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Technicians and stagehands supplied by Fine Arts Performance Facilities

Thanks to

The World Dance Americas and the local organizers of this Assembly extend thanks to Dean Phillip Silver and members of the Dean's Office staff for their assistance, especially Brigitte Kleer for ongoing advice and help with many aspects of the Assembly. Thank you to the Department of Dance staff members Louise Malisani and Vidya Prajapati for their outstanding support and their ability to juggle many tasks at once.

Thanks also to Mark Chambers, Department of Music; to Selma Odom and other Dance faculty members who assisted with many of the tasks to bring this Assembly to fruition; to student assistants Nadia Halim, Heather Hurtubise, Linda Leowinata, and Vivien Moore for their consistent support; and to our many volunteers for their time, energy and enthusiasm.

Thank you to Harbourfront staff members Kristine German and Kerri MacDonald, who shared their knowledge of programming and found additional performance opportunities for some of our dance artists. We also extend thanks to the many funding agencies who generously provided support for this ambitious project.

Special thanks are extended to Amy Bowring, President of the Society for Canadian Dance Studies, who generously offered to co-partner this event; without her support the Assembly would not have been possible. Thanks to Frederick E. Warner for copy editing, patience and support for the past two years of planning. Finally, a thank you to Grant Strate for his advice, wisdom and guidance throughout the entire planning process.

Please note: Latecomers will be admitted during a suitable break at the discretion of management. The use of cameras or other recording devices is not permitted. Patrons are reminded to please turn off watch alarms and cell phones for the duration of the performance. With the exception of water, no food or beverage is permitted in the theatre. Smoking is permitted outside university buildings only.

Ashtapadi Abhinaya

Choreography: Menaka Thakkar
Dancer: Menaka Thakkar
Music: Bhubaneshwar Misra

Dance interpretation of a scene from the celebrated Sanskrit poem, *Geet Govinda*, of the 12th Century A.D., describing the various stages of development of love between Krishna and Radha.

Menaka Thakkar Dance Company

Dr. Menaka Thakkar is an internationally renowned dancer, choreographer and teacher working in three classical forms of Indian dance: Bharatanatyam, Odissi and Kuchipudi. She is the founder and artistic director of the Menaka Thakkar Dance Company, which is the oldest East Indian dance company in Canada and the Canadian Academy of Indian Dance, which was the first school of Indian dance in Canada. Dr. Thakkar teaches Indian dance in residency at the National Ballet School and is an Adjunct Professor of Dance at York University. Her work has been recognized with many awards and honours, including an honorary Doctor of Letters (D.Lit) from York University, the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce President's Award and the Toronto Arts Award in the category of Performing Arts.

Production Staff

Producer: Mary Jane Warner

Mary Jane Warner is a full professor and chair of the Department of Dance, York University. She has taught courses in ballet, history, repertory, movement analysis and dance education as well as holding several administrative positions at York. She is the author of *Toronto Dance Teachers: 1825 – 1925*, and with Selma Odom, she published *Canadian Dance: Visions and Stories*. She holds a SSHRC grant to document the work of several of Canada's senior contemporary choreographers through notation and videography. She is a member of the board for the World Dance Alliance Americas, and chair for this sixth WDA Global Assembly.

Artistic Coordinator: Susan Cash

Susan Cash is a contemporary dance artist and educator. As a long-standing independent choreographer, she continues to make, produce and perform her dances in traditional theatres and unusual venues, collaborating with Canadian new music composers and musicians. She is on faculty at York University's Department of Dance, where she teaches composition and is Artistic Director of the York Dance Ensemble. As part of the core faculty she teaches in the only Canadian certificate Program for Laban Movement Analysis (CMA). In previous years Susan has been Artist-in-Residence at the University of Waterloo where she was the recipient of a distinguished teacher's award.

Stage Manager: Cherish Blood

Cherish V. Blood is an artist from the Blackfoot Confederacy located in Southern Alberta. She is currently a full time student at the Toronto based Centre for Indigenous Theatre. She has been studying and working in the performing arts since the age of 10.

Welcome to this World Dance Alliance Global Assembly performance. The choreography you will see this week reflects the Assembly's theme *Dance/ Diversity/ Dialogue: Bridging Communities and Cultures*.

The World Dance Alliance was initiated in Hong Kong in 1990 with the founding of the Asia Pacific region to serve as a primary voice for dance and dancers throughout the world, to encourage the exchange of ideas, and to promote the awareness of dance in all its many forms. The Americas joined the Alliance in 1993, Europe in 1997, and an Alliance is under development in Africa.

Global Assemblies are normally held in alternate years, hosted by one of the three regions. Previous Global Assemblies have taken place in Seoul, Essen, Philadelphia, Tokyo and Dusseldorf. This is the first time a Global Assembly has been held in Canada. For this occasion, each region was invited to nominate four companies to perform during the Assembly. Canadian dance artists were solicited through an application process. During the week, you will have the opportunity to see a broad spectrum of dance forms performed by dancers representing a wide range of ages and physical abilities.

Through Global Assemblies, the World Dance Alliance facilitates international exchanges and encourages dialogue among all people in dance. Over 22 countries are represented by participants attending the Assembly, including dancers, choreographers, educators, researchers, writers, presenters, administrators, artistic directors, and others.

I hope you enjoy the performances and the opportunity to make new friends from around the world.

Mary Jane Warner
Chair
WDA Global Assembly 2006

Garden

(12:40 in CIBC lobby)

Choreography: Susan Cash

Dancers: Heather Ball, Jen Cole, Karrina Hooper, Robert Kingsbury, Gdalit Neuman, Alicia Winn, Shirin Yousefi

Garden is a moving-site performance work.

Cash & Company Dance

Susan Cash is a contemporary dance artist and educator. As an independent choreographer, she continues to perform her dances in traditional theatres and unusual venues, collaborating with Canadian new music composers. She recently worked on an outdoor project, choreographing a contemporary Dying Swan for Bravo TV. She is on the faculty at York University's Department of Dance, where she teaches composition and is Artistic Director of the York Dance Ensemble. She also teaches in the only Canadian certificate Program for Laban Movement Analysis. In previous years Susan has been Artist-in-Residence at the University of Waterloo where she was the recipient of a distinguished teacher's award.

Faith

Choreography: Zihao Li

Dancer: Zihao Li

Music: Rufus Wainwright

M. Zihao Li

M. Zihao Li has performed with Shenyang Qianjin Dance Company, the leading military company in China, and with the Guang Dong Modern Dance Company, the first modern dance company in China. He has also guest taught at the Beijing Dance Academy and for other professional dance companies in China. Li received a B.F.A. degree from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts as well as an M.A. degree in Dance from York University. Currently, he teaches dance at the Rosedale Heights School of the Arts.

Las Madres

Choreography: Cristina Gigirey

Dancers: Melissa Castro, Gabriela Dörries, Salomé González, Melania Meza, Gabriela Peña

Music: Gustav Mahler

Feelings that accompany a mother after she loses a child to war or to an injustice. Based on Maxim Gorki's piece *Mother*, and Bertolt Brecht's *Mother Courage*, and the mothers of the Plaza de Mayo in Argentina.

Danza Abend (Costa Rica)

Danza Abend was established in 1983 to demonstrate to the public that an independent dance group, with no official or private financial help, could continue working. Thanks to the energy and the work of the dancers, the group has performed on both national and international stages. Cristina Gigirey, its director, is the main teacher and choreographer. She has been one of the fundamental pillars of dance in Costa Rica, not only as a teacher, but as a choreographer and performer. Several of Gigirey's works are part of Costa Rica's dance history. Danza Abend has represented Costa Rica in Venezuela, Mexico, Nicaragua, Chile, United States and Panama with great success.

Pastoral Prayer

Choreography: Elena Quah

Dancer: Elena Quah

Music: traditional Mongolian

Braving wayward elements and solitude in the vast Mongolian pasture, a shepherdess expresses her spiritual bonding with both natural and heavenly powers for inner strength and vitality.

Elena Quah

Elena Quah is a Toronto-based independent dancer/choreographer originally from Hong Kong. She specializes in traditional Chinese dance and a unique dance vocabulary extended from traditional Chinese movement to express individual experiences and perceptions. She performs extensively in Canada and has showcased her work in the U.S and China. In addition to performing her own solo and full-scale works, Quah has also presented dance workshops at the invitation of the National Ballet of Canada. She holds a BFA (Hons) from York and is founder/director of *Projects for the Arts*.

Within...

Artistic Director: William Lau

Co-choreographers: Emily Cheung, Hari Krishnan

Dancers: Susan Chuang, Hiroshi Miyamoto, Kamen Wang, Jasmin Zhang

Little Pear Garden Collective

Emily Cheung, an associate artistic director of the Collective, is an educator, performer and choreographer. She has performed in several major productions in Toronto including *Land Of Cards*, *Iron Road*, *Fringe Festival*, *Dance Ontario*, *CanAsian Dance Festival*. She has received three Grand Prizes from the North American Chinese dance competition. Her interests in dance include Ballet, Chinese, Modern, Bharatanatyam, Latin and Ballroom. She has performed with Menaka Thakkar Dance Company, InDance and the Toronto Chinese Dance Company. She is currently pursuing her M.A. at York University.

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World Dance Alliance Global Assembly 2006 July 17-21 , York University, Toronto Canada



Thursday, July 20, 2006 1:00 pm

World Dance Alliance Performance
Recital Hall, Accolade East Building
York University