

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Weare, Battleworks, Isaac, Miller headline 2009 Bates Dance Festival

LEWISTON, Maine -- The Bates Dance Festival announces its 27th season of public events, taking place July 11 through Aug. 8 on the Bates College campus.

The five-week festival showcases compelling performances by Kate Weare Company, Battleworks Dance Company, Tania Isaac Dance and Bebe Miller Company. These cutting-edge artists blend dance, video, text and original music to address themes of beauty, work, family and human relationships in the 21st century.

All told, the festival comprises performances, panel discussions and lectures by more than 30 internationally recognized dancers from across the United States and abroad.

Performance times and locations appear below. For information about tickets and event locations, and for additional performance details, visit the festival Web site at <http://www.batesdancefestival.org>.

Opening the 2009 season is the nuanced and sensual **Kate Weare Company**, led by one of the most important choreographers to emerge in recent years. Weare's fierce, imaginative dances explore contemporary perceptions of identity, intimacy and the basic human urge to move. Performances take place at 8 p.m. Saturday, July 11, at Bates College's Schaeffer Theatre, 305 College St.

Recently nominated for the Alpert Award, Weare has been presented at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, New York City Center's Fall for Dance and Joyce SoHo, as well as in San Francisco, Belgrade, Vienna and London. Fresh from its New York season, Kate Weare Company presents the Maine premiere of "Bridge of Signs," a quartet that looks at the reckless and wise instinct that drive us upstream towards love.

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Also premiering is "Lean-to," a collaboration with composer Michael Gallante, scenic designer Kurt Perschke and lighting designer Brian Jones that features a trio of exceptional dancers.

Next up is **Battleworks Dance Company**, a troupe that has established itself as one of America's most promising and aesthetically daring. Performances take place at 8 p.m. Thursday and Saturday, July 16 and 18, in Bates College's Schaeffer Theatre, 305 College St.

Under the direction of founder Robert Battle, Battleworks made its debut in 2002 at the World Dance Alliance's Global Assembly in Düsseldorf, Germany. Boldly pushing the boundaries of tradition that have defined modern dance, Battle takes his dancers into uncharted realms. His works are in high demand and have been commissioned by the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Hubbard Street Dance, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Koresh Dance Company and PARADIGM.

The New York Sun says, "Battle makes an audience sit up and take notice, marvel, even laugh. His work reaches over the edge of the stage and communicates with people."

Battleworks makes its Maine debut with the world premiere of a collaboration with composer-percussionist Damien Bassman. Performed to live percussion, this work explores the dialogue between the drumbeat and dance. Also on the program are timeless and edgy dances from the Battleworks repertory.

One of Philadelphia's rising stars, **Tania Isaac Dance** is a visually explosive, sensual marriage of modern and Caribbean aesthetics -- part personal documentary, part social commentary. Performances take place at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, July 24 and 25, in Bates College's Schaeffer Theatre, 305 College St.

Isaac, who was honored as one of Dance Magazine's "25 To Watch" in 2006, creates poetic, multidisciplinary narratives rich in physicality and meaning. Born on St. Lucia, she has presented her work across the U.S., in the Caribbean and in Japan. At Bates she offers her newest evening-length piece, "stuporwoman," reflecting the utter confusion and chaos of keeping pace with today's frantic world.

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A longtime festival favorite, the **Bebe Miller Company** returns to Bates with its latest multidisciplinary work, "Necessary Beauty." Composed of intimate segments for five dancers, "Necessary Beauty" investigates the convergence of dance, theater, music and digital technology through the rhythm of action and memory. Performances take place at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, July 31 and Aug. 1, in Bates College's Schaeffer Theatre, 305 College St.

Miller, winner of the "Bessie" Award for dance and performance in New York, is considered one of the foremost creative forces in contemporary dance. Her vision of dance is based on faith in the moving body as a record of thought, experience and sheer beauty. Bebe Miller Company has toured extensively throughout the U.S. and in eight other countries.

The company has been commissioned by the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Next Wave Festival; The Joyce Theater and Dance Theater Workshop, both in New York; the Wexner Center for the Arts at Ohio State University; Walker Art Center in Minneapolis; Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival; Dance Place in Washington, D.C.; and the Bates Dance Festival.

Showcasing diverse styles and perspectives, the "**Different Voices**" performance offers choreography by established and emerging artists from around the world. Performances take place at 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Aug. 6 and 7, in Bates College's Schaeffer Theatre, 305 College St.

On the program are new works by Kenyan choreographer **Opiyo Okach**, known for his subtle improvisational style and contemporary reinterpretations of East African traditions; Nigerian dancer, acrobat, writer and filmmaker **Qudus Onikeku**, who currently performs with the acclaimed Heddy Maalem; Philippine choreographer **Jose Jay B Cruz**, who explores globalization and identity; and New York choreographer-performer Jennifer Archibald, who integrates hip hop, modern, jazz and Latin styles.

Also represented are emerging choreographers **Kyle Abraham**, one of Dance Magazine's 2008 "25 To Watch"; **Adele Myers**, whose work has graced venues from New York to Seattle; and former Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company member **Shanneka Harrell**.

Along with the mainstage performances, the festival offers a variety of other events:

The annual "**Musician's Concert**," a global mix of music by 10 remarkable composers and musicians, at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 28, in the Olin Arts Center Concert Hall at Bates, 75 Russell St.

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"**Moving in the Moment**," a spirited evening of improvisational dance by Nancy Stark Smith and festival faculty, at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4, in Alumni Gymnasium, 130 Central Ave.

The "**Festival Finale**," featuring dancers of all ages and abilities performing hip hop, modern and contemporary Caribbean works by Archibald, Battle, Miller, Isaac and the festival's Youth Arts Program, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8, also in Alumni Gymnasium.

The festival also offers a selection of free and low-cost events. "**Global Exchange: Sharing Across Cultures**," a panel discussion with international visiting artists, takes place at 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 21, in the Olin Arts Center Concert Hall, 75 Russell St.

"**Inside Dance: Understanding Contemporary Dance**" is a series of lectures and post-performance talks led by Boston dance writer Debra Cash.

Offering insight into the artists and their work, the lectures precede the Tania Isaac Dance performance at 7:15 p.m. Saturday, July 25, and the Bebe Miller Company performance at 7:15 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1. Both lectures take place in Schaeffer Theater, 305 College St. Post-performance talks follow most Friday evening performances.

About the Bates Dance Festival

Founded in 1982 at Bates College, the Bates Dance Festival brings together an international community of contemporary dance choreographers, performers, educators and students in a cooperative community to study, perform and create new work. The festival serves as an annual destination for artists, students and audiences to engage in a full range of dance activities and performances that foster a creative exchange of ideas, encourage exploration of new ground and provide the opportunity to experience a wide spectrum of dance/movement disciplines.

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