



Missouri Contemporary Ballet

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'FALLING' TO PREMIERE AT MISSOURI THEATRE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Missouri Contemporary Ballet (MCB) will present its fall season performance, "Falling," at Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts on Friday, November 13 and Saturday, November 14, 2009 at 7 p.m.

"Falling" will feature four works; two world premieres each by Karen Mareck Grundy, MCB Artistic Director, and Choreographer-in-Residence Shannon Lee West.

"In 'Falling' each work depicts a different aspect of falling, with choreography encompassing many different styles of dance from classical ballet to modern and jazz. I really wanted to be sure that each dancer was able to bring their own personality and individuality to the stage."

Grundy's first work, "Falling into Place," a quartet for two men and two women, explores a relationship scenario among the four dancers. Her other piece, also titled "Falling," will comprise the second half of the performance. "Falling" showcases the talents of the entire company and serves as a collaboration piece between Grundy and Valerie Wedel, a local installation artist.

Grundy and Wedel have spent months working alongside one another to produce a multifaceted experience for audiences. Grundy credits Wedel's use of fabric and text for prompting her choreographic vision.

"We just really have thought through things simultaneously," Grundy said. "She's been amazing as far as bouncing ideas off each other and working with each other to make this whole piece come together as one."

Along with the quartet, West's two pieces will round out the first half of the program. She juxtaposes classical ballet with movement based on dancers' injury compensation in, "Falling Apart," an all-female ensemble piece. In "Falling on His Own Sword," a trio featuring two men and a woman, West delves into controversy surrounding Japanese comfort women, particularly their relationships with soldiers during World War II.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for students and \$8 per person for groups of 10 or more. They can be purchased at the Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts (573) 875-0600 or www.motheatre.org.

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Artistic/Executive
Director

Sean France,
Associate Artistic
Director/Ballet
Master

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Founded in 2006, Missouri Contemporary Ballet is Columbia's resident professional dance company that is committed to creating dance entertainment through the art of contemporary ballet. MCB creates exciting, edgy, hip entertainment to make the experience of live dance an artful and joyful event for all ages.

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