



Colorado State University

School of the Arts

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Press Release

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BUTOH IMPROVISATION MASTERCLASS WITH NATHAN MONTGOMERY AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Fort Collins, CO – The Division of Dance and Theatre in the School of the Arts at Colorado State University invites all dancers to learn Butoh improvisation from Nathan Montgomery on Feb. 12 and Feb. 14 from 1:10 to 2:40 p.m. in the General Services Building Dance Studio at Mason and Pitkin Streets on campus. The masterclass is \$10 for the public, \$5 for Colorado State students and free for CSU Dance majors. To register or for more information, call 491-6330.

Butoh dance is a performing art that originated in Post World-War II Japan with Japanese dance legends Tatsumi Hijikata and Kazuo Ohno. Butoh involves a diverse range of techniques and motivations for dance. It typically involves playful and grotesque imagery often performed in white-body makeup, though there is no defined style and encompasses a range of style and movements.

“Butoh proposes a way in which the body speaks for itself. In the same way that a flower cannot help but express its flower-ness, our bodies are blooming with an innate, powerful and authentic nature,” says Montgomery.

Montgomery’s masterclasses at Colorado State will explore the natural dignity inherent in each body. The training aims at developing a deeper connection to the earth and to dancers’ own bodies. Participants will seek to be vulnerable and discover their broken bodies. From this place, they can learn to bring authenticity and meaning back into the forms of their dance.

Montgomery encourages participants to “come with a beginners mind and be prepared to experience new territory in your movement,” and adds that “in Butoh, we use everything. Not only the graceful and beautiful, but also the grotesque and the strange.”

In addition to teaching at CSU, Montgomery will perform his Butoh choreography in the Spring Dance Concert on Apr. 25 at 8:00 p.m. and Apr. 26 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. in the Lory Student Center Theatre. Tickets are \$15 for the public, \$13 for seniors, and \$5 for Colorado State students and youth ages 6 to 17. Tickets are available from the Campus Box Office in the Lory Student Center, by phone at 970-491-4849, or online at www.csutix.com.

Montgomery is the founder and director of Syzygy Butoh in Boulder, Colorado. He teaches and performs throughout the United States, and works in collaboration with such groups as Human Nature in Arizona and the CarpetBag Brigade of San Francisco. He co-created TinHouse Experimental Dance Theatre in Boulder and continues to base his productions there. In classic proscenium, on mountain top or in the town junk-yard Syzygy performs in diverse venues and settings.

For Montgomery, while the work is originally connected to the seed of Japanese Butoh, Syzygy grows as an American Butoh. It is a vehicle for experimentation, and his intention is to use everything, both within and without. Using the stage as Sacred Space, the template of the body is continually placed against the canvas of the void. This process is offered as a gift to humanity in the medium of dance. Working mostly as a solo dancer Montgomery's creations often touch on the deeply tragic. They are the solitary expressions of a human pathos enlightened by a wry freedom.

The Dance Masterclass Series at Colorado State continues with:

Deeply Rooted Dance Theatre (in conjunction with the Fort Collins Lincoln Center Dance Series)

Modern Dance Technique, Saturday, February 23, Studio 303, General Services Building

Aspen Santa/Fe Ballet (in conjunction with the Fort Collins Lincoln Center Dance Series)

Ballet Technique, Wednesday, April 9, Studio 303, General Services Building

Mary Wolh Haan, Director of HAAN Dances

Modern Dance Technique and Choreograph, April 2008, Studio 303, General Services Building

For a full performance and event calendar, more information, and to sign up for a free event e-newsletter, visit www.CSUSchooloftheArts.com.

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The School of the Arts at Colorado State University provides an enriched venue in which the study and practice of Art, Dance, Music and Theatre are nurtured and sustained by building the skills and knowledge needed by future generations of arts professionals to become contributors to the essential vitality of our culture and society. For more information, visit www.CSUSchooloftheArts.com.