

The Grinnell College Department of Theatre and Dance presents

# tRADitions + enCOUNTERs

Grinnell College Dance Ensemble



Photo: Danny Penny

*with special guests*

Val Vetter, Javanese Dance

Tad Boehmer, Trumpet (Sat & Sun only)

Aaja Naachle

IndepenDANCE

Legacia Latino

*tRADitions + enCOUNTERs runs approximately 65 minutes  
without intermission.*

Please turn off all cell phones and pagers.  
No flash photography permitted.



# tRADitions + enCOUNTERs

Created & Performed by the Grinnell College Dance Ensemble

Celeste Miller, director

**Dance Ensemble Fall 2011:**

Athena Carlson, Diane Lenertz, Kristen Moreland, Deshaun Peters,  
Alexander Rich-Shea, Adelle Yin

*All solo works: choreography and text by the performers.*

*Ensemble works created out of movement material developed by  
the performers and composed by Celeste Miller.*

Musician: Tad Boehmer (live Saturday & Sunday only)

## Program

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"My interest in dance is in how it helps us understand how people construct their worlds, both in everyday life and in staged performances. Dance can help us understand what social and cultural values are, and how people embody them and use them."

- Embodied Communities, Felicia Hughes-Freeland

### **Ghost Lights**

Wherein Kristen gets us started

### **Let us spell it out for you**

The Ensemble

### **Encounters with Javanese Dance: Thank you, Val**

Choreography: Val Vetter

*What does it mean to spend time to learn, train and contemplate a tradition (dance form in this case) that is not who you are?/where you are from? Dance Ensemble had the privilege of studying with Javanese dance instructor Val Vetter for the Fall semester.*

Music: Members of the Grinnell College Javanese Gamelan Ensemble - Toby Austin, Danielle Lussier, Sunanda Vaidheesh, Roger Vetter

### **Santa Lucia**

Kristen

### **Your Contributions: Improv #1**

*Wherein we pull some of your comments from the growling bowl and improvise our way into embodied meaning.*

### **Fiddler on the Roof/The Roof is on Fire**

*"Whenever I hear the word 'tradition' that" Fiddler on the Roof" song just gets stuck in my head"*

Music: Lenlow, *The Roof is on Fire*

### **Growling Bowl at it again**

#### **Special guests: IndependANCE: Leave Your Mark**

Dancers: Briel Waxman, Luis Hernandez, Erin Whalen, Evan Hockett, Alexis Hudson, Jackie Brooks, Tyler Faulkner, Jazmyn Taylor, Grace Tipps, Laura Evans, Seantasia Lee, Greg Armstrong, Tolulope Edionwe, Christian Snow

Music : Frank Ocean ,*We All Try*; Beyonce, *I Was Here*



## **Calligraphy**

*The movement was developed after attending a demonstration of traditional woodblock printing techniques in association with the Falconer Gallery's exhibit "From the Book Forests". Calligrapher Rui Mingyang inscribed text for each dancer (often their name) and movement was created from the calligraphy.*

Text: Aniko Drlik-Muehleck, from an interview with Adelle

## **Special Guests: Aaja Naachle**

Dancers: Sneha Saigal, Shefali Aurora, Anna-Lisa Bowans, Amar Sarkar, Raghav Malik, Aditya Sathish

Song: Radha Kaise Na Jale

Movie: Lagaan

Composer: A.R. Rahman

## **Our Stories**

Alexander: *Sister*

Athena: *Track & Field: Pole Vaulting*

Adelle: *Friends*

Deshaun: *Catholic School*

Diane: *The Ballet*

Alexander: *Wonderland*, music: Natalia Kills

## **Special Guests: Legacia Latino**

Dancers: Nidia Bautista and Raghav Malik; Debbie Cifuentes and Fabian Campos; Gigi Dichosa and Erin Whalen

Music: *Promise* by Romeo feat. Usher

## **More from the Bowl: (P.S. Look up)**

## **Special Guests: IndepenDANCE: Universal Wegue Wegue**

Dancers: IndepenDANCERS

Music: "Kalemba (Wegue, Wegue)"- Buraka Som Sistema; "Universal Mind Control"- Common feat. Pharrell

## **Light a candle**

Text: Caitlyn Baylor (2012), from an email interview with Adelle

# Dancers

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**Athena Carlson:** I am a first year student with a dance tradition originating in ballet and modern, influenced by movement from track and field. My first year as a member of the Grinnell College Dance Ensemble let me explore new artistic styles I never encountered before: Cuban dance, Javanese, hip-hop, improv, and the fascinating combinations created in rehearsals by fellow dancers. tRADitions + enCOUNTERs has made me appreciate the complexity of a movement tradition; how a collection of people's habits, thoughts, and relationships create dance forms that instruct, communicate, and endure throughout the years.

**Diane Lenertz:** is a freshman this year and is excited to be participating in Dance Ensemble. She has been dancing since elementary school when she first saw her older sister's ballet class. She would like to thank her parents for supporting her, even through all the tedious dance recitals.

**Kristen Moreland:** is a senior Russian major and Linguistics concentrator from Pella, IA. She is in her fourth year of Dance Ensemble, and is excited to be returning to a conventional stage after two years of site-specific performances. Kristen's understanding of tradition has been expanded this semester as she has taken time to consider the ways in which tradition functions in people's lives, both positively and negatively.

**Alexander Rich-Shea:** discovered his passion for dance late in life, but that has not stopped him from pursuing what he loves. An improvisationist at heart, Alexander can frequently be seen dancing down a sidewalk with his headphones in. He thinks that the best dance happens spontaneously, and takes great pleasure in dancing where others do not expect it.

**Deshaun Peters:** is a second year theatre and dance major. This will be his third semester with Dance Ensemble, but he has been dancing from a young age. Taking gymnastics for four years and having trained in ballet and some hip hop. Deshaun has always been moving. He would like to thank his family and friends for their support and he hopes you enjoy the show.

**Adelle Yin:** Adelle joined the Grinnell College Dance ensemble in fall of 2008. Prior to Grinnell has worked with in the traditions of pre-scripted performance (credits: Washington Opera's; Brundibár, The Field School Theater Company's; The Dayroom & The Inspector General) as well as improvisational ensemble based performance, (credits: The Wiz-kids' break/hip-hop dance company). As a part of The Grinnell College Dance Ensemble Adelle has been a part of a variety sight-specific and student choreographed works including, Fall Forward, and Sightings.



**Ben Doehr**, Lighting Designer: *tRADitions and enCOUNTERs* is Ben's fourth production credit at Grinnell College. Prior credits include sound design for *Naked* and *Moving On*, projection design for *Sunday in the Park with George*, and numerous technical credits at his high school in San Diego, CA. He would like to give special thanks to Kenji, Justin, and Erik for their guidance in his work on the productions at Grinnell.

**Tiffany Massey**, Stage Manager: is a senior Theatre and English double major from Los Angeles. She has been involved in theatre for twelve years. Her primary involvement in theatre is acting, but over the years she had done everything from hair and makeup to light and sound. Most recently, in her junior year she studied theatre in London and off campus at Spelman College. This summer she interned at Fabrefaction a theatre company in Atlanta. As an intern she assisted in the creation of several shows such as *The Secret Garden*, *Zombie Prom*, *Cinderella*, and *a Flea in Her Ear*. After graduating from Grinnell she plans on furthering her education in Theatre.

**Celeste Miller**, Director Dance Ensemble: is a critically acclaimed solo performer of text & movement, choreographer, community arts *animator* and educator. Her work has been produced and commissioned throughout the United States and abroad. She is currently on faculty in the Department of Theatre and Dance at Grinnell College. She holds an M.F.A. in Choreography from Hollins University/American Dance Festival.

**Justin Thomas**, Lighting Designer: is Assistant Professor of Theatre and Design whose most recent work has been produced by the Lincoln Center, Studio Theatre, Arden Theatre Company, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Round House Theatre, Olney Theatre Center for the Arts, the 21st Century Consort, the National Cathedral, the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, Rorschach Theatre Company, Imagination Stage, The Festival Playhouse, Potomac Theatre Project, Daniel Phoenix Singh/Dakshina Dance Company, Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, John Britto Dance Company (India), Darpana (India), Nrityadhara (Bangladesh), and the Volkov National Theatre (Russia).

## Special Thanks

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Tillie Woodward and the Faulconer Gallery for setting up a session for us with the traditional woodblock technique artists Shen Shuhua, Rui Mingyang, and Hou Guilin.

Bread & Puppet Theatre with whom we took a week off from our rehearsals to do a performance residency and experience immersion in the tradition of "cheap art" and art as activism.

Photographer Danny Penny; Bikes To You, and Elise Gallant (bowl).

Interviewees Constance Coleman, Caitlyn & Meghan Baylor, Judith Hunter, and Aniko Drlik-Muehler. Rebecca Moreland, Peggy Ingram

The Department of Theatre and Dance and our fabulous design team and crew. And a special thanks to Ellie Garza and Samanea Karrfalt.



Shattered Mirrors: Stories from Salman Rushdie's  
East, West

Directed by Lesley Delmenico

March 8-10, 2012 7:30 PM

March 11, 2012 2:00 PM

Flanagan Theatre

Now You See

Grinnell College Dance Ensemble EXPANDS

Directed by Celeste Miller

April 27-28, 2012 7:30 PM

April 29, 2012 2:00 PM

Roberts Theatre

Join Dance Ensemble EXPANDS

For Spring 2012 Production: Now You See Me:

Investigating Dance + Activism

Audition/Workshop Jan. 25 4:30-6:30PM

Bucksbaum Dance Studio

Register during add/drop

THE 205 or THE 100

Questions? Contact Professor Celeste Miller

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