

TERE O'CONNOR DANCE: *WROUGHT IRON FOG*

OCTOBER 14 – 16, 2010 | 8:30 PM

OCTOBER 17, 2010 | 7:00 PM

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TERE O'CONNOR DANCE: WROUGHT IRON FOG

The Sharon Disney Lund Dance Series

Choreography by Tere O'Connor

Music by James Baker (text excerpted from the poetic novel *How It Is* by Samuel Beckett)

Lighting Design by Michael O'Connor

Set design by Walter Dundervill and Tere O'Connor

Costumes by Jennifer Goggans and Erin Gerken

Performed by Hilary Clark, Daniel Clifton, Erin Gerken, Heather Olson, and Matthew Rogers

Production Management by Michael O'Connor

The movement material for this work was created in collaboration with the performers. I cannot express loudly or frequently enough my gratitude for their talent, creativity and rigorous investigations throughout this process. I am also honored by their friendship and generosity. – Tere O'Connor

Wrought Iron Fog is commissioned by Dance Theater Workshop's Commissioning and Creative Residency Program with support from the Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, the New York State Council on the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and the Jerome Robbins Foundation.

Wrought Iron Fog was funded by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project with generous support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Ford Foundation, the MetLife Community Connections Fund of the MetLife Foundation and the Boeing Company Charitable Trust. Wrought Iron Fog has also been made possible with critical support from The Multi-Arts Production (MAP) Fund, Creative Capital Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency); the New York State Council on the Arts (a state agency), and the University of Illinois Creative Research Board. Wrought Iron Fog was developed, in part, in residence at The Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography at Florida State University.

This project is made possible in part by support from the National Performance Network (NPN) Performance Residency Program. For more information visit npnweb.org.



BIOGRAPHIES

Tere O'Connor (choreographer) has been making dances since 1982 and has created over 35 works for his company. The company has performed throughout the US, and in Europe, South America, and Canada. O'Connor has created numerous commissioned works for dance companies around the world, among these have been works for Lyon Opera Ballet, White Oak Dance Project, de Rotterdamse Dansgroep, Dance Alloy, and Zenon. In addition to his 1996 work *Greta in a Ditch* for White Oak, he also created a solo work for Mikhail Baryshnikov. A new solo entitled *DAY* for dancer Jean Butler and commissioned by The Abbey Theater premiered at the Dublin Dance Festival this past May.

Tere O'Connor is a 2009 United States Artist Rockefeller Fellow. He is a recipient of a Foundation for Contemporary Performance Art Award, Arts International's DNA Project Award, and a Creative Capital Award. He

has received three New York Dance and Performance “Bessie” Awards – One for *Heaven Up North* in 1988, another in 1999 for Sustained Achievement, and most recently for his work *Frozen Mommy* (2005). O’Connor is a 1993 Guggenheim Fellow. He is also a recipient of repeated grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, NEFA/National Dance Project, New York Foundation for the Arts, The MAP Fund, Jerome Foundation, Altria Group, Inc., Bossak/Heilbron Charitable Foundation, The Harkness Foundation for Dance, and Mid Atlantic US Artists International.

A much sought after teacher, O’Connor has taught at the Bates Dance Festival, American Dance Festival, Colorado Dance Festival, Ohio State University, University of Minnesota, Arizona State University, at the School for New Dance Development (The Netherlands), and Tanzwochen (Austria), among others. He is currently a professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

James Baker (composer) has composed numerous works for Tere O’Connor over the years, including *Heaven Up North* for which he won a New York Dance and Performance “Bessie” Award, and *Like Two Kevins* for the Lyon Opera Ballet. Most recently he composed a new score for *DAY*, a solo for Jean Butler choreographed by O’Connor. He is the Principal Percussionist of the New York City Ballet Orchestra and director of the Percussion Ensemble at the New School, Mannes College of Music. A noted conductor of contemporary music, he is Music Director of the Composers’ Conference at Wellesley College and frequently leads both the New York New Music Ensemble and Speculum Musicae. He is resident conductor at the University at Buffalo’s Center for 21st Century Music. He also appears as conductor with the Cygnus and Talea Ensembles and has led Tactus at the Manhattan School of Music.

Hilary Clark (performer) grew up in Connecticut, lived in Philadelphia, and moved to New York in 1998. Clark was honored with a 2008 New York Dance and Performance “Bessie” Award for her body of work as a performer with Tere O’Connor, Fiona Marcotty, and luciana achugar. She has danced with Tere O’Connor since 2004, and with luciana achugar since 2006, and recently began working with Jon Kinzel. She performed with Miguel Gutierrez and the Powerful People this past July at the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston. Her own work has been shown at Dixon Place, The Kitchen, and Dance Theater Workshop. Clark’s interpretation of dance has been influenced and inspired by many experiences and people. Tere continues to inspire her, thank you for everything.

Daniel Clifton (performer) is from Niceville, FL, where he spent many years writing and playing music in punk and jazz bands. His dances have been presented at Henry Street Settlement, Dancenow/NYC, DNA, Dance Off, Hollins University, Florida State University, The Kitchen, Faut Bruler Pour Briller/You Got to Burn to Shine, The A.W.A.R.D. Show!, American Dance Festival (ADF), Brooklyn Arts Exchange, Danspace Project, North Carolina School of the Arts, and WAX. Clifton has taught at Dance New Amsterdam, Lehman College, Hollins University, Sarah Lawrence College, North Carolina School of the Arts, the ADF and the Korean Dance Festival. While in New York City he has also worked with Martha Clarke, nicholas leichter dance, Bill Young and Colleen Thomas, Julia Ritter Performance Group, photographer Tony Jones, visual artist Tunga, comedian Pam Ann, and the New York Historical Society. Clifton earned his MFA in Dance from Hollins University/ADF and his BFA in Dance from Florida State University.

Walter Dundervill (set design) is a dance/visual artist living in New York City. He is a 2010-2011 Movement Research Artist in Residence. In February 2011, Dance Theater Workshop will present his newest work, *Aesthetic Destiny 1: Candy Mountain*. His dance *Dear Emissary* was presented at the Chocolate Factory in March 2010. Two previous works were presented at Dance Theater Workshop; *You Wrote the Book* in 2008 (on a shared bill with Heather Olsen) and *Would You Read My Poetry?* in 2007 (as part of the Nothing Festival curated by Tere O’Connor). As part of the Movement Research Spring Festival 2009, he created a three-hour performance installation titled *Room* at Fred Torres Collaborations. Dundervill has performed with many choreographers and visual artists including Keely Garfield, Bruce Nauman, Pat Olezsko, RoseAnne Spradlin, and David Wojnarowicz. In 2003, he won a “Bessie” Award for his performance in Spradlin’s *under/world*. Dundervill creates the costumes and visual elements for his

own work. He has collaborated on set design for Tere O'Connor and RoseAnne Spradlin and created costumes for Luciana Achugar and Ivy Baldwin. He has taught and performed as a guest artist at The University of Wisconsin, Madison, Frostburg State University, MD, the Staatstheater in Magdeburg, Germany, and for ClassClassClass in NYC. Dundervill was a co-curator of the Movement Research Spring Festival 2010. He received a BFA in Painting and Drawing from the University of Georgia.

Erin Gerken (performer and costume design) has performed in works by Tere O'Connor since 2001, including *Winter Belly*, *Lawn*, *Frozen Mommy*, and *Baby*. She holds a BFA in Dance and Choreography from Virginia Commonwealth University, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude, and was the sole recipient of the university-wide Phi Kappa Phi Scholarship. Gerken is delighted to be performing with Tere once again after a brief hiatus, and is honored to be part of a process directed by someone she deeply trusts. She would like to express her profound gratitude to Matthew, Hilary, Heather, and Danny for challenging and informing her contributions to the work with their honest, evolved artistry. Gerken teaches yoga in Brooklyn, NY.

Jennifer Goggans (costume design) has danced with the Merce Cunningham Dance Company for nine years. Her love for dancing began at the age of 4. Knowing that a professional dance career may not afford her the luxuries of high fashion, she thought that she should learn how to make her own clothing. So, at the age of 16, she asked her mother to teach her to sew. Goggans continued to sew and design and recently received formal training at the Fashion Institute of Technology. She has created costumes for Daniel Squire's [*sic*], RoseAnne Spradlin's *Survive Cycle*, and is honored to have now worked with Tere O'Connor. She holds a BFA in dance from SUNY Purchase.

Michael O'Connor (lighting and production) has designed over 300 productions across the globe. Since graduating from the Conservatory of Theatre Arts and Film at Purchase College, he has received glowing reviews from both *The New York Times* and *Los Angeles Times*, as well as numerous other periodicals. Most recently on Broadway he was the Associate Lighting Designer for *Speed The Plow*, *Inherit the Wind*, and *Cymbeline*. He is proud to have been the Lighting Supervisor for Tere O'Connor Dance since 1997. You can see more of his work at www.moclighting.com.

Heather Olson (performer) has had the pleasure of working with Tere O'Connor since 1997. She has appeared in *The World is a Missing Girl*, *Hi Everybody!*, *Choke*, *Winter Belly*, *Lawn*, *Frozen Mommy*, *Baby*, *Rammed Earth*, and *Wrought Iron Fog*. Recently, Olson served as rehearsal director for *DAY*, a solo for Jean Butler made by O'Connor. As a performer, Olson has also danced with Jennifer Allen, Ivy Baldwin, Yanira Castro, Levi Gonzales, and Donna Uchizono, among others. Her own choreography has been presented at AUNTS, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Danspace Project, Catch!, La MaMa, Movement Research at Judson Church, Solonova Arts Festival at P.S. 122, and 100 Grand (LIT and Gorillafest). She has been commissioned by Dance Theater Workshop (spring 2008), and was a 2008/09 Sugar Salon Artist.

Matthew Rogers (performer) received his BFA in Dance and Choreography from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2003. In New York he has had the privilege to dance in the choreographic works of Ivy Baldwin, Zoltan Negy, Johannes Wieland, Sarah Pearson and Patrik Widrig, Heather Olson, and Amber Sloan. He has been dancing with Tere O'Connor since 2004. At Dixon Place in 2006, he showed his own work in collaboration with Jack Ferver. He participated in the re-performance of work by Marina Abramovic at MoMA this past spring.

For more information about the company and to read Tere's blog, go to:
www.tereconnordance.org.