

peterborough new dance *with* kate alton and overall dance *present*

## **calculated risks**

with guest artists penelope thomas (peterborough) and janet johnson (guelph)

at the market hall theatre, peterborough, october 3, 1999

## 1. Le Ventilateur à Turbine

*Le ventilateur à turbine  
qui durera plus longtemps que le toit  
- c'est garanti!*

Choreography: Mitch Kirsch  
Dancer: Kate Alton  
Music: Anna Homler  
The Tie Dress: designed and built by Jane Townsend  
Lighting & Set: Steve Lucas  
Stage Management & Technical Support: Allan Day

pause

## 2. Tartan Briefs

Choreography: Kate Alton  
Dancers: Michael Sean Marye, Gillian Smith, Heidi Strauss, Laura West  
Music: Catherine Keenan, Sergei Prokofiev (Precipitato from Piano Sonata No. 7), Grier Copins  
Costume Design: Cécile Bélec  
Lighting & Set Design: Steve Lucas (with a thank you to original lighting designer, Aisling Sampson)  
Stage Management & Technical Support: Allan Day

pause

## 3. the hands of the beautiful swimmers

They'll never be so beautiful  
as now, their gold bodies going down  
into the sea like minor suns, their fingers  
frail and waving as a sun's last rays;  
and here on the last shores of the day  
a watcher weeps for having never seized  
the hands of the beautiful swimmers.

Choreography: Janet Johnson  
Interpreted by: Michelle deBrouwer, Tammy MacCleod, Catrina Von Radecki  
Music: John Corigliano, Priesner, Rachels  
Poetry: Steven Heighon. Used by permission of House of Anansi Press. This permission is given gratis.

Special thanks to Michelle, Tammy & Catrina, Steven Heighon, Gord Laird and Doug, Dakota & Kieran Burpee.

intermission

## 5. Spätstil

Choreography: Peggy Baker  
Dancers: Kate Alton & Gillian Smith  
Music: Johannes Brahms (opus 117, No. 1)  
Costume Design: Susan Macpherson  
Lighting & Set Design: Steve Lucas  
Stage Management & Technical Support: Allan Day

Note: Spätstil is a German word meaning "late style", and describes music written in the last years of a composer's life. It also refers to a state of mind, an inner peace and a quiet sense of completion that often characterize the final works of a great artist.

## 4. Interstices

- i) insidesout
- ii) stolen breath
- iii) mercy speaks my name

Choreography and performance: Penelope Thomas  
Music: Portishead, Kevin Volans/Kronos Quartet, Sheremetiev/Chorovaya Akademia  
Costume: Martha Cockshutt  
Rehearsal Director: Anne Ryan  
Lighting: Caron Garside

Pause

## 6. Eclipse

Choreography: Doug Varone  
Dancers: Kate Alton, Michael Sean Marye, Gillian Smith  
Music: Michael Gordon  
Costumes: designed by Cécile Bélec, creative assistance and construction by Heather MacCrimmon  
Lighting & Set: Steve Lucas  
Stage Management & Technical Support: Allan Day

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**Welcome to the first show in Peterborough New Dance's 1999-2000 season, our 6<sup>th</sup> year of presenting Canada's best independent dance artists.** Consisting of four works, by Kate Alton, Doug Varone, Mitch Kirsch and Peggy Baker, Calculated Risks was first presented by Overall Dance at the Dancemakers Studio in Toronto just a few weeks ago. This program forms the core of a tour organized by Peterborough New Dance called Dancing Across Ontario (DXO), which will see presentations in Peterborough, Ottawa and Hamilton in a five day stretch from October 3 to 7. In each city, guest artists have been invited to share the bill. Here in Peterborough, we are excited to have Penelope Thomas re-mount *Interstices*, a work which first thrilled us back in 1998. And, because we couldn't take DXO to Guelph, we decided to bring one of their most accomplished dance artists here, Janet Johnson, with *the hands of the beautiful swimmers*. A pilot project this year, with any luck, DXO will become a regular aspect of Peterborough New Dance's program in years to come. More immediately, take a look at the schedule of upcoming events on the back page. The next one is *Moving Pictures*, a festival of dance on film. See you there. – Bill Kimball

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### For Peterborough New Dance:

Bill Kimball, artistic producer  
Rob Wilkes, design  
Phil Oakley, stage manager

Peterborough New Dance is an animator of contemporary dance. We present a mainstage series of companies and independent choreographers drawn from across Canada, commission new work in concert with other Canadian presenters on the Candance Network, and support the development of the local dance community by presenting workshops with visiting artists and producing Emergency, an annual program of new dance and performance by area artists. Peterborough New Dance is affiliated with the Peterborough Arts Umbrella, a charitable agency serving Peterborough artists and arts groups. Tax deductible donations to PND can be made via the PAU. Peterborough New Dance receives valuable operating support from the Canada Council and the Ontario Arts Council and is a member of Candance, Canada's nation network of dance presenters, and Dance Ontario.

Peterborough New Dance  
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### For Overall Dance:

Kate Alton, artistic director and producer  
Ross Manson, associate producer & graphic design  
John Lauener, photography

Kate Alton founded Overall Dance in 1998 to develop her own work and bring together some of Toronto's finest dancers with some of the dance world's best choreographers. Its first program, *Necessary Risks*, was presented in 1998 in Toronto and at The Blythe Festival. Overall Dance receives major funding from The Canada Council for the Arts, The Ontario Arts Council, The Toronto Arts Council, The Laidlaw Foundation and Dora Alton.



## Biographies

**Kate Alton:** Kate is an independent dancer and choreographer living in Toronto. She trained at the National Ballet School, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School and the School of the Toronto Dance Theatre. In 1991 she studied in New York City with Risa Steinberg, Christine Wright, Donald Byrd and others at the Cunningham studios. As a featured member of TDT from 1989-95 she performed many solo roles and toured internationally. Since then she has diversified by working with many choreographers including Laurence Lemieux, Michael Downing, Mitch Kirsch, Sarah Chase, Bill Coleman, David Earle, Doug Varone and David Pressault. In 1997 she performed with the Dutch company Leine & Roebana in Toronto and Holland and was also nominated for a Dora award for Outstanding Performance. Her choreography has been presented in Toronto at Spring Rites '97, Susanna Hood's *The Ides of May* at Myth Productions, Tarragon Theatre, Volcano's *Short Stuff*, TDT's choreographic workshops, the Arts and Letters Club, in Winnipeg at the Gas Station Theatre, as well as two shows with Overall Dance - at the Blyth Festival, and at Dancemakers last year.

**Peggy Baker:** Peggy Baker is one of Canada's greatest dance artists. She was a founding member of Dancemakers (Toronto, 1974), toured internationally with the New York based company of Lar Lubovitch throughout the eighties and performed with Mikhail Baryshnikov in the inaugural season of his and Mark Morris's *White Oak Dance Project*. Since 1990 she has performed primarily as a solo artist at home and around the world, frequently sharing the stage with classical pianist Andrew Burashko. Recent projects include concerts with Paul-André Fortier, Margie Gillis and Melissa Fenley and appearances with the Amici Chamber Ensemble and the Toronto Symphony. In addition to her distinguished performing and choreographic career, Ms. Baker is recognized as one of the modern dance world's finest teachers, and has taught throughout Canada and abroad, and is the first Artist-in-Residence at the National Ballet School of Canada.

### THE REST OF THE PETERBOROUGH NEW DANCE SEASON LOOKS LIKE THIS...

- **November 14.** The *Moving Pictures Festival of Dance on Film and Video* is back for the third straight year. In Peterborough we will see two programs, one international and one all-Canuck, to be chosen at this year's *Moving Pictures Festival* happening in Toronto at the end of October. At the Gordon Best Theatre.
- **February 17, 18.** Claudia Moore's *MOonhORsE Dance Theatre* with her newest full length work, *4 Women*. Claudia performs with Sarah Chase, Bonnie Kim and Fiona Drinnan in a piece so new we can't tell you anything about it other than it is bound to feature Claudia's unique mix of dancing and vocalising. At the Market Hall Theatre. Also: November 22 - 25, Claudia and her company will be in P'boro to give a 4 day Physical Theatre Workshop, details below.
- **March 24, 25.** Laurence Lemieux and Bill Coleman: *Duets*. A full evening of duets specially commissioned by Laurence and Bill from some of North America's leading choreographers, including James Kudelka (Canada), Margie Gillis (Canada), Tere O'Connor (U.S.), and of course Bill and Laurence themselves. As this will be the premiere for much of this program, let's keep At the Market Hall Theatre.
- **April. Emergency #8.** At the Market Hall Theatre. Details soon on guidelines for submitting to our 8<sup>th</sup> annual festival of dance and performance by Peterborough artists. Be the first on your block to know more by getting on the mailing list.

**Cécile Bélec:** Cécile Bélec has been designing and constructing sets, costumes and props for theatres in Canada and Europe for the past fifteen years. She has earned two Dora Mavor Moore nominations for Outstanding Costume Design, one Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Set Design and the Pauline McGibbon Award for Design in 1996. Cécile's designs demonstrate a unique interest in concept development, exploration of materials and methods, and a sensitivity to detail. Her interest in the discipline and form of dance is well rooted in her fascination with form and space through the language of sculpture. Her ability to realize and give form to this crossing of disciplines is

demonstrated well in her work with *Dog Troep* (Holland), *The Hill Project* (Holland), *The Tea Lady* (Groundswell), *The Barber of Seville* (Theatre Columbus), and in her ongoing work with Overall Dance.

**Allan Day:** It is with great pleasure that Allan finds himself amid such a talented company. Past credits include production assistant, Caravan Stage Co. (Wolfe Island); Technical Director, theatre 5 (Kingston); and Set/Lighting Designer for *Moon Children*, *Forbidden Donut* (Toronto). Allan attended Ryerson's theatre tech programme and received an education from too many Rock 'n' Roll gigs. It's so nice to work on an art form...

**Janet Johnson:** After graduating from York University's dance program, Janet spent ten years in Toronto. While there, she co-founded the eclectic company *Pedestrian Waltz Dance Project*, whose work was performed on rooftops, in galleries and on sidewalks, as well as at the Canada Dance Festival, Vancouver's *Dancing On The Edge* and *Danceworks' Mainstage* series. Since 1994, Janet has been choreographing independently through various commissions and with the assistance of the Laidlaw Foundation. She has danced for numerous choreographers, including Denise Duric, Darcy Callisoin, Conrad Alexandrowicz, Julia Sasso, Kim Frank, and more recently, Karen Kaeja, Catrina von Radecki and Dance Theatre David Earle. Janet's love of teaching has enabled her to teach at Ballet Jorgen, the Toronto and North York Boards of Education, the Hamilton Ballet School, McMaster University and Waterloo University, among others. Currently Janet lives in Guelph, where she is co-director of the Guelph Contemporary Dance Festival.

### AND THIS... 4-DAY PHYSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP WITH CLAUDIA MOORE & CO.

There is **no charge** for this workshop, but as space is limited, admission is by application only. See below for details.

Participants will explore the creative process of making physical theatre. with an emphasis on developing voice and movement skills. Participants will work collaboratively toward building a performance piece. **Ideal for dancers, actors, singers and musicians wishing to develop new creative tools.** Each session in the workshop will include vocal exercises and physical exercises, such as yoga and dance. leading into work on the creative process.

The workshop will be lead by Claudia Moore and three members of her Toronto-based company, *MOonhORsE Dance Theatre*: Sarah Chase, Bonnie Kim and Fiona Drinnan. Claudia has been creating original works of dance and physical theatre since 1977 and has collaborated with artists in many disciplines, ranging from contemporary opera to musical theatre, film and television. Between them, Claudia, Sarah, Bonnie and Kim bring a wealth of experience in various performance disciplines.

**Dates:** 4 sessions, Nov. 22 - 25 (Monday - Thursday). Exact time and location TBA.

**To apply:** Submit a CV and letter stating why you wish to take the workshop and how it relates to your own training or performance work. Send to: Peterborough New Dance, PO Box 2319, P'boro, K9J 7Y8. Call 745-1788 for more information.

**Mitch Kirsch:** Mitch Kirsch was born in Los Angeles and started dancing while majoring in comparative literature at UC Berkeley. He performed with Toronto's Dancemakers and Toronto Dance Theatre, and was a founding member of Desrosiers Dance Theatre. Mitch left Toronto for New York in 1981, where he performed and toured with a variety of companies, studied composition and technique with Merce Cunningham, and ballet with Maggie Black. In 1987 he turned his attention to his own choreography, founding Dogs in Space, with Jane Townsend, as a vehicle for their choreographic work. Returning to Toronto to live in 1993, he has presented his dances in full-evenings of work by Dogs in Space in 1994, in 1996, at the Art Gallery of Ontario. Mitch choreographed a septet, Good Vibes, for Toronto Dance Theatre in 1998. His work was seen last season at the duMaurier Theatre in Toronto, in the Toronto Dance Theatre's season at the Premiere Dance Theatre and the Joyce Theatre in NYC, and as part of a Dogs in Space program in Peterborough.

**Steve Lucas:** Steve has designed for some of Canada's most innovative theatre companies and traveled throughout the world with Robert Lepage's Le Polygraphe. Since 1987 he has done the sets or lighting for more than 100 productions including the original and touring versions of 2 Pianos 4 Hands (Mirvish Productions, Tarragon Theatre), Poor Superman (Canadian Stage/Manitoba Theatre Centre), Romeo & Juliet (The Dream in High Park), Jump (Da Da Kamera), Sleeproom (Theatre Passe Muraille), Body and Soul (Crows Theatre), Assassins (Eclectic Theatre), and Jata Mu Hing Rahule (Rakvere Theatre, Estonia). He has been nominated for twelve Dora awards, winning twice.

**Heather MacCrimmon:** Heather MacCrimmon does costumes for independent dance, theatre and film in Toronto, and internationally with Théâtre de Complicité. She is currently working on Jim Allodi's feature film, The Family Man.

**Fred Malpass** is a freelance theatre technician currently attending Sheridan College. He has designed lighting for both theatre and dance shows in the Ottawa area, and has collaborated with Meagan before. This is his first costume design.

**Ross Manson:** Ross is a Toronto-based producer, actor and director. He is the founding Artistic Director of Volcano, the founder of Toronto's Group of Seven Theatres, and programmes the local arts cabaret series, Short Stuff. This is Ross's third show as a producer with Kate Alton & Overall Dance. Ross's next shows are Faust at the Tarragon and Building Jerusalem at the Factory Theatre.

**Michael Sean Marye:** Sean Marye began his dance training in Buffalo and continued at the schools of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens and Toronto Dance Theatre. He performed with TDT from 1986 until 1998. He has also worked with Conrad Alexandrowicz, Bill Coleman, Allen Kaeja, Laurence Lemieux, Julia Sasso and Holly Small. In 1995 he partnered Veronica Tennant in Timothy Findley's stage version of The Pianoman's Daughter. His choreography has been shown by TDT (collaborating with David Earle), Spring Rites '98 (Toronto) and at the MacPherson Playhouse (Victoria). In 1997, Mr. Marye assisted James Kudelka in remounting Fifteen Heterosexual Duets for Ballet B.C. Sean Marye was also the founder of Breaking Ground, a contemporary dance training programme in Toronto.

**Gillian Smith:** Newfoundlander Gillian Smith trained at the School of the Toronto Dance Theatre and the Martha Graham School in New York City. She performed with the Danny Grossman Company in Kingston, Ontario and in their 20th anniversary season at the Premiere Dance Theatre. Gillian has worked with independent choreographers Kate Alton, Mitch Kirsch, Terrill Maguire, Denise Duric and Darryl Tracy, and was featured in Overall Dance's last two shows - in Toronto and at the Blyth festival. This year, Gillian will be joining the modern dance company, Trip, in Winnipeg.

**Heidi Strauss:** Heidi Strauss began dancing in her hometown of Sudbury and continued training both abroad and at the School of the Toronto Dance Theatre where she was a scholarship student. For the last five years she has danced for a number of choreographers including Conrad Alexandrowicz, Mitch Kirsch, James Kudelka, Laurence Lemieux, and Peter Randazzo. Now a faculty

member at the School of TDT, she also teaches at Humber College. Her own choreography has been presented at Dances for a Small Stage, the DuMaurier Theatre, the Tarragon Theatre, and fFIDA. In the year 2000, she will present a duo show with Darryl Tracy called the Four Chambers dance project.

**Penelope Thomas** lives in Peterborough, where she teaches dance, meditates when she remembers to, photocopies things for Billy the K, writes, has tea with Anne and Janette, recovers from the first twenty years of her life, does contract work on her computer, and practices being grateful for being alive. Penelope has had two pieces presented by Peterborough New Dance and has performed in several works by other local artists. She sometimes thinks about moving to a bigger city again to become a "real dancer", but somehow keeps coming to the conclusion that she is learning more doing it in this (slightly haphazard) way.

**Jane Townsend:** Jane Townsend began her dance training as a child in her native Montréal. She later trained at York University and the Toronto Dance Theatre School before moving to New York City, where she spent twelve years dancing, choreographing and costuming for the downtown dance scene. She studied extensively with Merce Cunningham and performed with a great many choreographers, including three years with Douglas Dunn and Dancers. She is the co-artistic director of Dogs in Space. As a costumer, Jane has created clothing for a myriad of Toronto and New York choreographers and companies, including Peggy Baker, James Kudelka, TDT and Dogs in Space.

**Doug Varone:** Doug Varone was born in Syosset, N.Y., and attended Purchase College where he received his BFA. He danced with the Limon Dance Co. from 1978-79, and with the Lar Lubovitch Dance Co. from 1979-86. He formed Doug Varone & Dancers in 1986. This company - based in New York City - has appeared at some of the most prestigious festivals and theatres in the world, including the Kennedy Centre, the Joyce Theatre (NYC), Queen Elizabeth Hall (London), the American Centre (Paris), the Kalamata Festival (Greece), the Korean International Festival, the American Dance Festival, the Tokyo Festival, and Jacob's Pillow. Mr. Varone has created over thirty dances for the company, and created works for more than two dozen companies internationally. The company has won five New York Dance and Performance awards (Bessies), including a 1998 honour for Sustained Achievement in Choreography. Mr. Varone also works extensively in theatre (on and off Broadway), television, opera and film. In Canada, Mr. Varone has worked with Dancemakers, Peggy Baker, Rhombus Media (on the film, The Planets), and now, with Kate Alton.

**Laura West:** Laura West began studying dance with Maureen Eastick in Victoria, British Columbia and continued at the Banff Centre for the Arts, Simon Fraser University, and the School of Toronto Dance Theatre. She was a member of TDT for three years, and performed the works of David Earle, Christopher House, Mitch Kirsch, Peter Chin, Tedd Robinson, Claudia Moore and James Kudelka. She has performed independently with Dance Theatre David Earle, Sasha Ivanochko and Michael Sean Marye. She is currently pursuing a degree in political science at the University of Toronto.

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