

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 29, 2009

For more information contact:

ARC Dance

www.arcdance.org

Phone: (206) 352-0798

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 16 - 18, 2008 (Thursday – Saturday) at 8:00 PM

TICKETS: Adults - \$25 in advance; \$28 at the door
Students/Seniors (65+) - \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door
www.brownpapertickets.com

INFO: www.arcdance.org

ARC DANCE ANNUAL JULY PROGRAM AT SEATTLE CENTER

ARC Dance returns to the beautiful setting of the Bagley Wright/Leo K. Theatre for its second dazzling season of *Summer Dance at the Center* July 16-18

Known for its strong, versatile dancers and its varied contemporary repertoire, ARC Dance features four world premiers by choreographers Penny Hutchinson (Mark Morris Dance Group), Marie Chong (Artistic Director), Betsy Cooper (Resident Choreographer), and Kirk Midtskog in a July 16-18 program at Seattle Center's Leo K. Theatre. Also on the bill is a work by California-based choreographer, Mark Haines, which ARC premiered at Meany Hall in 2004.

“Based on the success of our summer season at the lovely Leo K. Theatre last July, we wanted to make the concerts an annual event.” said Artistic Director Marie Chong. “The Bagley Wright/Leo K. is a perfect fit for ARC Dance, and we are pleased to be back in the space; it's a beautiful, intimate theater that lends itself to our current repertoire.” added Chong.

The use of the Bagley Wright/Leo K. Theatre as its home venue is very much in keeping with ARC's “forward momentum” approach--even during these stressed economic times. ARC has engaged 10 dancers for a 32-week contract involving more mixed rep and other concerts through out the 2009/2010 season. Major corporate support from the nationally recognized marketing agency, WONGDOODY, is also aiding ARC galvanize its place as a significant member of the area performing arts scene.

The confluence of experienced choreographers expressing their unique “voices” and the collaborative contribution of strong, well-trained dancers makes for compelling dance performances. “There is always something that draws you in.” is one of the most stated sentiments at an ARC performance.

Summer Dance at The Center: July 16 - 18, 2009; (Thursday – Saturday) at 8:00 PM
Leo Kreielsheimer Theatre 155 Mercer Street | Seattle, WA 98109
Tickets: ARC Dance 206 352.0798 or www.brownpapertickets.com

---more---

More about ARC Dance Company

ARC is a professional repertory dance company in Seattle, Washington that presents modern, contemporary ballet and classical repertoire with dynamism and aplomb 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 theaters with seating capacities of 300 to 2500. It occupies a 10,000. sq ft. dance facility in Seattle.

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.

More about Penny Hutchinson

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 Kirk Midtskog

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

More about Mark Haines

Mark A. Haines – has been teaching in the Southern California area and around the nation for the past 10 years. Nationally known as a modern jazz teacher and choreographer, Mr. Haines has worked with companies in Washington, Colorado, South Carolina, and California and has choreographed for television and musical theater. After performing as an entertainer with King's Productions throughout the United States and Europe, he received a B.F.A in Dance from Cornish College of the Arts. He has completed an M.F.A in Dance with an emphasis in Lighting Design from the University of California, Irvine, and is a faculty member for the Boulder Jazz Dance Workshop and choreographer for the Interweave Dance Company. Mr. Haines is currently the Director of the Riverside Community College Dance Touring Ensemble and is the resident Lighting Designer for RCC Dance Department.

--- more---

ARC Dance Company Mission, Vision, and Studio location

Mission: ARC Dance produces bold, passionate performances that inspire, challenge, and engage audiences.

Vision: ARC Dance contributes to the evolution of contemporary ballet by developing choreographic talent and collaborating with artists in music, visual arts, and theater.

Location: ARC Dance occupies roughly 10,000 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 16 - 18, 2009 (Thurs – Sat) at 8:00 PM

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

Tickets: Adults - \$25 (advance) and **\$28** (door); Student and Seniors (65+) **\$15** (advance) and **\$20** (door)

Available through ARC Dance www.arcdance.org 206 352.0798 or

www.brownpapertickets.com

For more information, please contact ARC Dance: (206) 352-0798 www.arcdance.org

###