

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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WHO: ARC Dance Company

WHAT: *Summer Dance at The Center* –a mixed rep program at Seattle Center

WHERE: Bagley Wright/Leo Kreielsheimer Theatre
155 Mercer Street | Seattle, WA 98109

WHEN: July 21 - 23, 2011 (Thursday – Saturday) at 8:00 PM

TICKETS \$28 in advance; \$35 door Adult

& INFO: \$18 in advance; \$25 door Student/Senior(under 18 & valid ID/65+)

www.arcdance.org ARC Dance 206 352-0798

**ARC DANCE OPENS 13TH PERFORMANCE SEASON WITH ANNUAL
“SUMMER DANCE AT THE CENTER”**

ARC Dance returns to Bagley Wright/Leo K. Theatre in Seattle Center with a multi-work program Thursday through Friday, July 21-23

ARC Dance Company opens July 21 for a three-evening program at Seattle Center’s Bagley Wright/Leo Kreielsheimer Theatre on Mercer Street. This summer's program offers five separate works by different choreographers. Alex Ketley (The Foundry & San Francisco Ballet) and Penny Hutchinson (Mark Morris Dance Group) return to ARC with world premiers. Also on the bill are Artistic Director Marie Chong's *No Regrets*, Betsy Cooper's (UW Dance Program Director) *The Space Between*, Kirk Midtskog's *Between Earth & Sky*, and *Song of the Siren* by Jason Ohlberg (Hubbard Street Dance Chicago).

“The annual summer performances at Seattle Center are a wonderful opportunity for both locals and tourists alike to experience a part of Seattle's thriving, year-round dance scene.” said Artistic Director Marie Chong. “The Bagley Wright/Leo K. is a perfect fit for ARC Dance, and we are pleased to be performing there regularly. It's a beautiful, intimate theater that allows for a rich, personal experience,” added Chong.

A King County **4Culture** grant helps ARC make this performance run possible. “We are thankful to **4Culture** for their support. It is one element that helps make dance performances like this more accessible in the community.” said ARC board member Kirk Midtskog.

The combination of experienced choreographers expressing their unique vision and the collaborative contribution of strong, professional dancers make for compelling dance experiences at every ARC performance.

Summer Dance at The Center: July 21- 23, 2011; (Thursday – Saturday) at 8:00 PM

Leo Kreielsheimer Theatre 155 Mercer Street | Seattle, WA 98109

Tickets & Info: ARC Dance 206 352.0798 or www.arcdance.org

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More about ARC Dance Company

ARC Dance is a professional repertory dance company in Seattle, Washington that presents contemporary dance in intimate settings. Under the artistic direction of Marie Chong since its inception in 1999, ARC has performed works by nationally recognized and emerging choreographers in a regular performance season July through December. It occupies a 10,000 sq. ft. dance facility in the Ballard/Crown Hill neighborhood of Seattle.

More about Marie Chong, Artistic Director

Marie Chong began dancing in Tacoma, WA with Jan Collum. She performed professionally with Pacific Northwest Ballet, Spectrum Dance Theater, Atlanta Ballet II, and Eugene Ballet. She toured much of the US, Canada, the Netherlands, and Germany, performing works by George Balanchine to Lar Lubavitch, and many others. As a choreographer, Ms. Chong has created over 15 original works for ARC Dance. She has been commissioned to create choreography on companies in the Northwest and has worked with the Seattle Symphony and the Woodland Park Zoo in Outreach and Education programs. She is a Guest Teacher for Ballet British Columbia and Arts Umbrella in Vancouver, WA and is the director of Arc School of Ballet the affiliated training school of ARC Dance Company. Ms. Chong teaches Pilates, GYROTONIC® and GYROKINESIS® physical education as well as ballet. She is an active member of [Dance/USA, National Dance Education Organization, USA Gymnastics,](#) and serves on the UW Dance advisory board. She is a strong advocate for sharing and educating the art form with others.

More about Betsy Cooper, University of Washington Dance Program Director

Betsy Cooper became Director of the University of Washington Dance Program in 2001. She previously taught at the University of Texas at Austin, George Mason University, and the University of Waterloo. Cooper also guest teaches at Pacific Northwest Ballet School, Arc School of Ballet, Dance Fremont and Cornish College of the Arts. As a dancer, she performed in the New York City Ballet's Tchaikovsky and Stravinsky Festivals, and has danced with a number of classical and contemporary companies including, Makarova and Company, Matthew Nash Music & Dance, San Francisco Opera Ballet and Nationaltheater Mannheim. Cooper has published articles on dance and politics in Theatre Research International, Dance Research Journal and The International Dictionary of Modern Dance. She received her M.F.A. in Dance from the University of Washington and a B.A. in Archaeological Studies from Yale University. Cooper is a recipient of a 2004 Distinguished Teaching Award from the University of Washington.

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More about Penny Hutchinson, Founding Member Mark Morris Dance Group

Penny Hutchinson, a native of Seattle, attended the Juilliard School. She was a founding member of the Mark Morris Dance Group, 1980-1992 and was in Brussels from 1988-1991, when MMDG was in residence at Theatre de la Monnaie. In 1990 she received a New York Dance and Performance Award, BESSIE. In addition to teaching at the University of Washington, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and other MMDG workshops, Hutchinson has taught at Ulm Theatre Ballet, NYU Tisch School of the Arts, South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (Singapore), University of Montana, Academy of Modern Dance (Chennai, India), and Sports Hojskole, (Denmark). She was assistant director for Peter Sellars' *The Rake's Progress* at the Chatelet Theater, Paris. After receiving a BA through Vermont College, in 2001 she choreographed and made her acting debut in *The Oresteia*, three Greek tragedies, for the opening of the Berkeley Repertory's Roda Theater. While attending Mills College, Penny staged *Marble Halls* by Mark Morris for the Mills Repertory Dance Company. She graduated with an MFA in Dance from Mills. She has had two successful collaborations with composer Fei Wu of Beijing, China, the second being under a "Meet the Composer" grant for University of Wyoming dance students and the Chandra Wyoga Gamelan.

More about Alex Ketley, Artistic Director of The Foundry (San Francisco)

Alex Ketley is an independent choreographer and director of The Foundry, a contemporary dance company based in San Francisco. Formally a dancer with the San Francisco Ballet he performed a wide range of repertory including the work of William Forsythe, James Kudelka, and George Balanchine to name a few. In 1998 he co-founded The Foundry in order to explore his interests in choreography, improvisation, mixed media work, and collaborative process. With The Foundry he has been an artist-in-residence at many leading art institutions including Headlands Center for the Arts, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, The Yard, the Santa Fe Art Institute, the Taipei Artist Village, ODC Theater, and the Ucross Foundation. The Foundry has produced fourteen full evening length works that have received extensive support from the public, funders, and the press, as well as a number of single-channel video pieces that have screened at international video festivals. As a choreographer independent of his work with The Foundry, Alex Ketley has been commissioned to create original pieces for companies and universities throughout the United States. For this work he has received acknowledgement from the Hubbard Street 2 National Choreographic Competition, the International Choreographic Competition of the Festival des Arts de Saint-Saveur, the National Choo-San Goh Award, the inaugural Princess Grace Award for Choreography, the BNC National Choreographic Competition, two CHIME Fellowships, and two Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography Residencies. In 2009 his work "To Color Me Different" won an Isadora Duncan Award for Best Ensemble Performance and was considered one of the Top Ten Performances of the Year by both Voice of Dance and the San Francisco Chronicle. In 2009 he received one of six prestigious Gerbode Hewlett Choreographer Commissioning Awards and created the new work *Please Love Me* which premiered for The Foundry in May of 2010 and was performed extensively throughout the year in California. In addition to commissions from Ballet Leipzig in Germany and the Juilliard School in New York, for 2011, he is the sole artist to receive the National Eben Demarest Award.

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More about Kirk Midtskog, Choreographer

Since 1984, Mr. Midtskog has created works in dance genres as diverse as classical ballet, modern, neo-classical, and “Dance Theater” for companies such as Mt. Baker Ballet, Eastside Dance Theater, and ARC Dance Company. Midtskog performed with Halby Dance Theatre, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Balletacoma, Mt. Baker Ballet, and Northwest Chamber Dance Theater. Mr. Midtskog received his formal training from New York Conservatory of Dance, Joffrey Ballet School, Neubert Ballet, and The Dance Lab. Mr. Midtskog was a 4Culture grant recipient for choreography in 2007.

More about Jason Ohlberg, Choreographer

Jason Ohlberg is originally from Fresno, CA. He received his training from State University NY at Purchase. His professional credits include Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Jan Erkert and Dancers, and Dance Kaleidoscope where he served as choreographer in residence for two years. In 1997, Mr. Ohlberg founded Same Planet Different World Dance Theater in Chicago, IL where he continues a working relationship. He has served on the faculty of Barat College, the School of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Spectrum Dance Theater, Dance Fremont, University of Washington, Arc School of Ballet, and Cornish College of the Arts. When not creating dances, Mr. Ohlberg is a certified Pilates instructor and teaches at Metropolitan Pilates in Seattle.

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