



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kill Date: August 3, 2014

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VELOCITY PRESENTS
WORLD-CLASS SUMMER IMMERSION PROGRAM
MAXIMUM VELOCITY 2014

velocitydancecenter.org/maximum

**STRICTLY SEATTLE SUMMER DANCE INTENSIVE +
SEATTLE FESTIVAL OF DANCE IMPROVISATION (SFDI)**
JULY 6 – AUGUST 3, 2014

CLASSES + PERFORMANCES + INTENSIVES + JAMS + DISCUSSIONS

Velocity 1621 12th Ave // Seattle, WA 98122

“One of the top 6 festivals in the US.”

— *Dance Magazine*

(Seattle) — **A total immersion into the Seattle dance scene, Maximum Velocity** brings together Velocity’s world-class summer programs — Strictly Seattle Summer Dance Intensive and the international Seattle Festival of Dance Improvisation (SFDI).

Register for both intensives + receive a **15% discount**

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STRICTLY SEATTLE SUMMER DANCE INTENSIVE
JULY 6 – 26, 2014

CONTEMPORARY TRAINING + CREATIVE PROCESS + DANCE FILM MAKING
PERFORMANCES + SPECIAL EVENTS

PERFORMANCES // July 25 / 8PM + July 26 / 2PM + 8PM
Broadway Performance Hall 1625 Broadway / Seattle, WA 98122

“Transformative. Challenging. Invigorating.”

— *2013 Strictly Seattle Participant*

“[Velocity] has made me so excited about dance.”

— 2013 *Strictly Seattle* Participant

NEW WORKS BY Zoe Scofield / Bennyroyce Royon / Pat Graney / Jody Kuehner / Shannon Stewart / Rosa Vissers / Byron Carr

FACULTY Michele Miller / KT Niehoff / Pat Graney / Zoe Scofield / Ellie Sandstrom / Jody Kuehner / Shannon Stewart / Rosa Vissers / Byron Carr / Kate Wallich / Cyrus Khambatta / Louis Gervais / Bennyroyce Royon

Strictly Seattle is a world-class festival located in one of the most culturally vibrant neighborhoods in the country. Five adult programs inspire beginning through professional level dancers with rigorous physical and compositional training in a challenging and invigorating environment. Artists, students and audiences share their knowledge and inspiration through daily classes, jams, informal showings, conversations and performances. Now in its 17th year, *Strictly Seattle* is a supportive community of open experimentation and camaraderie where dancers form alliances for future collaborations.

New this year: An Advanced Film Track facilitated by KT Niehoff with leading Seattle cinematographers and film editors. This three-week immersion takes the filmmaker through every step of the process as they create their own dance film.

“The back-and-forth exchange between student and teacher is exactly what *Strictly Seattle* is all about.”

— Michael Upchurch, *The Seattle Times*

REGISTER for *Strictly Seattle Summer Dance Intensive*

July 6-26, 2014

Velocity 1621 12th Ave on Capitol Hill

206.325.8773 | velocitydancecenter.org/strictly-seattle

TICKETS for *Strictly Seattle Performances*

July 25, 2014 / 8PM

July 26, 2014 / 2PM + 8PM

Broadway Performance Hall 1625 Broadway

206.325.8773 | velocitydancecenter.org/box-office

\$18 / \$12 student + senior / \$15 MVP

21ST ANNUAL SEATTLE FESTIVAL OF DANCE IMPROVISATION JULY 27 – AUGUST 3, 2014

INTENSIVES + PERFORMANCES + CLASSES + JAMS + DISCUSSIONS

DANCE INNOVATORS IN PERFORMANCE // July 31 / 8PM

Broadway Performance Hall 1625 Broadway / Seattle, WA 98122

“SFDI is the leading convening of practitioners in dance improvisation in the United States.”

— *John Jasperse, 2013 SFDI Faculty*

FEATURING Kirstie Simson / Faye Driscoll / Eric Beauchesne / Michael Schumacher / Tom Koch / Neige Christenson / Darrel Jones / Lila Hurwitz / Alia Swersky / Amelia Reeber / Elia Mrak / Tahni Holt / Kate Wallich + more

The **Seattle Festival of Improvisation (SFDI)** is one of the world's leading festivals of dance and improvisation, bringing together some of the most highly regarded dance artists and teachers to perform, collaborate and share their creative processes. SFDI is a jam-packed week of intensives, classes, jams, somatic workshops, performances and discussions focused on fostering the study and practice of dance improvisation.

New this year: SFDI is also partnering with Alice Gosti's Yellow Fish Durational Performance Festival and with *ALL RISE/In Site* for a special week of site-specific and durational performances and workshops taking place throughout Capitol Hill.

PLUS more performances throughout the four weeks to be announced!

“For two decades SFDI has nurtured improvisation with a powerful combination of creative risk-taking and collective responsibility. This fabulous festival has an incomparable roster of teachers and wonderful inventive workshops.”

— *Ann Cooper Albright, 2013 SFDI Faculty*

REGISTER for SFDI

JULY 27 – AUG 3, 2014

Velocity 1621 12th Ave on Capitol Hill

206.325.8773 | velocitydancecenter.org/sfdi

TICKETS for Dance Innovators in Performance

JULY 31 / 8PM

Broadway Performance Hall 1625 Broadway

206.325.8773 | velocitydancecenter.org/box-office

\$12 general

SFDI 2014 was curated with the help of the SFDI 2014 Panel with input from the community: Michael Schumacher, Alia Swersky, Louis Gervais with Kim Lusk and Tonya Lockyer.

ABOUT THE STRICTLY SEATTLE CHOREOGRAPHERS

Zoe Scofield studied ballet and modern dance at Walnut Hill School for the Performing Arts in Boston. She has danced with Prometheus Dance and Bill James among other choreographers in Toronto, Boston and Seattle. Scofield has received *The Stranger's* Genius Award, National Dance Project Tour Support, The Mariam McGlone Emerging Choreographer Award from Wesleyan University, Artist Trusts GAP Grant and Artist Fellowship Award, *City Arts* Innovator Award, *Seattle Magazine's* Spotlight Award, Alpert Award Residency and the Princess Grace Foundation

Choreography and Special Project Awards. As collaborators, Scofield and Shuey have been commissioned and shows work at galleries and art spaces nationally and internationally. zoejuniper.org

Fillipino-American dancer-choreographer **Bennyroyce Royon** is a graduate of The Juilliard School and former dancer with the Armitage Gone! Dance company. Royon has been noted for his “keenly focused, succinct way with movement” and his ability to blend explosive physicality with fluid energy. He has worked with notable choreographers such as Karole Armitage, Azure Barton, Sidra Bell, and Jill Johnson, and has performed with numerous acclaimed dance companies including the Metropolitan Opera Ballet, Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company, BADD BOYS OF DANCE. He is the founder of Bennyroyce Dance Productions. bennyroyce.com

Legendary Seattle-based choreographer **Pat Graney** has received Choreography Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts for 11 consecutive years, as well as from Artist Trust, the Washington State Arts Commission, the NEA International Program, National Corporate Fund for Dance and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. In 2008, Ms. Graney was awarded both the Alpert Award and a US Artists Award in Dance. patgraney.org

Jody Kuehner is part contemporary dance artist and part bio drag queen named Cherdonna Shinatra. Jody is in her seventh year dancing for the Pat Graney Company and has also been Pat's dance intern for the company's prison project “Keeping the Faith”. Jody currently dances with Mark Haim and has been his Administrative Assistant and Rehearsal Director for various projects. She has worked as Dayna Hanson's Production Coordinator and/or Assistant Director for various projects as well as Assistant to the Director for Hanson's feature length film "Improvement Club". Jody currently teaches technique at Velocity Dance Center and is Velocity's 2014 Artist-in-Residence as well as a Velocity *Made in Seattle* artist. She has been supported by the Seattle Mayor's Office of Arts & Culture, 4Culture and was recognized by *Seattle Magazine* as a 2010 Spotlight Award Winner for her work with Lou Henry Hoover. cherdonna.com

Shannon Stewart is a dance artist that has taught and performed in Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, New York, Boston, Helena, Oakland, San Francisco, Berlin, Budapest and Amsterdam. Classically trained from a young age, and then struggling with that experience, Shannon found her way back to dance through balancing ballet and modern training with yoga, qi gong, somatic embodiment and contemplative dance practice; building strength through breakdancing, capoeira, the Gyrotonic Expansion System®; and opening creative channels through improvisation. Shannon makes work under the moniker The Real Shannon Stewart which includes collaborating on film performance works with Adam Sekuler. She teaches contemporary technique, improvisation, is certified in Gyrokinesis®, and is a Teaching Artist with the Mark Morris Dance For Parkinson's program. Shannon is currently practicing and adapting a solo by Deborah Hay that is included in a suite of work entitled *David and Deborah*, putting Hay's work in proximity to work inspired by filmmaker David Lynch. Shannon also danced with tEEth (2011-12), Salt Horse (2010-12), and has danced for Sebastian Matthias (2012), Dayna Hanson (2010), zoe | juniper (2008-2010), Paige Barnes (2010), Kathleen Hermesdorf (2006-2008), and many others. therealshannonstewart.org

Rosa Vissers (NL/US) is an international dance artist, teacher and activist. For the past 10 years she has performed in Europe and the US with over 20 companies/artists and shown her own work in the Netherlands, Hungary, Utah, Idaho, Chicago, NYC, Portland and Seattle. In collaboration with HATLO she creates performances under the name PE|Mo, which has presented work at Open Flight, Velocity's BIG BANG! and NEXT NW, On the Boards' NW New Works Festival and 12 Minutes Max, the Seattle International Dance Festival, and Lo Fi Arts Festival. Rosa is also the Executive Director of Yoga Behind Bars. rosavissers.com

Byron Carr holds an MFA in Performance and Interactive Media Arts. He recently moved back to Seattle after living in New York City for 17 years and has trained, taught and performed throughout the U.S. and Europe. In NYC he worked with various companies including, The Graham Ensemble, Chen and Dancers, and The Erick Hawkins Dance Company. In 2002 he began showing throughout NYC and has been presented by; Dance New Amsterdam, Dixon Place, Joyce SoHo, The Wave Rising Series, Triskelion Arts Center and Chashama Arts. Outside of New York, he has shown work in Seattle, Boston, and Berlin.

ABOUT THE SFDI INTENSIVE TEACHERS + GUEST ARTISTS

Kirstie Simson (UK) has been a continuous explosion in the contemporary dance scene, bringing audiences into contact with the vitality of pure creation in moment after moment of virtuoso improvisation. Called "a force of nature" by the *New York Times*, she is an award-winning dancer and teacher who has "immeasurably enriched and expanded the boundaries of New Dance". Kirstie is renowned today as an excellent teacher, a captivating performer and a leading light in the field of Dance Improvisation. She currently holds a position at the University of Illinois, and continues to teach and perform all over the world.

Faye Driscoll (NYC) is celebrated as one of the most original artists of her generation. A Bessie-award winning choreographer and director Driscoll has become widely known for creating new forms of theatrical works that provoke feeling, stimulate the senses, and activate the mind. She was a member of Doug Varone and Dancers and has collaborated extensively with theater artists Young Jean Lee, Cynthia Hopkins, Taylor Mac, and NTUSA.

Eric Beauchesne (CANADA) Born in Québec, Eric has danced with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe, Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal as well as with Canadian contemporary dance icons such as La Fondation Jean-Pierre Perrault, Paul-André Fortier, Louise Lecavalier and Crystal Pite. Performing with Kidd Pivot since 2004, Eric has also collaborated as rehearsal & staging director for Cullberg Ballet, Ballet British Columbia, The Royal Swedish Ballet and Nederlands Dans Theater in the remount of Pite's repertory. Based in the Netherlands, Eric regularly conducts improvisation workshops and has recently collaborated with Peter Bingham and Christian Burns on several improvisation research projects.

Michael Schumacher (US / NL) has been a member of several groundbreaking companies, including Ballet Frankfurt, Twyla Tharp Dance, Feld Ballet, Pretty Ugly Dance Company, and Katie Duck's Magpie Music Dance Company. Working as dancer, choreographer, and teacher Schumacher has developed a unique approach to the discipline of improvisation. He resides in Amsterdam and conducts workshops in movement analysis and improvisation worldwide.

Tom Koch (US / NL) is an expert Alexander Technique teacher who has worked with dancers across Europe and America, including extensively with dancers from the Forsythe Company and Nederlands Dans Theater. He helped inspire and guide Anouk van Dijk as she developed Counter Technique, and teaches for her "One Body – One Career" intensive programs for dancers. Tom has also served in the roles of dramaturge and movement consultant for Ballet Frankfurt, Ivana Muller and Michael Schumacher among others.

Neige Christenson (BOSTON) has been an avid Contact Improviser for over thirty years, as a devoted jam facilitator, teacher, and performer. Her teaching encourages opening the improvisational mind and body to full physical expression and connection. She is engaged in ongoing research on the Underscore with Nancy Stark Smith and others, and supports the CI

programming at Earthdance Improvisational Retreat. Her writing on contact improvisation has been published in *Contact Quarterly* and *Proximity Magazine*.

Darrell Jones performs in the United States and abroad with a variety of choreographers and companies including Bebe Miller, Min Tanaka, Ralph Lemon, Urban Bush Women, Ronald K. Brown and KOKUMA Dance Theater. He has collaborated with other choreographers (Fiona Millward, Jeremy Wade, Angie Hauser), writers (Cheryl Boyce Taylor), musicians (Brian Schuler, Jesse Manno, NOMAD), and designers (Mahwish Syed), in dance films, documentations and interactive multimedia installations. Darrell's choreography has been presented at The Place Theater in London, Kwanju Biennale in South Korea, The Kennedy Center in Washington DC and Judson Memorial Church in New York City and he has taught workshops and master classes throughout the United States and in other countries such as South Africa, UK, and South Korea darrelljones.net

ABOUT SFDI FACULTY

Linda Austin both delights in and is provoked by how her own dance practices and obsessions contradict each other. She has been creating and performing improvised and composed dance and performance for more than 30 years, while fostering the creation of her own and many others' work through Performance Works NorthWest for more than a decade. Her work has been performed at Danspace Project and PS 122 in New York; at Conduit, Performance Works, On the Boards and TBA Festival in Portland. Awards include Fellowships in Choreography from the Oregon Arts Commission and the New York Foundation for the Arts. performanceworksNW.org

Richard Gilman has been teaching Acting and Improvisation at Emerson College in Boston for twenty years. He has performed in theaters from San Diego to Edinburgh to Moscow. He has studied Viewpoints with Mary Overlie and Anne Bogart, and has participated in SFDI for twelve years. During that time he has created a number of solo dances with found objects. He will be sharing his experiences in developing these dances in his class.

Roel Hammerschlag is a dance improviser, choreographer, performer and researcher. His studies began with Beth Soll in 1986, and have continued over the years with Barabara Mahler, David Dorfman, Karl Frost, Hannah Wiley and many others. Roel focuses his work in the field of contact improvisation, where the challenges of two or more bodies moving together combine demands for technique, adaptability, sensitivity and storymaking. He is particularly interested in bringing the vocabulary of contact improvisation to choreographed works. The intersection of CI technique with developmental movement theory and practice is a particularly rich source of inspiration.

Tahni Holt is a choreographer, performer, teacher and organizer, based in Portland, OR. Her work and teachings have been presented all over the United States. She has had the pleasure of being an Artist in Residence in Alaska, France, Greece and most recently in Romania. She is honored to be a NDP Touring Award recipient for her current work, *DUET LOVE* and is Executive Director of Portland's new dance center: FLOCK. FLOCK is a dance center for movement exploration, creation and artistic practice. All of Holt's endeavors are shaped by her beliefs: convictions which invigorate proactive projects of artist-driven empowerment. tahniholt.com / flockpdx.org / frontpaper.tumblr.com

Haruko Nishimura is a dancer/choreographer, co-director of Degenerate Art Ensemble (DAE), and 2012 Guggenheim Fellow. She creates large scale collaborative experimental dance and theater projects, concerts, site-transforming spectacles and ongoing public experimentation. Her work with DAE was the subject of a major exhibition at the Frye Art Museum in 2011, was

commissioned by director Robert Wilson in 2012, collaborated with the Kronos Quartet in 2013 and is currently undertaking a collaboration with Olson Kundig Architects. Haruko is constantly pushing the boundaries of her medium; dancing in the street, creating rituals for strangers and performing and directing experimental ensembles. degenerateartensemble.com

Eric Nordstrom is a dedicated dance performer, filmmaker and teacher. His performances include years dancing with the lovely Mary Oslund and the great late Keith V. Goodman. Improvisational performances included a collaboration with Karen Nelson. As a director and editor, his films feature such prominent dancers and scholars as Ann Cooper Albright. Eric teaches dance at colleges and universities including the Ohio State University, where he earned a Master of Fine Arts. Currently, Eric is a guest artist at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon.

Stuart Phillips has been and continues to devotionally teach, perform and research CI Dance since the early '80s throughout America, Canada, Europe and New Zealand. He concentrates his viewpoint on the Poignant Psychology inherent in each dance, so we get out of this dance exactly what there is, concentrating on how we perceive, hence how we change. stulip6.wix.com

Amelia Reeber is a Seattle based choreographer, performer, improviser, and BodyTalk Practitioner. She works with dance as a medium of self-knowledge, inquiry, celebration, and transformation; performance as a vehicle for deep connection, currency, dialogue, imagination, and clear presence in flow, both facilitating the transformation and movement of energy. Amelia has created/toured her own work as well as had the pleasure of touring the work of Pat Graney and seminal choreographer Deborah Hay. ameliareeber.com

Tamin Totzke has danced CI for 18 years and will never stop. She is an improviser, choreographer and dance educator with an MFA in dance from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Tamin has taught throughout Asia and the US in universities and festivals including West Coast Contact Festival, Earthdance, Moab and Velocity's SFDI. She has danced with Kirstie Simson in an improvisation company, Compost Q, and has worked with Jennifer Monson, BodyCartography and Benno Voorham. Tamin most recently finished a film project that toured through Mongolia, Nepal, Tibet and Bhutan exploring dance improvisation as a vehicle for the storytelling of sacred places.

Kate Wallich is a choreographer who creates dance performance and films mostly in collaboration with her company, The YC. Her work with The YC has been presented by Velocity Dance Center, On The Boards, Seattle International Dance Festival, Bumbershoot, Rauschenberg Project Space, and Northwest Film Forum, among others. Kate's choreography has also been commissioned/presented by Northwest Dance Project, Strictly Seattle, City Arts, Henry Art Gallery and Springboard Danse Montreal. Kate has received creative residencies for her work with The Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, MANA Contemporary/Armitage Gone! Dance, and Velocity Dance Center's Creative Residency and Made in Seattle dance development program. She received her training from Interlochen Arts Academy and holds a BFA Magna Cum Laude from Cornish College of the Arts. companywallich.com

Alia Swersky is a movement artist, performer and teacher, engaged deeply in the vital act of dance improvisation. She graduated from Cornish College of the Arts in 1998 is an adjunct faculty member. She was a long time Co-artistic director of Dance Art Group (DAG), and has taught yoga continuously for over 12 years. She has danced and toured nationally and internationally as a member of the LeGendre Performance Group. Swersky has collaborated and performed in the works of many Seattle artists including The Maureen Whiting Company, Khambatta Dance Company, Jurg Koch, KT Niehoff of Lingo Dance, and Salt Horse. Her improvisational and choreographic works have been presented in many venues around Seattle since 1998. Alia is also a Nutritional Therapist and her work as a movement artist is deeply imbedded in her interest to help people heal and to guide them towards embodied healing states.

Rachael Lincoln makes, performs, and teaches dance. She is particularly interested in collaboration, improvising set material, and the indeterminate relationships between movement, sound, images, and meaning. She has performed her work and taught in venues including Sophiensaele Theater in Berlin, Theater Artaud in San Francisco, The Bytom Dance Festival in Poland, and the Indonesian International Dance Festival. In addition to her own work, Rachael co-directs Lean-to-Productions with collaborator Leslie Seiters and has danced with The Joe Goode Performance Group and Bandaloop. She recently moved from San Francisco to Seattle to join the dance faculty at UW.

Lila Hurwitz Guild Certified Feldenkrais® Practitioner, has been teaching since 1987, including one of Seattle's longest-running weekly Feldenkrais classes for the past 19 years. She's performed with Karen Nelson, Stephanie Skura, Bebe Miller, Crispin Spaeth, Nina Martin, Ann Carlson, Lucia Neare, Mary Oslund, Linda K. Johnson and many others. She taught Authentic Movement for a decade, was graphic designer for *Contact Quarterly* magazine for 11 years, co-produced SFDI for 18 years, and currently is Associate Director of Artist Trust.

Maximum Velocity is made possible through the generous support of 4Culture, ArtsFund, The Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, and The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Pacific Continental Bank, The Pruzan Foundation and The Seattle Foundation.

ABOUT VELOCITY

Mayor's Arts Award and Genius Award winning Velocity Dance Center is Seattle's forward-thinking laboratory and essential incubator for dance and emerging ideas. It is recognized as a leader in new dance development in the US. With artist-driven, community-centered artistic programs, Velocity is instrumental in making Seattle a destination city with one of the most active dance communities in the nation. With artist-led classes and workshops every day, performances every week, three annual dance festivals, ongoing humanities programs that activate thoughtful conversations, as well as weekly community events from social dances to family-style dinners, Velocity is a portal for those new to dance and an important community resource. Home to hundreds of independent dance artists and renowned for producing innovative, cutting-edge work, Velocity has featured performances and master classes by art stars Pat Graney, Reggie Watts, Miguel Gutierrez, Tere O'Conner, Anouk van Dijk, Deborah Hay, Faye Driscoll, 33 Fainting Spells, KT Niehoff, Zoe Scofield/Juniper Shuey, Danielle Agami and many more. Velocity is Seattle's only dedicated contemporary dance venue where groundbreaking work and disciplined practice coexist.

SEASON SPONSORS

Velocity's programs are made possible thanks to the support of The Glenn H. Kawasaki Foundation, 4Culture, ArtsFund, The Office of Arts & Culture, The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, The Boeing Company, The Pruzan Foundation, Morris Clitherow Family Fund, Pacific Continental Bank, Microsoft, and the generous support of individual donors.

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