

PRESS RELEASE AUGUST 25, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PENNINGTON DANCE GROUP and VOX DANCE THEATRE in
FIVE NEW DANCE WORKS.

Moving Bodies! Moving Music! Moving Ideas! featuring dance about the human genome project, the feminine experience, and dramatic recreations of German Expressionist dance. Shared concert to be held at the Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater on the California State University, Long Beach campus, September 17th at 8 p.m. and September 18th at 2 p.m.

LOS ANGELES, CA, August 25, 2005--

Pennington Dance Group and Vox Dance Theatre in *Moving Bodies! Moving Music! Moving Ideas!* takes place at the Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater, Saturday, September 17th at 8 p.m. and Sunday, September 18th at 2 p.m. Artistic directors John Pennington and Sarah Swenson join forces for the first time to premiere five new dance works with lighting design by Andrew N. Milhan. Supported in part by the CSULB Dance Department, Pennington and Swenson present their dance ensembles in multi-layered works with diverse themes that include the human genome project, the feminine experience, and German Expressionism.

“Crossing”~ Jeff Slayton, Guest Choreographer, renowned modernist and former Merce Cunningham dancer premieres a new solo created for Sarah Swenson with music by Arvo Part.

“Fimmine” ~ Sarah Swenson's premiere has seven brides facing down one of society's most loaded rituals, while examining the individuals beneath the gowns. Set to the complete Concerto for Violin and Orchestra by Philip Glass.

“SPR Synthesis Project” ~ John Pennington explores the mysteries and high stakes of human genome research in this premiere, a collaboration with artist Susan Rankaitis and scientist Robert Sinsheimer.

“Reflections on Kreutzberg” ~ Pennington dances in a newly recreated triptych of early modern dance legend Harald Kreutzberg's dramatic expressionist dances. Directed by Emma Lew Thomas with new score by Paul Des Marais, and costumes by Thom Peterson.

“Cuatro” ~ Swenson's new abstract quartet with music by John Adams is a study in control and unity.

“Out Of” ~ Pennington showcases five dancers in a reverie inspired by the lotus, surrounded by floor to ceiling water color panels created by Rankaitis with an original score by Edgar Rothermich and costumes by Jim Tsou.

Tickets can be reserved by calling 310-397-4064 or by emailing TIXPENNINGTONVOX@AOL.COM

Ticket Prices \$15 Reserved Seating, \$10 Students, DRC, Seniors

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CALENDAR LISTING:

The Pennington Dance Group and Vox Dance Theatre in Concert

Moving Bodies! Moving Music! Moving Ideas!

John Pennington and Sarah Swenson, Artistic Directors

Lighting Design by Andrew N. Milhan

Guest Choreographer-Jeff Slayton

Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater at

California State University, Long Beach

Saturday September 17th @ 8:00 P.M.

and

Sunday September 18th @ 2:00 P.M.

Tickets:\$15 Reserved Seating, \$10 Students, DRC, Seniors

Reservations: 310-397-4064 or TIXPENNINGTONVOX@AOL.COM

Supported in part by the CSULB Department of Dance.

<http://www.penningtondancegroup.org/>

<http://www.sarahvox.org/>

BIOGRAPHIES

John Pennington, Artistic Director, Pennington Dance Group:

The Pennington Dance Group, established in 2000, is committed to artistic excellence in creating, performing and preserving the work of its founding director and of other contemporary and past dance artists. Collaborating with visual and performing artists of note, the PDG creates and performs works that contain social, emotional, political, abstract and scientific themes that appeal to a wide audience while experimenting and expanding on the creative process. Pennington's choreographies have been presented by the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., Santa Barbara Museum of Art, City University New York, The Los Angeles Philharmonic, Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Tanzwoche Dresden, SOLA Festival, UCLA's Composer's Concert, LA SOLO Festival, the world premiere of the new play "The Hearing Trumpet", Santa Barbara's FIESTA and the soon to be released children's television series SUNNYTOWN. Pennington enjoyed a 14-year career with the Bella Lewitzky Dance Company as a performer and teacher, and continues his association with the Lewitzky Dance Foundation. He is a frequent guest artist at workshops in the states and internationally, both for his work in dance reconstruction and contemporary technique classes. He was guest artist for First Nights at Disney Hall with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and with Jazz Tap Ensemble during their NYC engagement at the JOYCE NYC. He is honored to be the recipient of three Lester Horton Awards in achievement as individual performer of the year, choreography and dance reconstruction.

Presently Mr. Pennington, who was educated at Northwestern University and California Institute of the Arts, serves on faculty at Pomona College. Educational outreach includes creating and teaching Family Movement Workshops in conjunction with exhibitions at the Fowler Museum, The Armand Hammer Museum, MOCA, along with teacher and curriculum development for community school districts. Pennington is the recipient of several grants and awards including two Princess Grace Grants, California Community Foundation Grant, Goethe Studies Grant, Durfee ARC Grant and he served as the Annenberg Dance Scholar for Inner City Arts-LA.

Sarah Swenson, Artistic Director, Vox Dance Theatre:

Sarah Swenson is a freelance dancer/choreographer working in modern and post-modern forms. Vox Dance Theatre was formed in 2004 to present her own choreography and the works of others in the modern and post-modern traditions. The eight-woman company roster currently includes founding

members Sarah Swenson, Molly Headley, Allison King, Elizabeth Kotoff, and Kathleen White, and new members Alexandra Daniels, Chitoh Emetarom, and Moira Fogarty. A neo-modernist, Sarah's work is a fusion of the classical modern techniques, improvisation, and theatre. She is committed to the values of historical modern dance while using them in new ways, and seeks to engage the audience in thought as well as feeling. In addition to the concert stage, Sarah has choreographed for film, opera, and musical theater. She also works with post-modern mavericks Simone Forti and Rudy Perez in Los Angeles. Recent stage performances include *DoublePlay*, with the Rudy Perez Performance Ensemble, and *Unbuttoned Sleeves*, with Simone Forti, both in Redcat's 2005 NOW (New Original Works) Festival at Disney's Concert Hall in Los Angeles; and her own *Fimmine*, at the 15th fFIDA International Dance Festival in Toronto, Canada. Her work *Ancestors* was a finalist in the 2004 Palm Desert Festival Under the Stars, and received critical review by the Los Angeles Times at the 2004 SOLA (Southern LA) Contemporary Dance Festival.

Sarah was on the faculty of The Alvin Ailey School in New York City from 1990 to 1996, teaching the Lester Horton technique in the Professional and Junior divisions, as well as Horton for Actors, Techniques of Performance (repertory and coaching) to advanced students, Floor Barre/Ballet, and Pilates-based Body Conditioning. She was the Rehearsal Director for the Alvin Ailey Student Performance Group, and annually rehearsed selected Ailey students for their participation in Alvin Ailey's *Memoria*, performed every season by the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre. While in New York, Sarah performed with the Alvin Ailey Special Performance Group, Artists of Jubilation! Ensemble, Louis Johnson Dance Theatre, and toured the People's Republic of China and South Korea with Myung Sook Chun. She also worked with Senta Driver, Linda Tarnay, and the late Leni Wylliams. In 1993 she co-founded Seraphim Dance Theatre with the late Raymond C. Harris, and appeared throughout New York City, including at the United Nations, Alice Tully Hall, Aaron Davis Hall, and for many hospitals, schools and churches. Before leaving New York, she served on the faculty of Ballet Hispanico, and worked with Solstice Dance Company under the direction of Ann Biddle. A professional repertory and movement coach, Sarah has conducted residencies and performance workshops throughout the US, and in China, Thailand and Israel. She attended NYU's (Tisch) School of the Arts, and received her MFA in Performance and Choreography from California State University at Long Beach in 2000. She has taught at CSULB, Loyola Marymount University, Cerritos College, and Orange County High School for the Arts, and was Chair of Theatre, Music & Dance at Missouri Valley College in central Missouri until mid-2004.

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