

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 17 - 19, 2008 (Thursday – Saturday) at 8:00 PM
- TICKETS:** Adults - \$25 in advance; \$28 at the door
Children (12 & under) - \$15 in advance; \$18 at the door
(206) 443-2222
- INFO:** www.arcdance.org (206) 352-0798

ARC DANCE ANNOUNCES JULY PROGRAM AT SEATTLE CENTER

Contemporary ballet company, ARC Dance, performs at the Bagley Wright/Leo K Theatre with roster of professional dancers July 17, 18, & 19

SEATTLE, WA --- ARC Dance Company opens July 17, 2008, for a three-evening program at Seattle Center’s Bagley Wright/Leo Kreielsheimer Theatre. The program consists of separate works by The Foundry co-founder Alex Ketley, Artistic Director Marie Chong, Resident Choreographer Betsy Cooper, and choreographers Kirk Midtskog and Christy McNeil. Several new professional dancers are joining ARC to present a selection of neo-classical, theater/dance, and modern works in the intimate setting of the Leo K. Theatre on July 17, 18, and 19.

Fewer dancers on a smaller stage marks a change for ARC, which typically uses theaters with large stages and at least 400 seats. “We feel the Leo K. Theatre, at Seattle Center, offers a beautiful setting for the choreographers and dancers to explore ideas that lend themselves to a smaller venue.” said Marie Chong, Artistic Director. “Plus, the central location of the Bagley Wright/Leo K. and a three-day run should give more flexibility for the public to see our current work and group of professional dancers.” she added.

All of the works on the mixed repertory program are premiers and tilt toward the contemporary-modern vein—including a neo-classical work done in *pointe* shoes by ARC Artistic Director Marie Chong. Other premiers are contributed by Alex Ketley (retired San Francisco Ballet dancer, co-founder/director of The Foundry), Resident Choreographer Betsy Cooper (UW), Christy McNeil and Kirk Midtskog.

The Company's new professional dancers, a summer program at the Bagley Wright/Leo K., 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 Company, please contact Marie Chong directly at ARC: (206) 352-0798 or www.arcdance.org

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More about ARC Dance Company

ARC is a professional repertory dance company in Seattle, Washington that presents modern, contemporary ballet and classical repertoire with strength, aplomb and accessibility 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 Marie Chong, Artistic Director

Marie Chong 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, Lynn Taylor Corbett, Frank Chaves, Toni Pimble, Kent Stowell, Christopher d'Amboise, Ann Reinking, Margo Sappington, Lar Lubavitch, and many others. As a choreographer, Ms. Chong has created over 10 original works for ARC Dance. She has also been commissioned to create choreography on companies in the Northwest and worked with the Seattle Symphony on various projects such as *Discover Music!* Her version of Swan Lake, with low flying trapeze (aerial dance), debuted in 2005 and the children's story, The Rainbow Goblins included multi-media and an original music composition premiered in 2004. Both projects typify her innovative approach and collaborations with other artists. Ms. Chong is certified in GYROTONIC® and GYROKINESIS® physical conditioning and is a member of [Dance/USA](#) and [National Dance Education Organization](#) where she is a strong advocate for sharing the art form with others.

More about Betsy Cooper, Resident Choreographer

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 Alex Ketley

Artistic Director / Co-Founder of The Foundry in San Francisco, Alex trained at the Washington Ballet, the School of American Ballet and the Royal Danish Ballet. In 1994 he joined the San Francisco Ballet where he performed a wide range of classical and contemporary repertory including the work of William Forsythe, James Kudelka, and George Balanchine. In 1998 he co-founded The Foundry in order to explore his deepening interests in choreography, improvisation, mixed media work, and collaborative process. He also worked for Alonzo King's LINES Ballet as both a dancer and choreographer from 2000-2002. With The Foundry he has created dance, installation, and video pieces during residencies at various Arts Centers and Institutes around the US and at the Taipei Artist Village in Taiwan. He has also been a guest choreographer at North Carolina School for the Arts and Florida State University. His work has received the National Choo-San Goh Award and the inaugural Princess Grace Award for Choreography, as well as awards from the Hubbard Street 2 National Choreography Competition, and the International Choreographic Competition of the Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur in Quebec, Canada. In 2001 he began an ongoing relationship with Hubbard Street 2, and has created four pieces for the company. For 2005 he received funding from the Creative Work Fund and created his first systemic work, Syntax, with poet Carol Snow, which explored California's diverse cultural and physical landscape through the use of improvisation and video. In 2006 he was appointed Resident Choreographer at the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, and also commissioned to create new work for the dance departments at Stanford University and San Francisco State University. In 2007 Ketley worked with the nation's leading physically integrated dance company, AXIS, through the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography's "Free to Rep" program in Florida and was awarded a yearlong CHIME Grant/Residency to mentor with veteran artist Charlie Moulton. He also created a new work for Ballet Met's 30th anniversary program, and premiered a new Foundry project exploring contemporary Iranian poetry in collaboration with The Translation Project's founder Niloufar Talebi.

More about Kirk Midtskog

Mr. Midtskog studied at various schools such as New York Conservatory of Dance, Joffrey Ballet School, Neubert Ballet, and Dance Center Queens. Mr. Midtskog danced as a full-season dancer, a guest artist, or project dancer with Halby Dance Theatre, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Balletacoma, Mt. Baker Ballet, and Northwest Chamber Dance Theater. Since 1984, Mr. Midtskog has created works in dance genres as diverse as classical ballet, modern, neo-classical, and most recently, "Dance Theater" for companies such as Mt. Baker Ballet, Eastside Dance Theater, Balletacoma and ARC.

More about Christy McNeil

Ms. McNeil has choreographed for several companies such as Cornish Dance Theater and Eastside Moving Company. She teaches for the Boulder Jazz Dance Workshop as well as choreographing for its resident company, Interweave Dance Theater. Ms. McNeil currently teaches at Cornish College of the Arts, Westlake Dance Center, Studio I, Arc School of Ballet and is creating a dance curriculum at Sammamish High School. Her performance credits include *Dance Captain* and *Company Manager* with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, Cornish Dance Theater, and the Rudolf Nureyev Ballet Festival in Kazan, Russia. She holds a B.F.A from Cornish College of the Arts where she studied on a full Kreielsheimer Scholarship.

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 and Jazz 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.

ARC Dance Company presents....

***Summer Dance at the Center* July 17 - 19, 2008 (Thurs – Sat) at 8:00 PM**

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

Adults - \$25 (advance) and **\$28** (door); **Children- \$15** (advance) and **\$18** (door)

Available at (206) 443-2222

Directly through ARC at (206) 352-0798 www.arcdance.org

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