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Immediate Release

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THE WALKER ART CENTER'S 32ND ANNUAL CHOREOGRAPHERS' EVENING SHOWCASES CONTEMPORARY MINNESOTA DANCE TALENT

The Walker Art Center's ever-popular **Choreographers' Evening** returns for its 32nd year with performances at 7 and 9:30 pm Saturday, November 29, in the Auditorium. Emerging, mid-career, and established choreographers from around the region unveil their latest works and passions in what is sure to be another memorable sampler of dance in all styles. Curating this showcase of contemporary Minnesota dance talent is local raconteur **Colin Rusch**, known for his collaborations with live musicians and artists and for staging performances everywhere from barns to gardens to living rooms. This year's choreographers are **Laurie Van Wieren, Penelope Freeh, Jane Peck, Jesse Walker, Michael Yonkers, The BodyCartography Project, Colette Illarde, Phunkeapolis, Roxane Wallace**, and **Meg Elias-Emerly**. In related programs, David White, consulting producer-at-large for New York's famed Dance Theater Workshop (DTW), will discuss the state of contemporary dance with Walker Senior Curator of Performing Arts Philip Bither at 7 pm Sunday, November 23, in the Walker Auditorium, and Choreographers' Evening artists will conduct free drop-in dance classes from 12 noon–5 pm Friday, November 28.

Colin Rusch is a dancemaker, performer, video artist, presenter, arts activist, teacher, and writer who has produced a dozen shows and presented more than 60 movement-based, improvisational works since returning to Minneapolis in 1998. His situation-specific art regularly integrates video, smells, text, and audience assignments, and features collaborations with such musicians as Jane Anfinson, Patrick Crossland, Andrew Lafkas, Christopher Meeder, Jesse Petersen, Davu Seru, and Jonathan Zorn. Rusch has staged his performances in a variety of venues including theaters, art

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galleries, a barn, basements, living rooms, a massive garden, warehouses, and in clubs across the U.S. and in the United Kingdom. He was one of the co-founders and initial co-directors of Mulch, a dance and music improvisation series at Intermedia Arts. He holds a B.A. in Sociology from Wesleyan University. Currently, he teaches dance improvisation and creative process techniques, regularly contributes to *MPLS.ST.PAUL* Magazine, is Community Manager for mnartists.org, and is Secretary & Chair of Communications for the National Association of Artists Organizations (NAAO).

RELATED EVENTS

Talking Dance with David White

Sunday, November 23, 7 pm, Free

Walker Auditorium

A recent Twin Cities transplant, David White is consulting producer-at-large for New York's famed Dance Theater Workshop (DTW), where he served as executive director and producer from 1975 to 2003, shaping and guiding DTW's multidisciplinary artist production, service, and public cultural development programs. A former dancer and filmmaker, White is founder of the National Performance Network, New York Dance Umbrella, and the New York Dance and Performance Bessie Awards.

One of the country's most influential and innovative producers, arts administrators, and cultural community-builders, he has identified and nurtured some of the most significant contemporary artists of our time, including Bill Irwin, Donald Byrd, Whoopi Goldberg, Susan Marshall, Bill T. Jones, Mark Morris, Eiko and Koma, Annie-B Parson and Paul Lazar, Bebe Miller, Merian Soto and Pepon Osorio, Marta Renzi, Kenneth Rinker, Donna Uchizono, Tere O'Conner, Guillermo Gomez-Peña, John Jasperse, Pat Graney, Belgium's Anne Teresa de Keersmaecker, Germany's Felix Ruchert and the French hip-hop ensemble Kafig. DTW has also supported such Minnesota born-and-bred artists as Ralph Lemon, Maria Cheng, Linda Shapiro, Patrick Scully, Chris Aiken, Joe Chvala, Shaun McConnelaugh, Wil Swanson, and Morgan Thorson.

Among White's numerous awards and citations are a Dance/USA Honors; Capezio Ballet Makers Dance Foundation Award; the New York State Governor's Arts Award; an Obie Award; a Dance Magazine Award, and France's "Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres". In 2002, he received a fellowship to the Center for Social Innovation at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business.

White joins Walker Senior Curator of Performing Arts Philip Bither in a discussion about the state of contemporary dance—its role in community life, current movements and forms, and producing in today's economic climate. Copresented with the University of Minnesota Dance program. A reception follows.

Talking Dance is made possible by generous support from the Gertrude Lippincott Fund.

Contemporary Dance 101

Friday, November 28, 12 noon–5 pm, Free
Walker Auditorium

Meet and move with the artists selected for this year's Choreographers' Evening. These 15-minute drop-in workshops introduce movement and composition techniques through active exercises. Participants will engage with the process of choreography and learn how to become better viewers of contemporary dance. No previous dance experience required. Appropriate for ages 12 and up.

Tickets for Choreographers' Evening are \$14 (\$7 Walker members) and are available at the Walker box office or by calling 612.375.7622; or visit www.walkerart.org/tickets/. Patrons with special needs are asked to call two weeks in advance.

The Walker Art Center's Performing Arts Program is generously supported by funds from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation through the Doris Duke Fund for Jazz and Dance and the Doris Duke Performing Arts Endowment Fund.

**The Walker Art Center is located at 725 Vineland Place,
at Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis, one block off Highway I-94.
For public information, call 612.375.7622.
Gallery hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 10 am–5 pm;
Thursday, 10 am–9 pm; Sunday, 11 am–5 pm; closed Monday.
<http://www.walkerart.org>**