was transmuted by Hassell into a new trumpet sound. Rock innovators Brian Eno and Peter Gabriel collaborated with Hassell, then steered his ideas into the avant-pop sphere, where they have since evolved into post-jazz and rock forms. His latest album, Fascinoma, produced by Ry Cooder, has opened a surprising new chapter in his recording career, creating a glorious acoustic sound that reaped critical acclaim. Catch Hassell on his first U.S. tour in 20 years.

Sponsored by Macy's Foundation. Media partners 89.3 The Current and Vita.mn.

“Almost all of the musicians I meet at the moment seem to regard Jon Hassell as one of the God-like geniuses of contemporary music.” —THE WIRE

Batsheva Dance Company

Wednesday, February 18, 7:30 pm \$36, \$30, \$25 (\$27, \$22, \$18)

Northrop, University of Minnesota, East Bank campus

Ohad Naharin, artistic director of Batsheva Dance Company, has emerged as one of the world's most accomplished contemporary choreographers. His artistic integrity and innovation, brought to life by the power of his 17-member company, are on full display in this masterwork. The piece is propelled with breathtaking power through three sections—Bellus (Beauty), Humus (Earth), and Seus (This or Not This)—and interwoven with music by Brian Eno, the Beach Boys, and Bach. Critics have hailed the results as raw and elegant, violent and tender. Note: contains brief nudity. Copresented with Northrop Dance at the University of Minnesota.

Support provided by Leni and David Moore, Jr. / The Moore Family Fund for the Arts of The Minneapolis Foundation, and the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts.

Sponsored by Gray Plant Mooty.



“If you could hold one of Ohad Naharin’s dances in your hand, it would feel smooth. Think of a polished stone. It looks like a piece of secret sculpture, but hurl it and it becomes a weapon.” — VILLAGE VOICE



Photos courtesy H-Art Management

BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY
SHALOSH (THREE)





Photo: Steven Hicks

RAY LEE SIREN

UK PERFORMANCE NOW!

Ray Lee

Friday–Saturday, February 20–21 \$15 (\$12)

Friday: 7 and 9 pm

Saturday: 2, 7, and 9 pm

UK sound artist Ray Lee's bewitching sonic sculptures become an extraordinary choir that produces mesmerizing drones and whirls of light in a carefully shaped hourlong sound/theatrical performance. An indescribable experience, *Siren* incorporates 30 large metal tripods at varying heights with rotating arms that generate electronic tones. In near darkness, two performers set each arm in motion, building a dramatic, immersive spectacle of choreographed movement, light, and sound while the audience is free to roam the McGuire stage. *Siren* was a hit of the 2007 Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Support provided by the British Council.

Sponsored by Macy's Foundation. Media partners 89.3 The Current and Vita.mn.

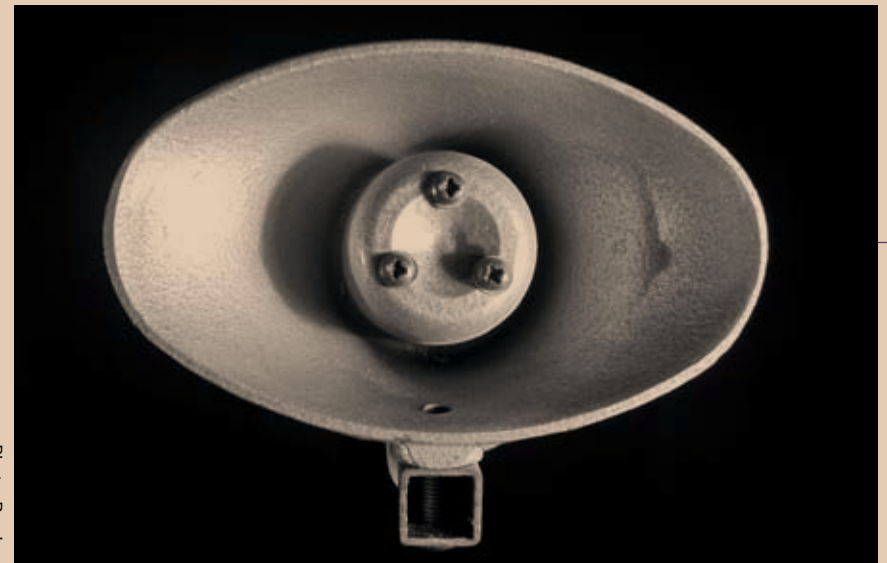


Photo: Ray Lee

“I could have sat for hours, hypnotized by the final crystal chord of the spinning oscillators.” — LIVE ART MAGAZINE, UK

Dean Wareham and Britta Phillips
Saturday, February 28, 8 pm \$22 (\$18)
Walker Cinema

Singer/guitarist/composer Dean Wareham (formerly of Galaxy 500 and Luna) was commissioned by The Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh to compose music to accompany some of Warhol's rarely seen silent-film portraits, which the artist called Screen Tests. These extraordinary documents of the 1960s New York art scene constitute a voluminous portrait gallery of well-known celebrities, Factory superstars, and anonymous teenagers. Wareham's wistful tenor and languorous songs and Britta Phillips' dreamy harmonies make the perfect live sound track for Warhol's technically simple yet transfixing films.

Preshow celebrity-portrait gallery tour at 7 pm (free with event ticket).

Sponsored by Macy's Foundation. Media partners 89.3 The Current and Vita.mn.



Andy Warhol | Screen Test: Jane Holzer (1964) ©2008 The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, PA, a museum of Carnegie Institute. All rights reserved.

“One of the most influential sounds to emerge out of the '80s rock underground... seductively drowsy and intimate.” — ROLLING STONE



Photo: Michael Lavine

DEAN WAREHAM AND
BRITTA PHILLIPS
13 MOST BEAUTIFUL... SONGS FOR
ANDY WARHOL'S "SCREEN TESTS"

MUSIC + FILM



Photo: Megha Gupta

DIRTY PROJECTORS



Dirty Projectors

Friday, March 6, 8 pm \$18 (\$15)

Style-smashing Brooklyn art rock ensemble Dirty Projectors is a well-tuned pop supercollider. Leader Dave Longstreth's compositional brilliance shines through rapid-fire sonic changes and fastidious pop/punk/soul songs that careen from tense to joyful to irreverent, achieving a soundscape that's "completely strange and oddly familiar at the same time," says David Byrne. Hear what lies ahead as DP premieres music from its forthcoming CD (and other surprises) in this specially constructed Walker evening.

Sponsored by Macy's Foundation. Media partners 89.3 The Current and Vita.mn.



Photo: Mia Fern

"There's a world of cross-references in Dirty Projector's music: stuttering modal riffs from Mali... pygmy antiphonal vocals, Captain Beefheart, Zimbabwean and Congolese rock, King Crimson, Talking Heads, Dan Hicks and his Hot Licks." — NEW YORK TIMES

David Gordon Pick Up Performance Co(S)
Thursday–Saturday, March 12–14, 8 pm
\$18 (\$15) Thursday \$25 (\$21) Friday–Saturday

German dramatist Bertolt Brecht viewed most wars as a political panacea for economic downturns and a purposeful division of people by color, religion, language, and geography—a remarkably timely perspective in an era defined by the “war on terror,” fears about immigration, and ethnic conflict worldwide. For this reimagining of Brecht and composer Hanns Eisler’s rarely performed music-theater work *Roundheads and Pointheads*, pioneering choreographer/theater director/writer David Gordon animates and adulterates Brecht’s pre-Holocaust parable with an English translation by Michael Feingold (*Village Voice*) and a stellar cast that includes performance artist John Kelly, Academy Award-winning actress Estelle Parsons (*Bonnie and Clyde*), actress/dancer Valda Setterfield, and pianist/composer Gina Leishman (Kamakazie Ground Crew).

Commissioned by the Walker Art Center with support provided by the William and Nadine McGuire Commissioning Fund and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support provided by Sage and John Cowles.

Sponsored by Gray Plant Mooty.



“His [David Gordon’s] curiosity and intellectual capacity [are] astonishing, and he influenced me in many ways.... He is one of those rare people: he’s brave with his life, and... with his art.” — MIKHAIL BARYSHNIKOV



Photos: Paula Court

DAVID GORDON PICK UP PERFORMANCE CO(S) *UNCIVIL WARS: MOVING WITH BRECHT & EISLER*

DANCE/THEATER — WALKER COMMISSION



Photo: Georgina Carless

GARY STEVENS APE

UK PERFORMANCE NOW!

Gary Stevens

Wednesday, Friday–Saturday, March 18, 20–21, 8 pm \$15 (\$12)

Wednesday: Bryant Lake Bowl, 810 West Lake Street, Minneapolis

Friday: Red Eye, 15 West 14th Street, Minneapolis

Saturday: Open Eye Figure Theatre, 506 East 24th Street, Minneapolis

Starting with simple actions that rapidly descend into a hilarious world of spontaneous theater, Ape moves from instantly recognizable social situations to moments of heady slapstick, disrupted language, and spot-on timing. Lauded British conceptual artist Gary Stevens joins forces with two accomplished performers—Julian Maynard Smith (Station House Opera) and Amanda Hadingue (Stan’s Cafe)—who portray interdependent beings bound to copy each other’s behavior. Each performance is followed by a wine-fueled discussion with the artists. Copresented with Bryant Lake Bowl, Red Eye, and Open Eye Figure Theatre.

Support provided by the British Council and The McKnight Foundation.

“A deluge of exclamations.” — FRIEZE

Bonnie "Prince" Billy

Thursday, March 19, 8 and 10:30 pm \$25 (\$21)

Spend an evening with one of the most enigmatic and celebrated singer-songwriters of the past decade. Oldham's atmospheric art-folk is borne of an Appalachian netherworld finding its glimmer and glow through gentle guitars, lush harmonies, shimmering folk-tronics, and elegies that slide between spare and sly, lovely and lonely, beautiful and bucolic. A rare live performance by one of today's most prolific and fiercely creative artists.

Sponsored by Macy's Foundation. Media partners 89.3 The Current and Vita.mn.

“Bonnie ‘Prince’ Billy is the indie-rock mainstay Will Oldham, whose hushed, country-influenced songs never sound precious or small; on the contrary, they often achieve an eerie grandeur that not even he seems to understand fully.” — NEW YORK TIMES



Photo: Mark Whiteley

BONNIE "PRINCE" BILLY

MUSIC



Photo: S. Benacer

LO CÒR DE LA PLANA



Lo Còr de la Plana

Saturday, March 28, 8 pm \$22 (\$18)

Singing in the disappearing Romance language of Occitan, the vocal and percussion ensemble Lo Còr de la Plana of Southern France not only brings a captivating ancient culture to life, but combines its rich traditions with 21st-century polyphony and subtle electronics. On their first U.S. tour, the irrepressible men of Lo Còr combine bendir drums, tambourines, foot-stomping, and hand-clapping with drones and call-and-response to create an utterly infectious musical experience. Their art reflects influences ranging from chant to Bartók, Middle Eastern vocal tonalities to the Massilia Sound System. Copresented with the Cedar Cultural Center.

Support provided by The McKnight Foundation.

Sponsored by Macy's Foundation. Media partners 89.3 The Current and Vita.mn.

“With just those voices and percussion, they did remarkable things.... The music was equally robust and intricate.” — NEW YORK TIMES

Donna Uchizono Dance Company
Thursday–Saturday, April 2–4, 8 pm
\$18 (\$15) Thursday \$25 (\$21) Friday–Saturday

Award-winning New York choreographer Donna Uchizono draws from the Buddhist tenet on emptiness to create a stunning new trio that combines iconic art-rock guitarist/composer Fred Frith’s densely intriguing score, the visceral power of her own unique movement vocabulary, and Michael Casselli’s ghostlike video imagery. Thin Air is a hypnotic experience that beautifully utilizes sound, simple yet brilliant scenic elements, and finely detailed movement that flows from the deliberate to the frenetic.

Copresented with the National Performance Network (NPN).

Sponsored by Gray Plant Mooty.



“The haunting quality of Uchizono’s work shone through—a blend of small but gem-like virtuosic moments, rich metaphors, and unforgettable visual panache.” — DANCE MAGAZINE



Photos: Alexandra Corazz

DONNA UCHIZONO DANCE COMPANY THIN AIR





Photos: Paula Court

Cynthia Hopkins

Thursday–Saturday, April 16–18, 8 pm

\$18 (\$15) Thursday \$25 (\$21) Friday–Saturday

Singer/performer/director Cynthia Hopkins (Accidental Nostalgia, Must Don't Whip 'Um) has built a large local following for her unique style of contemporary music-theater. The final chapter of Accidental Trilogy takes her investigation of memory, loss, and personal history to futuristic, intergalactic heights in this music-soaked, beguiling, and humorous telling of an ancient epic imagined as a live sci-fi film. Supported by her familiar and brilliant collaborators—video artists/theatrical designers Jeff Sugg and Jim Findlay (Wooster Group)—Hopkins takes us on an immersive exploration of time, space, and the pros and cons of evolution.

Commissioned by the Walker Art Center, Carolina Performing Arts at UNC Chapel Hill, and the Wexner Center. Support provided by the MAP Fund, a program of Creative Capital, the William and Nadine McGuire Commissioning Fund, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support provided by Leni & David Moore, Jr. / The Moore Family Fund for the Arts of The Minneapolis Foundation.



“Blurs the edges of confession and performance, concert and play, memory and creation.... Hopkins pulls off the impossible.” — TIME OUT NEW YORK

CYNTHIA HOPKINS THE SUCCESS OF FAILURE (OR, THE FAILURE OF SUCCESS)

MUSIC/THEATER — WORLD PREMIERE/WALKER COMMISSION

New World Dance: New York

Thursday–Saturday, April 30–May 2, 8 pm

\$18 (\$15) Thursday \$20 (\$16) Friday–Saturday

Catch timely works of compassion, courage, and sass by movement-makers from around the world who are now based in New York. Nami Yamamoto brings the timing of Japanese kyogen theater along with the illusion of puppetry to her latest choreography, a howling flower. According to the New York Times, Yamamoto “explores these dualities with a light, sure touch.” Nora Chipaumire, who lived through Zimbabwe’s second war of liberation, is described by critics as “a fierce, riveting force.” She presents her solo Convoys, Curfews and Roadblocks as a memoir of survival. Luciana Achugar, dubbed “downtown’s wildchild from Uruguay” by Dance Magazine, and her company of “six uncivilized women” perform the blue-collar A Super Natural Return to Love armed with a manifesto that declares the collective body and reclaims the pleasures of the flesh.

Sponsored by Gray Plant Mooty.



Photos, left to right: Briana Blasko; Julieta Cervantes

“It’s time for the next
revolution...” — NEW YORK TIMES ON DANCE IN NEW YORK



Photos, top to bottom: Briana Blasko; Julieta Cervantes; Elazar C. Harel



NEW WORLD DANCE: NEW YORK
NAMI YAMAMOTO/
NORA CHIPAUMIRE/
LUCIANA ACHUGAR





Photo: Christopher Hoppe

DOBET GNAHORÉ



Dobet Gnahoré

Sunday, May 3, 7:30 pm \$25 (\$21) \$30 (\$24) day of show
Cedar Cultural Center, 416 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis

Dobet Gnahoré, a remarkable young singer/dancer/percussionist/composer from Côte d'Ivoire, was the show-stopping favorite in the Walker's 2006 Acoustic Africa mixed-bill evening. She now returns with a group of instrumentalists for her first full evening, offering new sounds, ancient traditions, and remarkable music. From Mandingue melodies to Congolese rumba, Ivory Coast zighibiti to Cameroon bikoutsi, Gnahoré's pan-African palette blends colorful compositions, jazz-inflected vocals, and unparalleled charisma. Singing of love, life, and loss in present-day Africa, she is widely hailed as one of the freshest talents in new African music. Copresented with the Cedar Cultural Center.

Support provided by The McKnight Foundation.

Sponsored by Macy's Foundation. Media partners 89.3 The Current and Vita.mn.



Photo: Dirk Leunis

“Onstage, Dobet is a vivacious bundle of energy, blessed with a powerful voice and infectious charisma.” — BBC

Jason Moran

Saturday, May 9, 7 and 9:30 pm \$35 (\$30)

In 2005, the Walker commissioned pianist/composer Jason Moran to create his acclaimed music-theater work MILESTONE. He returns with a multimedia performance built around the extraordinary “tentet” recording of Thelonius Monk’s legendary 1959 Town Hall Concert. Integrating samples of Monk’s original music, conversations, and photos with his own interpretations of Monk tunes, Moran leads us deep into the historic jazz event while simultaneously bringing us headlong into the 21st century. “It’s much larger than a tribute project,” Moran says. “Monk is the reason I started playing piano. I owe him all the investigation I can do.” Featuring Moran (piano), Ralph Alessi (trumpet), Logan Richardson III (alto saxophone), Walter Smith III (tenor saxophone), Isaac Smith (trombone), Bob Stewart (tuba), Tarus Mateen (bass), and Nasheet Waits (drums). Copresented with Northrop Jazz at the University of Minnesota.

Sponsored by Macy’s Foundation. Media partners 89.3 The Current and Vita.mn.



Photo: Frank Hunter

“...the most provocative thinker
in current jazz.” — ROLLING STONE



Photo: Clay Patrick McBride

**JASON MORAN
IN MY MIND: MONK
AT TOWN HALL**





Photo: Geraint Lewis

HOIPOLLOI THEATRE STORY OF A RABBIT

UK PERFORMANCE NOW!

Hoipolloi Theatre

Thursday–Saturday, May 28–30, 8 pm

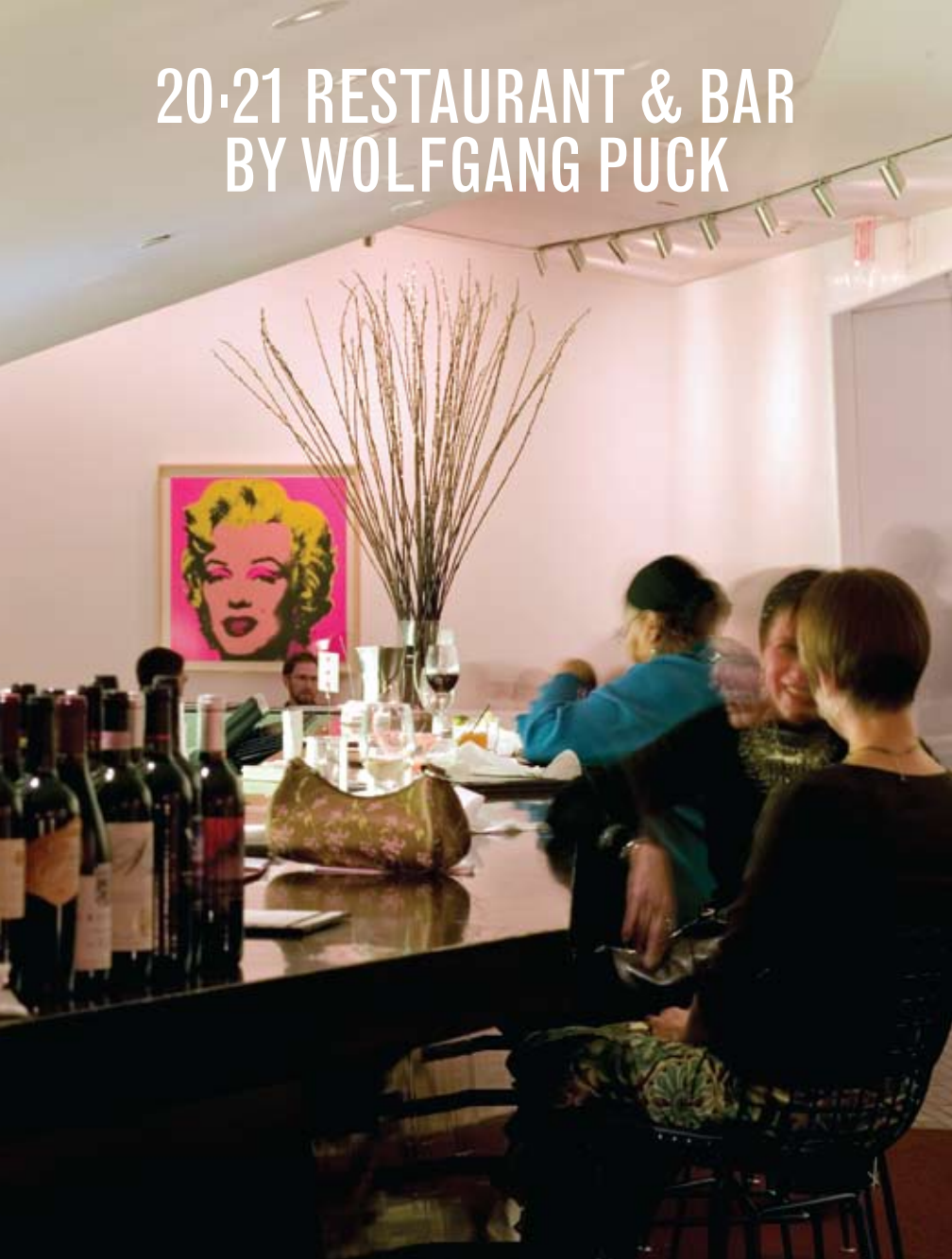
\$18 (\$15) Thursday \$25 (\$21) Friday–Saturday

Join us for a spot of tea? This comic and curiously uplifting performance begins with tea service for the audience, followed by a journey celebrating the complexities of death. Combining Welsh writer/performer Hugh Hughes' lo-fi theatricality and hi-fi physicality and Aled Williams' atmospheric live music, Story of a Rabbit lifts the lid on life's final mystery.

Support provided by the British Council and King's Fountain/Barbara Watson Pillsbury & Henry Pillsbury.

“Story of a Rabbit delicately balances the mundane and the profound, the tragic and the comic.” —SCOTSMAN

20·21 RESTAURANT & BAR BY WOLFGANG PUCK



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Before or after the performance, enjoy modern dining with contemporary taste at 20·21 Restaurant & Bar by Wolfgang Puck. Whether for cocktails, lunch, dinner, or Sunday brunch, Walker members receive a 10 percent discount for their entire party (excluding alcoholic beverages). Make your reservation at 612.253.3410 or walkerart.org/2021.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS



Eero Saarinen, Miller House, Columbus, Indiana, circa 1957. Photo: Ezra Stoller/ESTO

Eero Saarinen: Shaping the Future

Opens September 13, 2008 – January 4, 2009

Eero Saarinen was one of the most prolific, unorthodox, and controversial masters of 20th-century architecture. The first major museum retrospective of this Finnish-born American architect's career is a joint presentation by the Walker and the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

Eero Saarinen: Shaping the Future is organized by the Finnish Cultural Institute in New York, the Museum of Finnish Architecture, Helsinki, and the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C., with the support of the Yale University School of Architecture. ASSA ABLOY is the global sponsor of the exhibition.

The exhibition is copresented in Minneapolis by the Walker Art Center and the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Major support is provided by Judy Dayton. Media partner Mpls.St.Paul Magazine.

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Student Tickets

A limited number of discounted tickets are available for students with valid school ID. Call 612.375.7600 for availability.

Group Rates

Discounted tickets are available for groups of 10 or more. For more information, contact the Group Sales Specialist at 612.375.7569 or groups@walkerart.org.

Performing Arts Supporters

The Walker Art Center's Performing Arts programs are generously supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation through the Doris Duke Performing Arts Endowment Fund, the William and Nadine McGuire Commissioning Fund, The McKnight Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Walker Art Center programming is made possible by its Premier Partners



EVENTS	DATES	REGULAR PRICE (MEMBER PRICE)
SEASON PREVIEW	TH 9/18	FREE
MERCE CUNNINGHAM DANCE COMPANY	TH-SA 9/11-13 RAINBOW QUARRY	\$50 (\$45)
CHARLIE HADEN'S LIBERATION MUSIC ORCHESTRA WITH SPECIAL GUEST CARLA BLEY	SA 9/27 TED MANN CONCERT HALL	\$35 (\$30)
EIKO & KOMA	TH-SA 10/9-11	\$18 (\$15) TH; \$25 (\$21) F, SA
THE MAGNETIC FIELDS	FR 10/10 STATE THEATRE	\$29
THE BUILDERS ASSOCIATION	TH-SA 10/23-25	\$18 (\$15) TH; \$28 (\$23) F, SA
CHOREOGRAPHERS' EVENING	SA 11/29 (7 & 9:30 PM)	\$20 (\$16)
YUSEF LATEEF WITH DOUGLAS EWART, ROSCOE MITCHELL, AND ADAM RUDOLPH	SA 12/6	\$35 (\$30)
JAY SCHEIB, ANTHONY GATTO, ZEITGEIST, JACK, AND CHRIS LARSON	FR-SA 12/12-13	\$25 (\$21)
OUT THERE: NATIONAL THEATER OF THE USA	TH-SA 1/8-10	\$18 (\$15) TH; \$20 (\$16) F, SA
OUT THERE: TOSHIKI OKADA/CHELFITSCH	TH-SA 1/15-17	\$18 (\$15) TH; \$20 (\$16) F, SA
OUT THERE: TIM CROUCH	TH 1/22 (9 PM) FR-SA 23-24 (7 & 9:30 PM) WALKER ART CENTER GALLERIES	\$18 (\$15) TH; \$20 (\$16) F, SA
OUT THERE: YOUNG JEAN LEE	TH-SA 1/29-31	\$18 (\$15) TH; \$20 (\$16) F, SA
JON HASSELL	TH 2/12	\$25 (\$21)
BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY	W 2/18 (7:30 PM) NORTHROP	\$36, \$30, \$25 (\$27, \$22, \$18)
RAY LEE	FR 2/20 (7 & 9 PM) SA 2/21 (2, 7 & 9 PM)	\$15 (\$12)
DEAN WAREHAM AND BRITTA PHILLIPS	SA 2/28 CINEMA	\$22 (\$18)
DIRTY PROJECTORS	FR 3/6	\$18 (\$15)
DAVID GORDON PICK UP PERFORMANCE CO(S.)	TH-SA 3/12-14	\$18 (\$15) TH; \$25 (\$21) F, SA
GARY STEVENS	W 3/18 FR-SA 3/20-21 VARIOUS MINNEAPOLIS VENUES	\$15 (\$12)
BONNIE "PRINCE" BILLY	TH 3/19 (8 & 10:30 PM)	\$25 (\$21)
LO CÒR DE LA PLANA	SA 3/28	\$22 (\$18)
DONNA UCHIZONO DANCE COMPANY	TH-SA 4/2-4	\$18 (\$15) TH; \$25 (\$21) F, SA
CYNTHIA HOPKINS	TH-SA 4/16-18	\$18 (\$15) TH; \$25 (\$21) F, SA
NEW WORLD DANCE: NEW YORK	TH-SA 4/30-5/2	\$18 (\$15) TH; \$20 (\$16) F, SA
DOBET GNAHORÉ	SU 5/3 (7:30 PM) CEDAR CULTURAL CENTER	\$25 (\$21); \$30 (\$24) DAY OF SHOW
JASON MORAN	SA 5/9 (7 & 9:30 PM)	\$35 (\$30)
HOIPOLOI THEATRE	TH-SA 5/28-30	\$18 (\$15) TH; \$25 (\$21) F, SA

Unless otherwise noted, events take place at 8 pm in the McGuire Theater.

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Elko & Koma's Hunger Photo: Gregory Georges /ADF



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