



Colorado State University

School of the Arts

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Press Release

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DANCE CONCERT FEATURES GUEST ARTISTS MARY WOHL HAAN, NATHAN MONTGOMERY, COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY, STUDENTS

Fort Collins, CO – The Division of Dance and Theatre in the School of the Arts at Colorado State University presents the Spring Dance Concert on April 25 at 8:00 p.m. and April 26 at 2:00 and 8:00 p.m. This extraordinary evening of dance includes the choreography of guest artist Mary Wohl Haan, a Butoh performance by guest artist Nathan Montgomery, a new work by Colorado State dance faculty Chung-Fu Chang entitled “Red Tides,” and performances and choreography by Colorado State students and the Tour Dance Company.

The Spring Dance Concert will be performed in the Lory Student Center Theatre at Laurel and Meldrum Streets. Tickets are \$15 for the public, \$13 for seniors, and \$8 for CSU Students and youth ages 6 to 17 and are available at the Campus Box Office in the Lory Student Center, (970) 491-4849, or www.csutix.com.

Mary Wohl Haan, artistic director and choreographer of Boulder's HAAN Dances, is known for her bold and dramatic choreography. During a guest artist residency at Colorado State, Haan worked with students who will perform her dance entitled “High Tide” to Paul Dresher’s “Channels Passing” in the Spring Dance Concert. The piece expresses the strong energy found in the rhapsodic ebb and flow movement found in bodies of water. Haan says, “So much like ‘our bodies’ of water, the piece has a sense of rushing as dancers swim through the space/life, ever yearning.”

A mainstay of the Boulder dance scene since 1990, Haan’s creative work as a choreographer and teacher stems from a belief that one-among-many can speak of our human condition and commonality, and still develop a uniquely individual voice. Movement images immersed in sensation and a full physicality, pathos, humor, and oftentimes strong character development, are the hallmarks of her work.

Before moving to Colorado, Haan spent nine years teaching at Chicago's Columbia College Dance Center and performing as principal dancer and assistant artistic director of Mordine & Company Dance Theatre. Performing throughout the Midwest, in New York City, and at the World Expo in Brisbane, Australia, she won Chicago's Ruth Page Award for Outstanding Dancer of the Year. Haan holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in choreography from the University of Utah, and has taught in colleges, universities and festivals in Ohio, Wisconsin, Illinois, Connecticut, Utah, and Colorado.

The Spring Dance Concert also features special guest Butoh artist Nathan Montgomery. Butoh dance is a performing art that originated in Post World-War II Japan. It typically involves playful and grotesque

imagery often performed in white-body makeup, though there is no defined style and encompasses a diverse range of techniques and motivations.

Montgomery is the founder and director of Syzygy Butoh in Boulder. 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. For more information about Montgomery and Syzygy, visit <http://www.syzygybutoh.com/>.

While Montgomery's work is 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. 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.

At the Spring Dance Concert, Montgomery will perform "Sipapu," a solo exploring our ancestral connection to the earth. "Sipapu" is a Hopi word symbolizing the portal through which our ancestors first emerged. This new work showcases Montgomery's choreography to open a pathway to an ancient and austere landscape in which our earliest beginnings are echoed. Mixing the red earth from sacred sites in the southwest with blue cornmeal Montgomery transforms the stage into a landscape from which he emerges to express and re-establish a sense of the sacred.

"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.

"Red Tides," a beautifully crafted modern dance work by co-choreographers CSU Faculty Chung-Fu Chang and Francie Glycener, with an original music score composed by Joshua Quinlan will also be performed at the Spring Dance Concert. The dance was premiered for the Aspen Dance Connection at the Moss Performance Hall in Grand Junction on Jan. 18 of this year to an enthusiastic audience.

"It was an astonishingly beautiful piece that was danced to perfection," stated Melonie Buchanan, Assistant Professor of Dance at Mesa State College. More about "Red Tides" can be found at <http://sota.colostate.edu/about/chang.pdf> and more information about Chang can be found at <http://www.dance.colostate.edu/faculty.asp>.

The Spring Dance Concert also features additional pieces choreographed and performed by students included selections from the student-directed Studio Dance Performances, which take place in early April. The Colorado State Tour Dance Company, a pre-professional company that brings the joy and art of dance to Colorado schools and the region, will perform "Gates," a compilation of choreography by Chang and six different company members, including Mike Ferrara, Chantel Doyon, Mallory Buffer, Shari Callear, Rich Lugo, and Grady Soapes.

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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