

Dear Friends:

The seasons have turned and our magnets faded since last we sent out a letter. In that time our company grew from a newborn to a toddler. We walked our first steps.

The Hiring of a Company:

Laura Selle, danced previously with Jesse, in Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theater (SPDT). She combines a powerful physicality with extraordinary stage presence.

Megan Flood brought to our company calmness and fluidity (very much needed in those first hectic months). Megan aggravated an old knee injury while moving and opted not to dance professionally for awhile. We miss her dearly but are very glad to work with...

Kim Richardson. Kim brings to our company an outstanding technical facility, a keen intelligence, and amazing theatrical skills.

The Purple Show:

As part of the Best Feet Forward Festival 2005, Wilderness teamed up with Robin Stiehm and Maggie Bergeron to create the "The Purple Show". Wilderness presented "Delivered by Falcon" (a solo in our repertoire performed by guest artist Eric Boone), and "Zoo" (our new quartet, created through an intensive process of animal mimicry).

A Choreography Conference:

We were invited to perform zoo for a panel of world-renowned choreographers as part of a conference at the University of Minnesota. We received some constructive criticism, and some rather non-constructive comments (there is one in every crowd). From this experience we realized that doing our work is far too important to be interrupted by a few rude comments. In learning to walk one must fall down. That stumble made us all the more determined to do what we love and to do it well.

The Kinetic Kitchen:

In July we performed four works in a series called the Kinetic Kitchen organized by Sarah LaRose at the Mounds Theater in St. Paul. We hope to return to the Mounds soon.

Follow the footprints and make a dance



wilderness



Dance Expeditions
and
Creative Research

SPDT:

Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theater, the other company with whom both Jesse and Laura dance, produced a concert in May at the Hennepin Center for the Arts. Stuart Pimsler and Suzanne Costello (the directors of SPDT) graciously allowed company members to show their own work as a part of this evening. Wilderness premiered "Channeling" a duet performed by Amber and Jesse.

A Residency in Rural Minnesota:

In June, Wilderness had a company residency in Pelican Rapids, Minnesota, made possible by the Friends of the Library and by a grant from the Lake Region Arts Council. Wilderness and 60 children danced up a storm and learned about insects (the topic for their summer reading program). We also taught an all ages workshop attended by 25 local parents, children, dancers, artists and grandparents. Finally we presented a full evening of work in the Pelican Rapids High School Fine Arts Auditorium. Pelican Rapids gave Wilderness its first ever standing ovation! Thanks Pelican Rapids for being such a great host! Check out photos of our performance at www.56572.blogspot.com and go the June 22nd archive.

All in all we performed for hundreds of people in widely varying contexts and venues. In the same three-month period we performed for the aesthetic elites of the dance world and for those who rarely if ever have seen contemporary dance. We created 45 minutes of new programming, expanding our repertoire, and helped inform new audiences about dance. We practiced our art and provided some employment for three very deserving and immensely talented dancers.

These successes would not have been possible without the support of our individual donors. We once again thank you for helping us to provide entertainment and inspiration to our community.

Looking Ahead

Amber's solo dance for the camera entitled "Cry Out" will be broadcast on TPT Channel 2 November 13th at 10PM. This solo combines Amber's choreography, directing and editing with the music of Terry Riley and the poetry of Rumi.

Once a week over the last two months we provided an entertaining tableau for commuters on Minneapolis' new light rail. The train passes under an overpass that is the set for our new dance for camera quartet loosely titled 'underpass'.

Hamline University commissioned Wilderness to make a work for their student company in Spring of 2006.

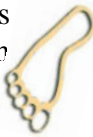
Jesse's newest research project is the creation of one-minute dances. This practice of short choreography, like a moving haiku, is designed to boil an idea down to its most essential components.



We think of our art as a vehicle through which it is possible to shift perception; to travel from our home, our habitual way of experiencing, into the unexplored.



Although we are trained as contemporary dancers, we do not like to define what we do as contemporary dance. Rather, we seek out environments that are unusually rich in sights, sounds, texture, nuance, narrative possibility and sensation. We then present these environments through live performance and video.

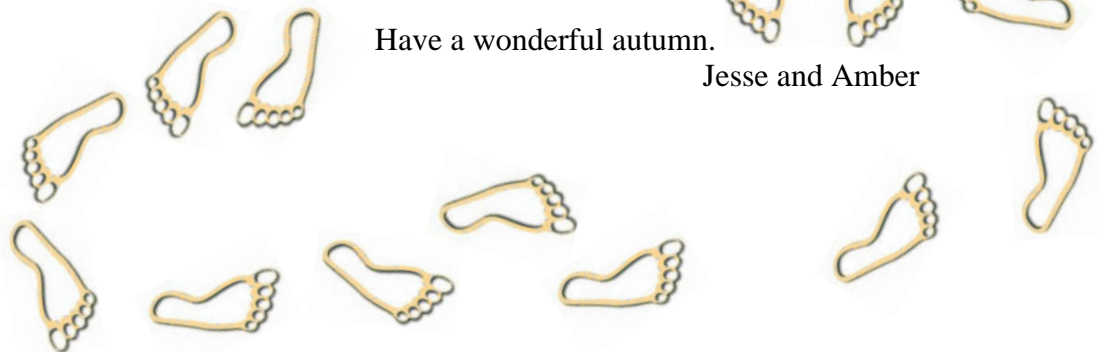


Rather than make beautiful objects, we lead expeditions.



Have a wonderful autumn.

Jesse and Amber



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