

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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High resolution pictures and press packets available through above email address.

DANDELION DANCETHEATER

presents

**as a part of Dixon Place's Moving Men
and at Brooklyn Arts Exchange**

Testiculish
and
Drop (excerpts)

**Ground-breaking performance
from Dandelion Dancetheater's newest works**

New York – Dandelion Dancetheater, an innovative San Franciscan company that has been seen twice in New York in recent months, is returning at the end of July for two presentations of current work. Dandelion is bringing excerpts from their acclaimed *Undressed Project* and, two weeks before the full-length version premieres in San Francisco, excerpts from their work-in-progress production *DROP*. The August 1st show at BAX will also feature guest artists Phillipa Kaye Company (NYC) and Jacques Poulin-Denis/DORS (Montreal.)

First on the bill is *Testiculish*, a collection of excerpts from the most recent incarnation of the *Undressed Project*, *ANICCA*. Performed by a cast of mostly men, *Testiculish* utilizes unusual partnering to flow through a spectrum of experiences in male/male and male/female relationships: aggressive to erotic to violent to silly to mysterious. The piece is performed in varying states of undress by dancers/musicians/actors of all sizes and shapes, with and without physical disabilities. The full-length *ANICCA*, based on a Pali word (the language the Buddha taught in) signifying impermanence, reveals a provocative interplay of the sensuality, complexity, vulnerability and impermanence of naked bodies.

DROP is a boundary-pushing work, the debut of an experimental performance ensemble dedicated to continually subverting mainstream artistic culture and expanding the boundaries of the integration of dance, theater, music and visual art. The work explores the theme of groundlessness — the instability in life we so often try to avoid, but with which we ultimately must come to terms.

Performances are scheduled:

At **Dixon Place's Moving Men** series

Featuring ***Testiculish (Undressed Project)***

Tues., July 31st, 8pm

Box Office: 212-219-0736 Press Tickets: 415-806-0013

At **Brooklyn Arts Exchange**

Testiculish and other excerpts from ***ANICCA***, and excerpts from ***DROP***

With new work from guest artists: **Phillipa Kaye Company** and **Jacques Poulin-Denis/DORS**

Wed, Aug. 1st, 7:30pm, Free admission

ANICCA, *Testiculish* and *DROP* are directed by Eric Kupers and created and performed with Jacques Poulin-Denis, Anne-Lise Reusswig, David Ryther, Stacz Sadowski and guest artists from Montreal.

For more information:

<http://www.dandeliondancetheater.org>

http://www.dixonplace.org/html/dance_series.php

<http://www.bax.org>

<http://philippakayecompany.org/>



FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

Testiculish and excerpts of ***DROP***

With guest artists: **Phillipa Kaye Company (NYC)** and **Jacques Poulin-Denis (Montreal)**

BAX Showing

WHAT: Dandelion Dancetheater performs selections from their latest work: *Testiculish* and other excerpts from the full-length *ANICCA*, and excerpts from *DROP*.

WHO: Direction, choreography and text by Eric Kupers. Created with and performed by Dandelion Dancetheater. Guest Artists: Phillipa Kaye Company and Jacques Poulin-Denis/DORS

WHEN: Wed., Aug. 1st, 7:30 pm

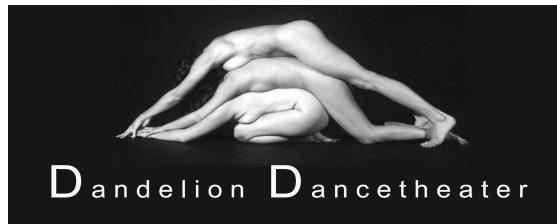
WHERE: Brooklyn Arts Exchange, 421 5th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11215

TICKETS: Free admission

DESCRIPTION FOR LISTING:

San Francisco's Dandelion Dancetheater brings excerpts from the *Undressed Project* and *DROP*, challenging notions about nudity, body image, dancers' bodies and the integration of dance, music and theater. Directed by Eric Kupers. Joined by guest artists Phillipa Kaye Company (NYC) and Jacques Poulin-Denis (Montreal), Aug. 1st, 7:30 pm at BAX. FREE. www.dandeliondancetheater.org

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About *ANICCA* and the *Undressed Project*

With major support from a Dance USA/Irvine Foundation “Dance: Creation to Performance” grant, Dandelion Dancetheater has created a new dance/theater work, *ANICCA*. This “in your face” dance/theater work challenges body image prejudice by illuminating the impermanence of all bodies, placing beauty concerns in a larger and more pressing context.

Building on five years of *Undressed Project* experimentation, *ANICCA* taps into the vulnerability of full nudity, while simultaneously subverting audiences’ expectations around costumes, utilizing partial nudity, underwear, awkward combinations of clothing (i.e. just socks and a hat, etc). The work looks at body politics, power dynamics, the lines between sensual, sexual and medical nudity, aggression, violence and multi-layered responses to mortality.

The San Francisco Bay Guardian enthused about past *Undressed Project* works, “Wickedly funny! Ballsy in every sense of the word!...revealing assumptions, prejudices, and the slippery intersection of life and live art...*Undressed* blurs the objectification of the body, allowing new ways of looking at dance.”

Now in its fifth year of development, Eric Kupers’ *Undressed Project* began through a series of residencies at San Francisco’s center for Queer Arts and Culture, Jon Sims Center for the Arts, which culminated in the presentation of a full-length dance/theater piece, *Night Marsh* (2004). Created with a large cast of dancers diverse in size, shape, race, physical ability/disability, sexual orientation and age, *Night Marsh* brought audiences on an unpredictable ride into a surreal world created by bizarre and beautiful layerings of movement by naked bodies. *Night Marsh* ran for 20 sold-out houses at UC Davis’ Mondavi Center, the Electric Lodge (LA), and JSC (SF); all together reaching over 2,500 people throughout California.

Kupers’ says “Every body is perfect for dance. This simple statement is the seed of Dandelion Dancetheater’s *Undressed Project*. Mainstream culture is plagued with rejection of bodies as they are. This problem is extreme in the dance world where anorexia, bulimia, sizism and ageism run rampant.” The *Undressed Project* re-visions this dilemma in the context of the body’s mortality, using visceral dance/theater performed by a diversity of bodies. The project includes workshops, discussions, public showings and multiple types of performance.

Response to the *Undressed Project* has been exhilarating. Previous works have been reviewed and featured in articles in *Contact Quarterly*, *SF Chronicle*, *SF Bay Guardian*, *SF Bay Times*, *SF Examiner*, *LA Times*, *Hokubei Mainichi*, *Spectator*, *N Magazine* and more. Originally conceived of as a five-month informal exploration, the *Undressed Project* has generated more than enough momentum to propel Eric Kupers and the company on a long-term, unpredictable artistic experiment.

About *DROP*

DROP is an evening-length dance/theater work that expands the boundaries of the form through integration of dance, theater, music and visual art and a structured blending of composition and improvisation. The work explores the theme of groundlessness — the instability in life we so often try to avoid, but with which we ultimately must come to terms. Rather than provide easy answers, *DROP* plunges audiences into visceral experiences of groundlessness through risky movement, unpredictable

stories, highly original live music, gravity-defying sets and the use of unusual performance spaces. The piece reflects on the performers' experiences of dashed expectations, surprising losses, and slippery twists and turns that have made them question who they are.

While many professional artists feel confident performing their particular art form, a surprising number shut down when asked to step outside familiar artistic territory. In order to bring the notion of "groundlessness" into our creation techniques, each performer has trained the others in his particular forms and stepped outside of his usual, comfortable medium. In performance, everyone dances, acts, sings and makes music. *DROP* is a boundary-pushing work, the debut of an experimental performance ensemble dedicated to continually subverting mainstream artistic culture and training future generations of multi-disciplinary artists.

The full-length version of *DROP* will premier Aug. 17-Sep. 2, 2007 at CellSPACE in San Francisco. *DROP* is supported by a major grant from the Gerbode Foundation's Emerging Choreographer program and is being presented by DanceArt, Inc. as a special event of their annual WestWave Dance Festival.

About Dandelion Dancetheater

Through dance, collided with experimental theater, video, writing, music, and image, Dandelion Dancetheater aims a kinesthetic microscope at the ever-changing intricacies of the human heart. Our work is emotionally driven and grounded in a fascination with the intersections of bold risk-taking and public accessibility. The company, which was founded in 1996, is committed to the individual and combined artistic visions of Kimiko Guthrie and Eric Kupers. We view the bodily exploration of human vulnerability, strength and paradox as a potent means for personal and collective growth, and through teaching and creating with people of diverse sizes, shapes, ages, cultures and abilities, we allow viewers of all walks of life to find themselves reflected in our work.

Recent Press

"...achieves eloquence with its 'naked' honesty."

-Gus Solomons Jr. The Dance Insider, NYC

"Art that revels and reveals through intimacy and lack of pretense."

-Michael Wade Simpson, SF Chronicle

"A lively blend of the political and the personal, a fluid journey to the emotional through the physical and back again. Their dance works evoke and penetrate the multifarious strands of the human condition."

-Sima Belmar, SF Bay Guardian

"I think there's something about a denial of death in all of this, and connected to that a denial of change, that our bodies change and decompose over time... A lot of standards that people try to measure up to are trying to freeze us in time. In dance, fashion, the movies, we want people to look like adolescents, basically – men and women. We, don't want wrinkles, cellulite. We don't want to see the indications of our own mortality."

-Eric Kupers, as quoted in NY Times article *Funny, You Don't Look Dancerish* by Claudia La Rocco, May 20, 2007

To read about Dandelion's recent New York performances, see this review of Force Majeure: New Dance from San Francisco (June 14, 2007): http://www.danceinsider.com/f2007/f0614_1.html