

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 15, 2008

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WHO: ARC Dance Company
WHAT: *Appoints Resident Choreographer, Betsy Cooper*
WHERE: ARC Dance Space
9250 14th Ave NW Seattle, WA 98117
WHEN: Effective April 30, 2008
INFO: www.arcdance.org (206) 352-0798

ARC DANCE APPOINTS RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHER

Betsy Cooper, University of Washington Dance Program Director, named
'Resident Choreographer' at ARC Dance

SEATTLE, WA --- ARC Dance Company begins work on a July 17 - 19 performance run at Seattle Center's Bagley Wright/Leo Kreielshimer Theatre by naming UW dance program director Betsy Cooper as its principal choreographer. ARC Dance concludes its ninth season and its first-ever summer performance program with the appointment of Cooper, a very versatile choreographer, to the post.

ARC's wide-ranging repertoire and Ms Cooper's versatility are a natural fit. Ms. Cooper has created work for ARC Dance in past seasons. Her appointment as resident choreographer will allow her to have free reign to create a range of works on the professional dancers at ARC Dance. With Cooper's extensive back ground as a dancer in Europe and the US, as well as her choreographic experience in many dance genres, she brings an astonishing depth and breadth as a working artist to ARC.

"We are very pleased that Betsy has accepted this opportunity to join ARC and work with us on an ongoing basis," said Ms. Chong, ARC Artistic Director, and added, "We are sure this will be a fruitful collaboration for everyone involved."

Cooper is also enthusiastic. "I love the technical strength and open mindedness of the ARC dancers, as well as their willingness to explore the creative process with me. They demonstrate a professionalism and generosity of spirit that is inspiring." she said.

The hallmark of ARC is its ability to perform modern, contemporary ballet and classical repertoire with strength, aplomb and accessibility on the same program. The Company's new professional dancers, a summer season at the Bagley Wright/Leo K. Theatre, and Betsy Cooper's appointment as resident choreographer all contribute to ARC's forward momentum as it finishes its ninth regular season in Seattle.

For more information about ARC Dance and its ancillary school The Arc School of Ballet, please contact Marie Chong directly at ARC: (206) 352-0798 or www.arcdance.org

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More about Betsy Cooper

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.

More about ARC Dance Company

ARC is a professional repertory dance company in Seattle, Washington that presents contemporary ballet 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 standard (proscenium arch) theaters with seating capacities of 400 to 2500 .

More about Arc School of Ballet

Arc School of Ballet offers four coordinated, high-quality programs to dancers of all ages and backgrounds. The core curriculum focuses on elements of both classical and contemporary ballet technique and is complimented by other dance forms such as Modern, Jazz, and Character, along with Pilates, GYROTONIC (C) AND GYROKINESIS (C) conditioning. The variety of classes works to meet students' varying interests, ranging from beginning to adult education/fitness to the professional dance career bound.

ARC Dance Company Mission and Studio location

ARC's mission is to communicate through dance as a universal language by presenting a rich palette of choreography. ARC Dance Company and Arc School of Ballet occupy over 12,000 square feet of the former Crown Hill School in the Ballard/Crown Hill neighborhood of Seattle at 9250 14th Ave NW, Seattle, Washington.