

For immediate release:

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**THE ABRONS ARTS CENTER PRESENTS *PRIME MOVER*:
A CONCERT TO BENEFIT CPR (THE CENTER FOR
PERFORMANCE RESEARCH) FEATURING WORKS OF
JOHN JASPERSE, WALLY CARDONA, AND CHEZ BUSHWICK**

New York, September 30, 2006 —The Abrons Arts Center presents an evening of groundbreaking dance, old and new, with *Prime Mover*, curated by **Chez Bushwick** founder Jonah Bokaer. This event brings together rare archival dance film and video along with work by acclaimed dancemakers **John Jasperse** and **Wally Cardona**, who together with Bokaer, are partnering to form CPR/The Center for Performance Research, a facility for research and development in contemporary dance and performance to be located in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. The program will include John Jasperse Company performing a remounted excerpt from *Madison As I Imagine It* (1999) and Wally Cardona presenting an exclusive preview of new work. In addition, Chez Bushwick, the celebrated artists performance cooperative, will screen *Que'est ce que c'est performance?*, a collection of new and historical works of performance video curated by Christopher Eamon, including Yvonne Rainer's *Hand Movie*. Net proceeds from these performances will go to benefit the capital campaign for CPR.

Wally Cardona offers an excerpt of a new evening-length piece that will premiere at Dance Theater Workshop in May 2007. The new work builds on Cardona's interest in the very act of construction and its seemingly insignificant actions.

Jasperse presents an excerpt of his acclaimed piece, *Madison As I Imagine It* (1999), a work about the strange beauty of irregularity, imperfection, spaciousness, and possibility. The dance emphasizes parts of the body that are rarely thought of as "expressive," creating a language of physical interaction that is at the same time crude, maladroit and precise in its immediacy.

The evening concludes with a rare film screening presented by Chez Bushwick, the celebrated artists performance cooperative, entitled *Que'est ce que c'est performance?*, a collection of new and historical works of performance video curated by Christopher Eamon and to include Yvonne Rainer's 1966 *Hand Movie*. Eamon has explored various possibilities for time-based media within a video program. Certain investigations, experiences, or points of view recur over time. At times, historical pieces, from an entirely different field, can be newly illuminating. In the face of trends or fashions in art, The frame through which video is viewed today excludes a great deal and, more and more, it tends to exclude the past just as we should be learning from it. Here, Eamon helps to reframe and contextualize new work while reminding us of the inherent presence of culture in any form video art might take, past or present.

ABRONS ARTS CENTER
HENRY STREET SETTLEMENT

466 Grand Street, New York City 10002
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ABOUT CPR, The Center for Performance Research

The Center for Performance Research (CPR), located at 361 Manhattan Avenue in Brooklyn is a 3,400 square foot arts facility targeted for completion in spring 2007. Initiated by Thin Man Dance, Inc., WCV, Inc. and Contemporary Performance Trust, Inc., CPR is the result of their on-going commitment to providing outstanding resources to performing artists, and fostering the development, research, and presentation of new work. CPR joined forces with developers to create a residential condominium that will house a not-for-profit arts community facility on its bottom floors. Furthermore, 361 Manhattan Avenue will be the first L.E.E.D. certified "green" building of its size in Brooklyn, thereby binding together a commitment to the sustainability of community arts organizations as well as the environment of New York City.

BIOGRAPHIES

Wally Cardona, recipient of a 2006 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship in choreography, has been recognized internationally for creating vast yet intimate landscape works that use the performance setting itself as an integral partner in making a movement language unique to each piece of choreography. His most recent work for Wally Cardona Quartet, EVERYWHERE, was co-produced by Brooklyn Academy of Music and Portland Institute for Contemporary Art, and received a 2006 New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award.

Christopher Eamon is the curator of the Pamela and Richard Kramlich Collection and Director of New Art Trust Foundation in San Francisco where he has organized and participated in a number of symposia on media art preservation, including the new Media Matters project hosted by the Tate's major research site. Eamon was an Assistant Curator of Film and Video at the Whitney Museum of American Art, where he curated an exhibition of video installations by Julie Becker and Christian Marclay. In September 2006, Eamon mounted a major exhibition at the Hamburger Bahnhof für Gegenwart--Berlin entitled "Beyond Cinema: The Art of Projection, Films, Videos and Installations, 1963-2003" which he co-curated with Stan Douglas, Joachim Jaeger and Gabriele Knapstein. During the past decade, Eamon has developed and commissioned web-based artists' projects and a variety of interactive media projects, including film and video installations by Stan Douglas, Gary Hill, and Bill Viola, among others and is the author of newly published *Anthony McCall: the Solid Light Films and Related Works. Que'est ce que c'est performance?* was first screened at the Video Lounge of Art|Basel|Miami Beach in 2005.

John Jasperse, Artistic Director/Choreographer of John Jasperse Company (NY, NY) since 1985. Jasperse has received fellowships from the Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts, the Tides Foundation's Lament Fellowship in the Arts, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts. Awards include a New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award in recognition of Jasperse body of choreographic; a 1999 Scripps/ADF Primus-Tamaris Fellowship; the Doris Duke Award, 1998; the 1997 Mouson Award by Künstlerhaus Mousonturm in Frankfurt, Germany; three prizes in the 1996 Rencontres Internationales Chorégraphiques de Bagnolet; and the Choreography Prize at the 3rd Suzanne Dellal International Dance Competition in Tel Aviv, Israel. He has created commissions for Baryshnikov Dance Foundation for White Oak's Dance Project, Batsheva Dance Company, and Lyon Opera Ballet.

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ABOUT THE ABRONS ARTS CENTER

The Henry Street Settlement's Abrons Art Center, located in Manhattan's Lower East Side, is an expansive, one-block facility, which is home to three theaters, one outdoor amphitheater, galleries, and dance and art studios. The Playhouse – the Center's national landmark built by Harry C. Ingalls and F. Burrall Hoffman, Jr.—opened in 1915 with the aim to enrich the lives of local residents by offering them a neighborhood playhouse. The 350-seat original design accommodated showing of both silent films and live shows, and has housed performances by Ethel Barrymore, James Cagney, George Burns, Fred Astaire, Isadora Duncan, Martha Graham, Dizzy Gillespie, and Buddy Rich. In 1938 it was the setting for the premiere of Aaron Copeland's opera, *The Second Hurricane*, starring Eartha Kitt and directed by Orson Welles. Today, under the new directorship of Jay Wegman, the Abrons Arts Center is re-establishing itself as a prime venue for New York's avant garde, offering new, bold and experimental programs in dance, music and theater.

To download the press release or images, email jtahl@henrystreet.org or visit www.henrystreet.org/artspress

PERFORMANCE INFO

Friday, October 13th at 7:30pm

Saturday, October 14th at 7:30pm

TICKET INFORMATION

General admission: \$20

Visit www.henrystreet.org/arts or www.theatermania.com or call 212-352-3101

CREDITS

SITE (A Working Title) (2007)

Choreography and Direction: Wally Cardona

Performed by and Created with: Kana Kimura, Joanna Kotze, Bill Manka, and Wally Cardona

Lighting Design: Roderick Murray

Exclusive Preview of New Work is co-produced by WCV, Inc; The Myrna Loy Center/Helena Presents (Helena, Montana); Dance Theater Workshop (NYC); National Dance Project; the National Endowment for the Arts; the National Performance Network's Creation Fund; Meet the Composer; NYS Music Fund; Bossak/Heilbron Charitable Foundation and Funds from a 2006 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship.

Madison As I Imagine It (1999) excerpt

Choreography: John Jasperse

Dancers: Michelle Boule and Eleanor Hullihan

Music: Hahn Rowe

Madison As I Imagine It (1999) was commissioned by the SpringDance Festival (Utrecht, The Netherlands); The Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation; the National Performance Network's Creation Fund; Diverseworks (Houston, Texas); and The Wagon Train Project (Lincoln, Nebraska); 1998 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Harkness Foundation for Dance, and the James E. Robison Foundation. The Creation Fund is sponsored by Philip Morris Companies Inc.

Chez Bushwick Presents Que'est ce que c'est performance?

Performance for Film & Video

Curator: Christopher Eamon

Hand Movie directed by Yvonne Rainer, 1966, Newly restored from the Collections of New Art Trust, San Francisco

Untying A Shoe With An Erection directed by Mads Lynnerup, 2003

Chasing The Bus directed by Mads Lynnerup, 2003

SX Street directed by Magnetic Laboratorium, 2004

Modus Operandi directed by Kiki Seror, 2005

Facing A Family directed by Valie Export, 1971

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DIRECTIONS

SUBWAY: F to East Broadway or Delancey (at Essex)

D, B to Grand

J, M, Z to Essex

BUS: M15, M14, M9 to Grand Street

M22 to Montgomery Street

B39 to Essex

CAR: Take FDR Drive southbound and exit at Grand St. Northbound

FDR, must take Houston St exit.

PARKING: Parking lots are available on Suffolk Street between Broome and Delancey; and East Broadway and Clinton Streets.

PRESS CONTACT:

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Arts Abrons Arts Center

Henry Street Settlement

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