The Middlebury College Department of Theatre and Dance welcomes you to

The Dance Company of Middlebury:
Proyecto República Dominicana

January 22 and 23, 2010
8:00 p.m.
Mahaney Center for the Arts Dance Theatre

We dedicate our performances to the Haitian people with deep sadness for the present and recent past, and great hope for the future.
The Program

Part One

Improvisation: Music, Dance, Light, Time, Space
Improvisación: Música, Danza, Iluminación, Tiempo, Espacio

The Dance Company, in its incarnation as an ensemble of improvising musicians and dancers, will shape 30 minutes (more or less) of improvised work this evening. We have only premeditated a few things in addition to time length: where the musicians are located, how the stage is dressed, and what the performers are wearing. You may see a series of short pieces or a longer, episodic work. Your neighbor may have an entirely different idea of which format emerges. Musicians are free to play without dancers on stage and dancers may move while musicians are quiet. It is in the nature of this work not to know in advance how the time and space will structure itself or be structured by the performers. The group has been training since September to perceive emerging form and content, and work collectively to manifest them.

After about 30 minutes (we have clocks secreted back stage), the ensemble will draw this portion of the performance to a conclusion. Hopefully, you will sense that conclusion, too. The fail-safe is that house lights will come up and the ensemble will gather for a bow! We hope you enjoy this opportunity to watch dancers’, musicians’ and lighting designer’s minds at work, composing collaboratively in the moment. It is the art version of a spectator sport.

Dancers: Elizabeth Boles, Philippe Bronchtein, Sarah Chapin, Jeremy Cline, Sophia Levine, Catherine Miller, Christian Morel, Alexandra Vasquez
Musicians: Arthur Brooks (trumpet, flugelhorn), Michael Chorney (guitar)
Lighting Designer: Jennifer Ponder

INTERMISSION (10 minutes)

Part Two

Suite with Chorus/Juego con coro

 Barely There/Casi no hay
  Choreography: Christal Brown
  Dancers: Sophia Levine and Christian Morel
  Music: Bebo Velez, “Untitled”
  Costumes: Christal Brown

 On Foot/A pie
  Choreography and performance: Christian Morel
  Music: Dave Brubeck, “Unsquare Dance”
  Costume: Christian Morel

Vestiges/Vestigios
  Choreography and performance: Sophia Levine and Christian Morel
  Music: Philippe Bronchtein

The Chorus: Elizabeth Boles, Philippe Bronchtein, Sarah Chapin, Jeremy Cline, Catherine Miller, Alexandra Vasquez
Lighting design: Jennifer Ponder

PAUSE

KIDZ/NIÑOZ

Collaborative choreography: The dancers, directed by Penny Campbell
Dancers: Elizabeth Boles, Jeremy Cline, Sophia Levine (replacing Sarah Chapin, sidelined by a foot injury), Catherine Miller, Alexandra Vasquez
Music: Kareem Khalifa
Costumes: Penny Campbell
Lighting design: Jennifer Ponder

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Please no flash photography during the performance. Also, please turn off all cell phones, watch alarms or other things that go beep in the night during the performance. Thank you.
Director’s Notes

I am very proud to present this year’s Dance Company of Middlebury. It is by sheer coincidence that our tour, in planning for over a year, takes us to the Dominican Republic, island-sharing neighbor to so recently devastated Haiti. Our colleagues on the island report that life goes on as usual in Puerto Plata, far to the north and east of Port au Prince. The exceptions are the many efforts in support of Haitian relief. We hope to lend our performing/teaching skills to those efforts in some way during the week that we are in the city.

Every year the company reconstitutes itself by audition under the direction of a different faculty or guest artistic director. Auditions are open to all students, sophomores through seniors. As you scan the biographies, you will see the diversity of interests that absorb this year’s dancers. Company work is demanding. Dancers receive one academic credit for two semesters of work. We began building the choreographed dances for our concerts in September, completed them and polished them this month. Our improvisational work is not about completion or polish, although it should fool you into thinking it is both. It is about bringing all our training in technique and composition to the moment of engagement, hungry to embark on an adventure into as-yet unknown artistic territory. We’ve also been reading about Dominican history and conducting an informal survey of attitudes toward the arts here at Middlebury to prepare us to talk with artists about the climate for the arts in our two communities.

We have two primary partners in the city: grupo teatro Bálsamo, a community theatre group dedicated to creating performances that promote literacy, Dominican cultural history, and the integration of the arts in education and daily life; and The Vermont Institute on the Caribbean (VIC), based in Burlington, VT but with a strong presence in Puerto Plata. We will be working with VIC’s elementary school program, Healthy Neighborhoods/Healthy Kids, which engages 4th and 5th graders in developing projects that improve their lives and foster leadership and civic engagement. We will be doing workshops with those students and with dancers in various adult performing groups. They will share their work with us as well. We will perform versions of this evening’s concert in a variety of settings, indoors and out, and join Bálsamo for a performance of Dominican song and movement games. We know one! We will also facilitate encounters between our own and Dominican musicians and other artists that may lead to performance at the end of our residency.

The dancers, musicians and others involved with making this project a reality have enriched the process and continue to do so as we move more deeply into these final stages. I can’t wait to experience the alchemy that will be set in motion when these wonderful artists meet the equally wonderful people of Puerto Plata!

--Penny Campbell

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Program and Production Staff

Dance Program Faculty: Christal Brown, Penny Campbell (Chair), Andrea Olsen, Tiffany Rhynard,
Lighting Designer and Technical Director: Jennifer Ponder
Musicians: Michael Chorney and Ron Rost
Program Coordinator: Nicole Patterson
Stage Manager: Natalie Guo
Sound Operator: John Filoon
Light Board Operator: Sebastian Armstrong
Production Assistants: Heather Pynne, Sarah Fisher, Kenney Williams, Cat Miller
Videographers: Nikhil Ramburn, Nora Sheridan
Photographer: Alan Kimara Dixon

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A short question and answer period with the performers and a modest reception in the lobby follow the Friday performance.

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We gratefully recognize generous grants in support of Proyecto República Dominicana from the Committee on the Arts and the Academic Outreach Endowment/Alliance for Civic Engagement.

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Refreshments are being sold in the lobby by Malt Miami, a group of students raising funds to support their alternative, February break trip to Little Haiti in Miami. They will be volunteering with United Way, Hands on Miami, working with at-risk youth and much more.

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About the members of the Dance Company
The professionals

**Penny Campbell**, director of the Dance Program at Middlebury College and, this year, artistic director of the Dance Company of Middlebury has been on the faculty since 1985. Her professional specialty is Performance Improvisation—a term she coined years ago to distinguish her particular lineage of improvisation flowing from the work and antecedents of choreographer Judith Dunn and musician/composer Bill Dixon. She integrates improvisational techniques in her creative process and choreography classes. She has presented her work in many parts of the world, including Europe, Japan and Cuba. Recently, her interest the dance traditions of Latin America and the Caribbean have inspired her to turn her attention to cultural studies with particular concern for the ways in which our cultures inscribe themselves on our bodies and in our quotidian and artistic movement. She seeks to integrate the body-mind fully into traditional methods of conducting academic research.

**Arthur Brooks** has studied music principally with Bill Dixon and Cecil Taylor. He has been a student of the trumpet and music for over fifty years, and is still learning. He was a professor of music at Bennington College of Bennington VT, USA, performed both nationally and internationally and is a recipient of several composition awards. His primary focus at this stage of his practice is improvisation. He has been involved with this area in both music and dance, and is privileged to join his long time artistic sister, Penny Campbell, and the Dance Company of Middlebury, in this project in Puerta Plata.

**Christal Brown** is a visiting lecturer in dance at Middlebury College and founder and executive/artistic director of INSPIRIT, a dance company based in Brooklyn, NY. She has performed with many professional dance companies in the United States and internationally including Chuck Davis’ African-American Dance Ensemble, Andrea E. Woods/Soulworks and Gesel Mason Performance Projects.
She has apprenticed with the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange and, in New York, with the Bill T Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company. She spent three seasons as a principal performer, community specialist and apprentice program coordinator with Urban Bush Women. INSPIRIT is 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 to its members. Brown has also been able to launch Project: BECOMING, a nationwide youth initiative for teen girls.

**Michael Chorney** is a self-taught multi-instrumentalist, composer, arranger and producer. He has lived and worked in Vermont for the past 30 years and has been called “one of the Green Mountain's most inventive musician-composers.” As band leader he has formed groups as diverse as viperHouse (10 piece touring group), Magic City (chamber-jazz sextet playing Sun Ra), Orchid (baritone saxophone), 7 Deadly Sins (arrangements of Kurt Weill) as well as solo performances.
Chorney’s interests span genre and sensibility - prepared guitar for improvising collective “Ensemble V”; solo performances of original songs; composing for his chamber-jazz sextet. He has recently worked extensively with songwriter Anais Mitchell on arranging and orchestrating an evening length opera called Hadestown (Righteous Babe, 2010.) In 2009 Chorney received a commission from the Flynn Theater and a new works grant from the Vermont Community Foundation to compose and perform a new body of original pieces for his sextet. Chorney has released 15 albums under his own direction and played or produced on dozens more.

**Kareem Khalifa** is an assistant professor of philosophy at Middlebury College who composes and plays music in his spare time. In previous stints in Connecticut, upstate New York, Chicago, and Atlanta, he has performed with former Sun Ra and Abdullah Ibrahim drummer, Don Mumford; members of the Chicago Afrobeat Project; and a number of internationally touring musicians, including Craig Shepard (trombone), Jeremy Flower (electronics), Karen Greene (saxophone), Mario Schambon (percussion), and Paul Mercer (violin). Since arriving in Vermont in 2006, he has played with poet, scholar, and activist Sonia Sanchez; Arthur Brooks’ Ensemble V; members of the Middlebury College Music and Dance Departments; violinist Mike Khoury; and bassist/electronic musician, Sandy Nordahl.

**Jennifer Ponder** has been the Lighting Designer and Technical Director for the Middlebury College dance program in Middlebury, VT, since 1997. She has designed lighting for theatre and dance in VT, NY, TX, VA, MA, including 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, and various tiny theatres in NYC, most recently at Dance New Amsterdam. She holds an MFA from Southern Methodist University.
**The next generation**

**Elizabeth Boles ’10** is a joint major in Dance and Anthropology from Sharon, VT. Her creative process is driven by issues of communication and translation in cross-cultural contexts and explores the ways in which culture is physically embodied. In 2009, Liz performed in the Czech Republic with the Dance Company of Middlebury and in Mexico as part of her junior semester abroad. Currently she is hard at work on her senior project in the dance department, which integrates her anthropological research on the borderlands with her own personal journey crossing and re-crossing cultural borders.

**Philippe Bronchtein ’10** is originally from Montclair, New Jersey. He started dancing when he was fourteen years old and has been playing music since the age of four. As he grew older the two interests intersected and the complex and fascinating relationship between dance and music has become his main point of study. Currently, he is working on his senior work—an examination of technology’s influence on human communication for which he is both choreographing and composing.

**Sarah Chapin** (with her baby brother) is a sophomore dance major and Portuguese minor from Raleigh, NC. After learning to walk only on her tiptoes, Sarah started modern dance and has been hooked on movement ever since. When not in the studio, Sarah can usually be found knitting, laughing, or exploring her love for swing dancing. It is an honor to work and investigate deeply with the talented people of the DCM this year. She would like to thank them—and everyone she moves with, both literally and figuratively—for their dedication, humor, support, and friendship.

**Jeremy Cline** is a dance and religion joint major in his third year at Middlebury College. He hails from the small town of Bar Harbor, Maine, though he spent two years at the Mahindra United World College of India in high school. Jeremy has loved movement from a young age and is always seeking new ways to understand the world and express his ideas. He hopes to use dance as a means of personal and interpersonal understanding as well as to gain a better knowledge of the body-mind connection for his work after Middlebury. Jeremy also loves nature, capoeira, and playing music. He would like to thank his family, friends and fellow dancers for all of their support.

**Sophia Levine** is a senior dance major at Middlebury College. Her other interests include architecture and Italian. Although she has been involved in the Dance Program since arriving at Middlebury, this is her first time touring with the Dance Company. Sophie loves Performance Improvisation and feels lucky to be working with such amazing people. Over the next year or two she plans to continue dancing while pursuing a greater synthesis of her interests in preparation for graduate school.

**Catherine (Cat) Miller ’11** hails from Oakland, California. She is a double major in dance and psychology, which she hopes will help her to become a dance therapist that specializes in children. Her mother put her in dance class when she was three years old and she has not been able to escape from it since. Catherine has dabbled in a variety of dance forms including ballet, jazz, modern, Polynesian, Scottish Country, and the Indian classical form, Bharata Natyam. Catherine finds that she can best express herself through dance; it is one of her greatest joys in life.

**Christian Morel** is a junior at Middlebury College. A joint dance and philosophy major, he is currently conducting research to complete his thesis integrating the two fields. With expertise in salsa, as well as most Latin ballroom dance forms, he hopes to utilize the movement qualities of these forms to develop his own movement language for his thesis. He has performed in works by dance faculty members, Tiffany Rhynard and Cristal Brown, and with focus and dedication he hopes to become a member of a progressive dance company in New York after graduation. This is his first year dancing for The Dance Company of Middlebury. It has been a great opportunity for movement research and Christian looks forward to dancing and improvising with the group. Dance is like fire—vibrant, resplendent, and always unpredictable.

**Alexandra Vasquez** is a second year student and dance major at Middlebury College. Her parents are immigrants from the city of La Romana on the southeast coast of the Dominican Republic, which gives her a special connection to the company’s project this year. She began dancing at the age of nine in African dance classes. Her greatest dream became reality when she began her studies at Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts with its huge theatre and marvelous lighting. Alex loves performing and is so happy to have met the beautiful Middlebury dancers.
Our associates

Shannon Bohler-Small (Children’s Dance Consultant) has taught and danced with children ages 4-40. She created and directed the dance classes at Middlebury Union High School 1999-2007, simultaneously teaching at Castleton State College from 2003-2007. Shannon also taught at Salisbury, Shoreham and Mary Hogan Elementary Schools through the New Visions Dance Project sponsored by VSAVermont. She was named an outstanding Arts Educator by the Vermont Alliance for Arts Education. Recently she has turned to Arts Administration working with performers, students and professors in a behind the scenes capacity. She was the Assistant Director for Cultural Programming at Castleton, working with Education majors who created specific arts-based curriculum projects around the Arts Reach matinee series there. She is now the Events and Administrative Coordinator for the Mahaney Center for the Arts at Middlebury College. She hopes to work more with students there, preparing them to be teaching artists.

Nicole Patterson (Business Manager) has been working with the Middlebury College Dance Program for nearly 6 years. She has also worked in banking and business for most of her career but feels she has unquestionably found her niche with the infinitely supportive and fiery folks in Dance. She has one husband, two daughters, one small dog, one new house and two other jobs. She has no spare time. But, if she did, she would like to read, watch movies, listen to music. . . .and maybe spend a week or two at a spa.

Coming Events

February 26 and 27, 8 p.m.  Big APE at Flynn Space
Artist in Residence Tiffany Rhynard and her company, Big Action Performance Ensemble, present their newest production Disposable Goods at the Flynn Space in Burlington. Middlebury alumni Ellen smith-Ahern ’05, Yi Na Ng ’09, and Simon Thomas-Train ’09 dance in the company. More info: www.flynncenter.org

March 2, 7 p.m.  Screening: Guillermo Gómez-Peña’s Border Bruja
A sly and bitter indictment of U.S. colonial attitudes toward Mexican culture and history by “one of the handful of great performance artists in America today” (Peter Sellars). Ross Commons Seminar Room, B11.

March 9, 4:30 p.m.  Cafecito Hour: Excerpts and Discussion of Multiple Journeys: the life and work of Gómez-Peña

March 11, 7:30 p.m.  Strange Democracy: An Evening with Guillermo Gómez-Peña
Critics have called Gómez-Peña’s work “Chicano cyber-punk performance,” “ethno-techno art,” and “magnificent, melodramatic, robustly hilarious, and precisely, exquisitely witty.” Reception and book signing to follow. McCullough Social Space. A Performing Arts Series Event co-sponsored by the PAS, Dance Program, Office of the Dean of the College, Center for Campus Activities and Leadership, Committee on the Arts, Academic Enrichment Fund, and Rohatyn Center for International Affairs. Tickets: $24/18/6 Available at the Box Office or on line at go.middlebury.edu/tickets.

April 16 and 17, 8 p.m.  Senior Dance Concert: Elizabeth Boles, Philippe Bronchtein, and Sophie Levine
You’ve seen them dancing wonderfully here tonight. Don’t miss them in the crowning performance of their Middlebury careers! Mahaney Center for the Arts Dance Theatre. Tickets: $10/8/6