The Middlebury College Department of Theatre and Dance presents:

The Dance Company of Middlebury

Culture Cash and Community:
to have or have not

Combining Communities: Dance and Photography
Thursday, February 10, 2011
12:30-1:20 p.m. Mahaney Center for the Arts, Dance Theatre

See the creative process and community engagement of the 2010-2011 Dance Company of Middlebury through the photographic lens of student photographer Dane Verret ‘12. Verret will display and discuss his photos of the company’s performances in Middlebury and his home community of New Orleans, LA. Verret’s photos depict the intersection of the two communities of which he is currently a part. Hear his thoughts on collaborating with DCM as documenter, community member, and tour guide. This collaborative project was made possible through the Undergraduate Collaborative Research Fund. Light refreshments will be served.
Culture Cash and Community: to have or have not
Culture
development or improvement of the mind by education or training
Cash
money or an equivalent
Community
a social group of any size whose members reside in a specific locality, share
government, and often have a common cultural and historical heritage.

Episode 1

Strata
Choreography: The Company
Music: Rahsaan Roland Kirk
Original Text: The Company
Performers: Davis Anderson, Sarah Chapin, Sonia Hsieh,
Jessica Lee, Catherine Miller, James
Moore, Christian Morel, Hannah Pierce

Episode 2

Shaking the Devil: the black swan effect
Choreography: Trebien Pollard
Music: Loscil
Costumes: Trebien Pollard and Christal Brown
Dancers: Davis Anderson, Sarah Chapin, Sonia Hsieh,
Jessica Lee (soloist 1/21), Catherine Miller (soloist
1/22), James Moore, Christian Morel, Hannah Pierce

Episode 3

Sketch 1: Building a Better Fishtrap
Concept & Choreography: Paloma McGregor
Video and Audio Design: r.a. washington
Text and Costume: Paloma McGregor
Music: Rudresh Mahanthappa
Performers: 1/21: Jessica Lee, James Moore, Christian Morel,
Catherine Miller (soloist)
1/22: Davis Anderson, Sarah Chapin, Sonia Hsieh,
Hannah Pierce (soloist)

Episode 4

Falling Sun Wanting Moon, the desire for another day
Choreography: Christal Brown
Music: Rebirth Brass Band
Costumes: Christal Brown
Text and Images: Dane Verret
Dancers: Davis Anderson, Sarah Chapin, Sonia Hsieh,
Jessica Lee, Catherine Miller, James Moore,
Christian Morel, Hannah Pierce

Please join us for a discussion and reception after Friday evening's performance.
Audience members are requested to turn off electronic devices prior to the performance.
All photography and the use of audio or video equipment are prohibited.

Production Staff
Dance Program Faculty: Christal Brown, Penny Campbell,
Andrea Olsen, Tiffany Rhynard
Lighting Designer and Technical Director: Jennifer Ponder
Musicians: Michael Chorney and Ron Rost
Program Coordinator: BonnieRita Hearthstone
Light Board Operator: Sarah Fisher
Sound Board Operator: Sebastian Armstrong
Stage Manager: Katie Cyr
Videographers: Nora Sheridan, James McMillan
Production Assistants: Heather Pynne, Kenny Williams,
John Filoon, Natalie Guo
Photographer: Alan Kimara Dixon
Jennifer Ponder (lighting designer) has been the Lighting Designer and Technical Director for the Middlebury College dance program in Middlebury, VT, since 1997. She has designed lighting (both pre-mediated and improvised) for theatre and dance in the US and abroad including FlynnSpace, Shadowland Theatre, SUNY New Paltz, Bennington College, the Yard on Martha’s Vineyard, the Kennedy Center, the Dallas Theatre Center, Glimmerglass Opera, the American Dance Festival, Cuba, the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic and various tiny theatres in NYC, most recently at Dance New Amsterdam. She is a frequent collaborator with Tiffany Rhynard’s Big Action Performance Ensemble. She holds an MFA from Southern Methodist University.

Dane Verret ‘12: I’m currently 20 years old and currently a student at Middlebury College. More importantly, I’m a poet, photographer, and activist from New Orleans, LA. Poetry has taken me to venues around Louisiana, Washington, D.C., and Vermont. My photography has been exhibited in New Orleans and Vermont. Finally, as an activist I have participated in environmental activism programs with the World Wildlife Fund, spoken to a congressional panel on the effects of natural disasters on my hometown, and most recently I have participated in community service work in Miami, and an advocate for pushing conversations about diversity on my college campus. Artistically, I’m influenced by people’s living conditions and how they express themselves within and outside those conditions. I’m influenced by my city, my youth, race, and history. I use poetry to communicate what I feel, and with photography I communicate what I see. I believe that what I feel and see, people rarely examine. Exposing people to these visions and feelings is my goal, and my motivation is changing the way we think. As I am now, art is the way I most freely interact with the world and people around me.

r.a. washington is an artist living and working in Cleveland.

The Company:
Christal Brown, Dance Company of Middlebury Artistic Director 2010-2011, Visiting Lecturer in Dance, and Founding Artistic Director of INSPIRIT (Choreographer, educator, performer, writer, activist) is a native of Kinston, North Carolina and received her BFA in dance and minor in Business from the University of N.C. at Greensboro. Upon graduation, Brown went on to tour nationally with Chuck Davis’ African-American Dance Ensemble and internationally with Andrea E. Woods/Souloworks. Immediately following those experiences Brown performed with and managed Gesel Mason Performance Projects while apprenticing with the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange in Takoma Park, M.D. Upon relocating to New York, Brown apprenticed with the Bill T Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company before finding a home with Urban Bush Women; where she spent three seasons as a principal performer, community specialist and apprentice program coordinator. Aside from performing, Brown is the Founding and Executive Director of INSPIRIT, a performance ensemble and educational conglomerate dedicated to bringing female choreographers together to collaborate and show new work, expanding the views of women of all ages, and being a constant source of inspiration to its audience as well as members. Founded in 2000, INSPIRIT has been honored to show work at Aaron Davis Hall, St. Marks Church, Joyce Soho, The Lincoln Theater of Washington, D.C., and various other venues across the country. Through the growth of INSPIRIT, Brown has also been able to launch a nationwide youth initiative for teen girls called Project: BECOMING. Brown has been a resident artist of Dance New Amsterdam, Movement Research, and Tribeca Performing Arts Center, and is currently a visiting lecturer in Dance at Middlebury College. Combining her athleticism, creativity, love for people and knack for teaching, Brown continues to teach and create works that redefine the art of dance and the structure of the field.

Davis Anderson (apprentice) is a sophomore dance and political science double major at Middlebury College. He started dancing on the street corners of Cleveland, OH, back in the early 1990s but has since explored new locales—most recently the Bates Dance Festival (summer 2010). This is his first year performing with the Dance Company of Middlebury and he cherishes the experience.

Sarah Chapin ’12 (apprentice) is a dance major and Portuguese minor from Raleigh, NC. A lifelong love of movement has landed her most happily in modern, swing dancing, salsa, and contact improvisation. She hopes to continue her exploration of the logic of the body-mind throughout her life, especially while abroad in Brazil next semester. She is honored to dance and question with the DCM this year; for all the obvious and unknown reasons, a huge thank you goes to the Company, Dane, Paloma, Trebien, Jenn, and especially Christal.
Christian Morel '11 is a joint dance and philosophy major from Chapel Hill, NC. She began dancing under the influence of Professor Andrea Olsen and just completed her senior dance concert and English thesis on E.M. Forster this past fall. Upon graduation Sonia will head to NYC to dance and play violin in Su Tan’s new opera project “Lotus Lives.”

James Moore '12 is a joint dance and English major from Los Angeles. He has studied under many wonderful teachers, including Tiffany Rhynard, Christal Brown, Andrea Olsen, Leyya Tawil, Katsura Kan, and Mecca Vaize-Andrews. His choreographic works include The Pursuit of Happiness and Neither You Nor Tomorrow, and he has danced in numerous others, including The Mechanical Heart, choreographed by Christian Morel '11; Tiphaigne, by Simon Thomas-Train '09; Portrait of the Vampire as a Young Man, by Leyya Tawil. He is honored to be a member of the Middlebury Dance Company, and is thankful to friends and family for helping him get here.

Catherine Miller '11, originally from Oakland, CA, is a double major in dance and psychology at Middlebury College. She has been dancing since the age of three, but began formal training in Modern-jazz and ballet at 14 at Oakland School for the Arts. In addition to those dance styles she has also studied Polynesian, Scottish County, and Bharata Natyam, and dappled in tap, hip hop, African, and ballroom. This is Catherine’s third year as a member of Dance Company of Middlebury. She loves working with her fellow company members, and would like to thank her choreographers, especially Christal Brown, for giving her this wonderful performance opportunity.

Jessica Lee '13 is honored to be in the Dance Company of Middlebury. A dance and environmental studies joint major from Fairfield, CT, she hopes to someday raise awareness of the environment through the creative arts. Dancing since she could walk, Jessica trained in classical ballet for thirteen years, and now loves the expressiveness of modern dance. She has performed in multiple dance concerts, including a senior thesis (spring 2010), and recently choreographed the fall 2010 musical for the Middlebury College Musical Players. Thanks to family and friends, Christal Brown, and the entire company for all your love and support.

Sonia Hsieh '10.5 is a joint dance and English major from Chapel Hill, NC. She began dancing under the influence of Professor Andrea Olsen and just completed her senior dance concert and English thesis on E.M. Forster this past fall. Upon graduation Sonia will head to NYC to dance and play violin in Su Tan’s new opera project “Lotus Lives.”

Hannah Pierce '13 is a dance and English major at Middlebury College. Born and raised in Oklahoma City, OK, she danced throughout high school before coming to Vermont. She has performed in spring and fall student choreography concerts, as well as in senior thesis work. This is her first year to be performing with the Dance Company of Middlebury. It has been an incredible experience, and she is so grateful for this opportunity.

Collaborators

Paloma McGregor is originally from St. Croix, where she began her dance studies with Caribbean Dance Company. She earned a BS in journalism from Florida A&M University and an MFA in choreography and performance from Case Western Reserve University. This season, she is blessed to be celebrating a decade of dancing—she began her dance career with Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theatre in 1998, while still working as a full time newspaper reporter and editor. Paloma is co-founder of Angela’s Pulse Performance Projects, with her lifelong collaborator and sister, Patricia, and is associate artistic director of INSPIRIT dance company. Since moving to New York in 2004, her choreographic work has been presented at such venues as Bronx Academy of Art and Dance, SolarOne Solar Powered Arts Festival and New Dance Group, as well as The Dance Place in Washington, D.C., MOCA/Cleveland and Cleveland Public Theatre. Paloma teaches dance and writing workshops throughout the country. She is in her fourth season as a dancer with the critically acclaimed Urban Bush Women.

Trebien Pollard is a graduate of Florida A&M University with a BS in Mathematics Education and a MFA in Dance from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. He received training at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, Florida A & M University, Florida State University, Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance, and from a number of gifted teachers and choreographers. Trebien has performed with many dance companies, including Tania Isaac Dance, Nia Love, Martha Graham Ensemble, Pascal Rioult Dance Theater, Pearl Lang Dance Theatre, Rebecca Stenn Co., Erick Hawkins Dance Co., the MET (Metropolitan Opera Ballet), Ronald K. Brown/Evidence and Pilobolus. He has also worked as a guest artist with Urban Bush Women.

Christian Morel '11 is a joint dance and philosophy major. His previous Middlebury dance performances include Event or Process by Yina Ng '08, Shiny by Tiffany Rhynard, Proyecto Republica Dominicana by Penny Campbell, COM by Philippe Bronchtein, Pursuit of Happiness by James Moore, and Eros: A Terpsichorean Encomium, a work in progress of his thesis work to be presented this spring. This will be Christian’s last time working under the tutelage of Christal Brown, and he is grateful for having been involved in her creative process during the production of this performance.