

Monday afternoon, 4:30. I've been dancing for 6 hours. I walk across the cool wood floor to the boom box and push play. The music begins.

I run to my starting position, again. The music carries me. My limbs begin to move even before I tell them to.

The heaviness drains from my body. Right now nobody is watching but I am dancing hard anyway. My lungs wake up. My mind wakes up. The room wakes up.

Dancing is a day-by-day, minute-by-minute negotiation with the limitations of the human body. It can be difficult. Through this difficulty there is joy. This joy is what keeps us moving. This joy, this relish for movement, more than anything else, is what we want to share with our audiences.

Here is how we shared this joy and reinvested your donations in 2006...

Decades of Dance

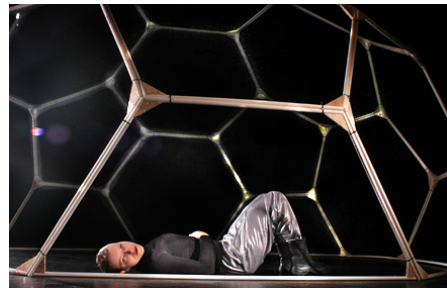
Decades of Dance was an evening of dance curated by Wilderness at Patrick's Cabaret. In this dance expedition we showcased the talents of 8-year-olds to 90-year-olds, taking back ownership of the moving body for people of all ages. The evening proceeded chronologically through each decade of life. Each night the house was packed with audiences of all ages and backgrounds. It was an honor to share the stage with these fabulous performers; Gabe Pimsler (age 8), MN Chinese Dance (ages 5-16), Southwest High (teenagers), Amber and Jesse (20's -not anymore!) Roxane Wallace (30's), Colleen Tague (40's) Stuart Pimsler and Suzanne Costello (50's) Eric Boone (30's) and William Zimmerman (60's), Royal Scottish Dance (30's - 60's), Kairos Dance Theater (age 10-90).



Dance Expeditions
and
Creative Research

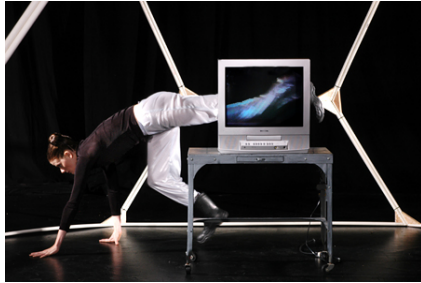
Two Premieres

Adagio for Goodbyes was commissioned for the dance students at Hamline University. Jesse spent nine weeks working with these students to choreograph a dance to Mozart's "Concerto for Piano and Orchestra No. 23 in A Major". What a thrill to choreograph to such an inspiring piece of music!



15 Minutes Until Life Support Failure premiered at the Red Eye Theater. In it we dissected our feelings about spaceship earth and what might happen if we truly use up our global resources. Part of this production was an intensive process of feedback and critical response with local dance and theater artists. In addition to creating a new work we helped our peers produce their own work. *15 Minutes* was our most ambitious work to date in terms of visual elements. We constructed our spaceship out of PVC pipe. It was a 9' tall half geodesic dome. In addition to this we experimented with a visual effect in which a dancer moved in unison

with a video of themselves on a television creating the illusion that the television was a window. The intent of this effect was to show that we are not only trapped on this planet with limited resources but that we tend to get trapped in limited thought patterns by the media we ingest on a daily basis. It is not our limited resources but our limited imagination that is the greatest difficulty.



New Workshops:

Amber and Jesse taught a series of workshops for dance students at the University of MN on the topic of Contemporary Partnering. We have been developing our expertise in this area since our apprenticeship with modern dance partnering guru Stephen Koester at the University of Utah. It is wonderful to pass some of these skills along. Students are always very eager to explore this area of dance.

Jesse taught a new workshop entitled "Embodying Uncertainty" for cardiac patients experiencing arrhythmias. This workshop grew out of a conference called WASH (Working with Artists Sharing the Healing) led by Stuart Pimslar and Suzanne Costello. At this conference Jesse worked with Mary Ann Goldstein M.D. to create a movement workshop designed to help cardiac patients cope with their physical uncertainties. The workshop was a great success. Jesse taught these patients basic physical tools like breath work and

movement meditation. Through these tools they were able to reduce their anxiety. Dr. Goldstein is researching a way to continue these workshops on an ongoing basis.

Looking Ahead:

Dance for Camera

Amber is very excited to begin work on a new dance for camera starring company member Laura Selle Virtucio. (note the name change... she and Paul had a wonderful wedding in July) This work will follow our heroine through a landscape of urban environments highlighting her explosive athleticism.

Dance for Opera

Also on the horizon is a duet choreographed to the music of up and coming opera composer Ricky Ian Gordon. Excerpts from his critically acclaimed opera *Orpheus and Eurydice* will be performed at the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival in July, 2007. Wilderness was asked to provide the choreography for this exciting event. Jesse will play Orpheus and Amber will play Eurydice.

In counterpoint to this tragic story Jesse and Amber will dance the ceremonies of their own wedding, August 2007.



UP

After several months of filming onsite under the highway overpass by the Franklin light rail station and not once getting arrested, we completed UP.

This Dance for Camera directed by Amber, starring Laura, Kim and Jesse is currently being sent to film festivals across the nation for screening.

In *Up* we became very interested in the idea of purposeful disorientation. Dancing on a slanted surface provided us with all kinds of new movement possibilities. One goal for this piece was to remind the viewer of what it is like as a child to spin round and round, getting lost in a gleeful confusion.

Up will be one of several works showcased in a House Concert: Saturday March 3rd, 2007 at Amber and Jesse's house.

Put it on your calendar early.
You are all invited!

The Tumbleweed Project

We pride ourselves on not only producing exciting new dance works but also on exploring the application of our art form to problems faced by the members of our society. We are developing a method for using dance improvisation as a type of meditation. We call this research The Tumbleweed Project. The fundament of this meditation is learning to allow movement to happen on its own within your body rather than trying control and create specific movements.

This movement meditation practice has formed the cornerstone of our creative process. We are examining how to provide access to this practice for other creative professionals as a way to enhance their creative process. Also we want to make this practice accessible to anyone who is interested in a physical method of meditation.

Please drop us a line if this is a topic that interests you or if you know of any

groups or individuals who may be interested in learning our technique.

This year held many opportunities for our company. Thank you for your support both monetarily and as an active engaged audience.

We've included a remittance envelope with this newsletter. As always we appreciate any amount you can send. None of this is possible without the hundreds of individual donors like you who have decided to make a stand and say that art is central to our well-being as a culture.

Make your tax deductible donation checks out to Intermedia Arts, our fiscal sponsor for 2007.



Thanks to Carl Walker our new webpage is up and running and continually changing.
Check it out at www.wildernessdance.org