



MATHER DANCE CENTER  
PERFORMANCE SERIES

Presents

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**Mather Dance Center**

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**Special Thanks:**

Allison and Sean Bigelow, Lisa Booher, Heather Carson,  
Tracy Pattison, Andrea Shearer, Barbara Allegra Verlezza,  
Sabatino Verlezza, Martha Graham Resources,  
College of Arts and Sciences and Friends of Dance.

**Upcoming Events**

**MaDaCol**

April 19, 20, 2008 at 8:00 p.m.  
April 21, 2008 at 7:00 and 8:30 p.m.



Dance works by MFA candidates  
Heather Koniz and Sheau-Feng Luo

無 NO BOUNDARY 垠

MARCH 27 - 29 AT 8:00 P.M.

MARCH 30 AT 2:30 P.M.

2008

# MATHER DANCE CENTER PERFORMANCE SERIES

Case Western Reserve University  
DEPARTMENT OF THEATER AND DANCE

*Dance Program Director*  
**Karen Potter**

*Artistic Director*  
**Gary Galbraith**

*Emeriti Faculty*  
**Kathryn Karipides\* & Kelly Holt\*\***

*Technical Director / Lighting Designer*  
**Brad Petot**

## *Dancers*

**Jennifer Birou-Lakamp, David Burrington, Danielle Dowler, Alysse Ferranto, Patricia Gay,  
Jody Herman, Kerville Jack, Matthew Johns, Heather Koniz, Sheau-Feng Luo,  
Jens Peterson, Sabatino A. Verlezza, Anthony Vesco**

# FRIENDS OF DANCE

*The Dance Program wishes to acknowledge the generosity of the Friends of Dance at Mather Dance Center, an organization dedicated to supporting productions, new programs and the development of dance artists at Mather Dance Center.*

## Visionary

Flora Stone Mather Alumnae  
Association

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Sara Shana Willen

\*Case Dance Program Alumni

# HISTORY OF DANCE AT CWRU

In 1956, Kathryn Karipides came to Western Reserve University to teach Modern Dance, Folk and Square Dance and Social Dance. Ballet and Jazz Dance classes were also offered and taught by local guest instructors. In 1972, the Dance Program forged a path followed by so many other programs as it moved into the Department of Drama. Curricula for both an undergraduate concentration and a minor were developed. At the request of then chair, Ted Herstand, Kelly Holt was asked to devise a curriculum for a Master of Fine Arts Degree . By 1975, he was also asked to join the faculty.

From 1969 through 1979, the Case Western Reserve Modern Dance Company, a resident company comprised of area professionals and CWRU students performed at Eldred Theater as the "Dance Theater of Kathryn Karipides and Henry Kurth". In the 1970's, Mather Gymnasium was fitted, according to Kurth's technical design, with a full cyclorama, theatrical lighting equipment and moveable bleachers for audiences. It was renamed, Mather Dance Center.

Mather Gymnasium before it was converted to Mather Dance Center



Since the 1950's, numerous workshops, lecture demonstrations and master classes were sponsored in association with the Cleveland Modern Dance Association (now DanceCleveland). Such distinguished dancers and teachers as Doris Humphrey, Anna Sokolow and Erick Hawkins to name a few have graced the studios at Mather Dance Center. Each year concerts have featured works by faculty, guest artists, MFA candidates and alumni and noted artists including Martha Graham, Erick Hawkins, Heinz Poll, Lucinda Childs, and Pascal Rioult. Additionally, the undergraduate ensemble "Scandals" was founded in the '80's and later renamed MaDaCol in the early 90's. MaDaCol now produces two concerts a year featuring works by graduate students for undergraduates and community dancers.

The dance program continues to forge ahead in the areas of dance and technology as well as the internationally recognized Dancer Wellness program and the Dancer Wellness website. The program at Case has been used as a model at other universities and professional schools and the website project is now being used by schools and professional companies around the world.

Distinguished among the many MFA, MA, and BA graduates of the program are numerous professional dancers, teachers and choreographers.

Since its inception, the dance program excels in providing graduate students with the highest level of professional training and scholarly education. Undergraduates uniquely benefit from co-existing in the stimulating atmosphere alongside graduate students and receive a quality liberal arts education.

## Water~Bound

*(Premiere)*

Choreography .....Heather Koniz  
 Costume Design .....Heather Koniz  
 Costume Construction ..... Heather Koniz, Kerville Jack, Sabatino A. Verlezza  
 Music ..... John Cage

*Dancer – Heather Koniz*

## The Day of Tears

*(Premiere)*

Choreography .....Sheau-Feng Luo  
 Costume Design .....Sheau-Feng Luo  
 Costume Construction ..... Kerville Jack, Sheau-Feng Luo, Karen Potter  
 Lighting/Set ..... Sheau-Feng Luo with Brad Petot  
 Music .....Tan Dun, Arturs Maskats

- I. Mortal World
- II. Entreat and Revive
- III. Sublimation

*Dancers – Jennifer Birou-LaKamp, Danielle Dowler, Patricia Gay, Jody Herman, Matt Johns, Sheau-Feng Luo, Anthony Vesco*

## Aftershot

*(Premiered 2001 Mather Dance Center)*

Choreography ..... Richard Dickinson  
 Music ..... Foote  
 Costume ..... Kerville Jack  
 Set ..... Russ Borski

*Dancers – Heather Koniz, Anthony Vesco*

***-Intermission-***

## Sarabande

(Excerpt from "Dark Meadow")

(Premiered January 23, 1946, Plymouth Theatre, New York City)

Choreography.....Martha Graham  
Costumes .....Martha Graham  
Music.....Carlos Chavez\*  
Original Lighting .....Jean Rosenthal  
Regisseurs ..... Gary Galbraith and Kerville Jack

*It is a world of great symbols, the place of experience, the Dark Meadow of Ate, the meadow of choice, the passage to another area of life.*

*Dancers* – Kerville Jack, Sheau-Feng Luo

Commissioned by the Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Foundation  
in the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

*Dark Meadow* is licensed by the Library of Congress to the Martha Graham Center of Contemporary Dance, Inc., in furtherance of the parties' commitment to the preservation of Martha Graham's artistic legacy. Copyright Library of Congress. All rights reserved.

One of Graham's most psychological and abstract works, *Dark Meadow* is a dance of primal questioning. Inspired by Plato's mythological references to the dark meadow of Ate, "I have been ere now a boy and girl, a bush, a bird, a dumb fish in the sea," the work evokes the fundamental rituals of the journey of life. In her original program note, Graham wrote, "*Dark Meadow* is a re-enactment of the Mysteries which attend the eternal adventure of seeking." There are four sections to the ballet, bridged by dances by five women and four men. Graham created for this chorus some of the most intricate and lyrical ensemble movement to be found in any of her dances. The "Sarabande" a duet suggesting spiritual connection, love and fertility, is an excerpt from the choreography for the ensemble.

\**La Hija de Cólquide*, used by arrangement with G. Schirmer, Inc., publisher and copyright owner.

**Sabatino A. Verlezza** (*Dancer*) a junior at Shaker Heights High School started dancing at a young age and in 2004 began studying under the tutelage of Gladisa Guadalupe. In 2007, he began working with the Verlezza Dance as a company member and teacher, and later that same year he began choreographing works that have been performed in subsequent Verlezza Dance concerts. He will be attending Kent State University in fall 2008 as an in-coming dance major.

**Anthony Vesco** (*Dancer*) is a senior at Case Western Reserve University majoring in Chemistry and Psychology with a minor in Contemporary Dance. Anthony has been actively involved with MaDaCol since matriculating to Case and has served as President of MaDaCol for the past two years. He has also been active in classes at Mather Dance Center each semester and previously danced in *Fields of Motion* choreographed by Nina Nelson and in Pascal Rioult's *Wien*. Anthony is excited to be dancing in two of the pieces of this MFA production.

**Ben Reidhead** (*Musician*) began playing horn in June of 2001 with Poudre School District's Summer Band Program in his hometown of Fort Collins, Colorado. He has returned to the summer program the past three years to help teach the beginning horn classes. He currently attends the Cleveland Institute of Music and studies with Richard King, Principal horn of the Cleveland Orchestra. Along with Kathryn Zevenbergen, Ben performed Friedric Kuhlau's Concertino for Two Horns and Orchestra with the Greeley Chamber Orchestra as winners of the 2006 Walter and Virginia Charles Concerto Competition.

**Cheonho Yoon** (*Musician*) is currently in his final year of graduate studies at Cleveland Institute of Music where he studies with Michael Sachs and Robert Sullivan. He graduated Aichi Prefectural University of Fine Arts and Music, Japan 2005. He was accepted to several music festivals such as World Youth Orchestra, Pacific Music Festival as a fellow. He is second prize winner of Okiden Sugar Hall Competition in Japan.

**Anthony Hopkins** (*Musician*) was born in Chicago, Illinois. He started his musical studies on the trombone at the age of 13. His family moved to Atlanta, Georgia where he continued his studies at the North Atlanta High School center for the arts. During the time in Atlanta, Anthony studied with Stephen Wilson. In 2004 Anthony attended the Interlochen Arts Academy where he studied with Thomas Riccobono. He now attends the Cleveland Institute of Music where he studies with Richard Stout.

**Conrad Jones** (*Musician*) is 18 and began playing trumpet at age 10. He began studying at the Juilliard Pre-College on full scholarship in the fall of 2005. He attended Interlochen Arts Camp as an Emerson Scholar in the summer of 2006, performing as principal trumpet of the World Youth Symphony Orchestra and as lead trumpet in the Interlochen Jazz Ensemble. While at Interlochen, he played for a live concert taping for PBS, and upon returning to New York, he appeared at Carnegie Hall. His performance on PBS resulted in a featured article in Newsday Long Island and the Suffolk County News. Also during his senior year, Jones was the winner of a DownBeat Student Music Award in both classical and jazz trumpet.

**Zach Buckwash** (*Musician*) is a freshmen tuba player from Dillsburg PA. He currently studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music with professional tuba player Ronald Bishop. Zach is a strong supporter of music in the schools and hopes to become a professional tuba player while keeping music alive in the schools throughout the Country.

**Alysse Ferranto** (*Dancer*) is a graduate of Kent State University and will be attending the University of Rhode Island to pursue a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree this fall. Her performances at Kent State include: Faculty Dance Concert (2003-2006), Student Dance Festival (2004, 2006), and BFA Concert (2005). Alysse also choreographed “Seed (less)” (2007), which presented last year at the BFA concert, eighteen feet and “Crossing aXis” (2006), which was presented at the Student Dance Festival, Souls En Route. Other performance credits while studying at Kent State University include dancing with Verlezza Dance. She is also the recipient of the 2007 Dance Faculty Award for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography and the 2006 Dance Faculty Award for Outstanding Achievement in Growth and Development.

**Patricia Gay** (*Dancer*) is a third-year undergraduate student at Case Western Reserve University pursuing degrees in Dance and Art History. Throughout the past fifteen years, Ms. Gay has studied ballet, modern dance, choreography and improvisation at Case Western Reserve University, Concord Academy, the Dancing Arts Center, and the Walnut Hill School. She has performed in the works of many choreographers and is especially proud of her performance in the pieces of José Limón, Martha Graham, John Jasperse, and Richard Colton. In the summer of 2007, Ms. Gay interned in the Archives and Preservation department at the prestigious Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival.

**Jody Herman** (*Dancer*) is a sophomore dance major hailing from Los Angeles. She was a member of the Adderley School ensemble for twelve years and performed in productions such as Westside Story, Sweet Charity, Chicago, and Hairspray. Ms. Herman has performed pieces by choreographers such as Gabrielle Navin, Nina Nelson, Martha Graham, Heather Koniz, Karen Potter, Gary Galbraith, Megan Chirby, and Sheau-Feng Luo.

**Kerville Jack** (*Dancer*) was born in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. At the age of seventeen, he was introduced to the world of Modern Dance at John Dewey H.S. by Michael Goring. He later attended Long Island University where he worked with Noel Hall and Karen Potter. He studied at the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance from 2002 to 2006. There he was a member of the Graham Ensemble and had the privilege to perform such roles as the Husbandman and the Revivalist in *Appalachian Spring* and the Messenger of Death from *Clytemnestra*, Conversation of Lovers in *Acts of Light*, the Christ Figure in *El Penitente* and in the Sarabande from *Dark Meadow*. In New York, he has also performed works by Carl Paris, Claire Burns, Virginie Mecene and Eleo Pomare. He is also an accomplished costume designer and visual artist.

**Matthew Johns** (*Dancer*) a native of Baltimore, Maryland, is a junior Physics major at Case. Having danced in musicals in high school, he started dancing during his freshman year with the Case Swing Club for which he now serves as an instructor. He recently had the privilege of dancing in Pascal Rioult’s *Wien* last fall. He also performed with both MaDaCol and the Spartan Tappers during his sophomore year.

**Jens Peterson** (*Dancer*) a native of New Castle, Pa., is the Ballroom Instructor and Company member of Ballet Western Reserve under the Direction of CWRU Teacher Richard Dickinson. Certified in all 13 styles of American/Latin Ballroom, Jens has trained and has been coached by World Champion G. Hendricks and 10 Dance Champion Martin Lamb. He is also certified through Cecchetti III Ballet and teaches Ballet for the Judy Conti Dance Studios. He has danced with New Castle Regional Ballet, Pittsburgh Youth Ballet, and Meadville Ballet, working with Marc Holland (NYC), Robert Steele (Lake Erie Ballet Founder), Andrew Blight and Stephen Piper (PBT), Troy Jansen (NYC), Anita Lin (BWR), and Chris and Tom Cobb (YSU, SRU).

## Tobi Roppo

*(Premiered 1986, The Field, New York City)*

Choreography..... Sabatino Verlezza  
 Music ..... Elliot Sokolov (Parts I, II, III), Mike Oldfield after Francis Tarrega (Part IV)

*Tobi Roppo is a Kabuki term that translated literally means, “flying in six directions.” It pertains to the physical readiness to move in any direction. The music composition of parts I, II and III were made possible in part by a Meet the Composer Grant, NYC. The music of part IV is used with permission by Virgin Music (ASCAP).*

- I. “First you see a flash, Heather Koniz, Sabatino A. Verlezza
- II. Then you feel the heat, Jennifer Birou-Lakamp, Heather Koniz, Jens Peterson, Sabatino A. Verlezza
- III. and then there is nothing...” Alysse Ferranto
- IV. Rebirth David Burrington, Alysse Ferranto, Heather Koniz, Jennifer Birou-Lakamp, Jens Peterson, Sabatino A. Verlezza

## Ouroboros

*(Premiere)*

Choreography.....Sheau-Feng Luo  
 Costume Design .....Sheau-Feng Luo  
 Costume Construction, ..... Kerville Jack  
 Lighting/Set..... Sheau-Feng Luo with Brad Petot  
 Music ..... Alan Hovhaness

*Ouroboros - A serpent or worm who eats its own tail, a representation of the continuous cycle of life and death.*

*Dancer – Sheau-Feng Luo*

### *Musicians*

Zach Buckwash	Tuba
Anthony Hopkins	Trombone
Conrad Jones	Trumpet
Ben Reidhead	Horn
Cheonho Yoon	Trumpet

- You are invited to a reception in Guilford Hall following the Saturday night performance. -

## About the Artists

**Richard Dickinson** (*Choreographer*) graduated from Case Western Reserve University with an MFA in 2005. He currently is the director of Ballet Western Reserve, located in Youngstown, OH and a part time lecture in the dance program at Case. Richard has danced with Ohio Ballet, Boston Ballet, Chicago ballet and other companies. He was artistic associate for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and ballet master for Ohio Ballet.

**Martha Graham** (1894 – 1991) is recognized as a primal artistic force of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. She was named “Dancer of the Century” by *Time* and has been compared with other creative giants such as Picasso, Einstein, Stravinsky and Freud. She created 181 ballets and a technique that revolutionized dance throughout the greater part of the past century. Using the founding principles of contraction and release, she built a vocabulary of movement to “increase the emotional activity of the dancer’s body,” exploring the depth and diversity of human emotion. Her ballets were inspired by a wide range of sources from the American frontier to Greek Mythology. During her 70 years of creating dance, she collaborated with other great artists – Noguchi, Copland, Barber and Schuman, and her mentor Louis Horst among others, and is recognized for her groundbreaking work in all aspects of the theater – use of time, space, lighting, costumes, sets and music. Her company was a training ground for many generations of choreographers including Cunningham, Taylor and Tharp. At the Neighborhood Playhouse, she is said to have changed the course of American acting through students such as Bette Davis, Gregory Peck, Tony Randall and Orson Wells. Her creative genius earned numerous honors and awards, including the Medal of Freedom and the National Medal of the Arts. Martha Graham’s extraordinary legacy lives on in the work of the Martha Graham Dance Company, Ensemble and School, and in the students worldwide studying her technique and performing her masterworks.

**Heather Koniz** (*Choreographer, Dancer*) is a third year graduate student and MFA Candidate at Case Western Reserve University. Throughout her time at Case she has performed works by Richard Dickinson, Martha Graham, Gary Galbraith, Nina Nelson, James Hansen, DeWitt Cooper III and Kelli Sanford. She was also co-director and choreographer of Mather Dance Collective for three semesters. Ms. Koniz graduated Magna Cum Laude from Hamilton College where she had the privilege of working with Elaine Heekin, Bruce Walczyk, Tresa Randall, Leslie Norton, Vanessa Paige, Elisa Monte, and Carolyn Dorfman. She has attended intensives of several companies including the Limon Company Dance, the Paul Taylor Dance Company and the Pascal Rioult Dance. Her choreography has been performed at the Glue Performance Series in Philadelphia, PA and adjudicated at the American College Dance Festival. In addition to choreographing and performing, Ms. Koniz is a seasoned teacher and has taught throughout Pennsylvania, central New York and Ohio. Ms. Koniz has also been afforded the opportunity to work with the Verlezza Dance Company on a variety of performances and has performed works by Sabatino Verlezza, May O’Donnell and Tracy Pattison.

**Sheau-Feng Luo** (*Choreographer, Dancer*) is a third year graduate student and MFA candidate at Case Western Reserve University. Ms. Luo was born and raised in Taiwan, and received her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from the dance department of the Chinese Culture University. She has attended workshop of the company of Paul Taylor in 2007. Ms. Luo has been dancing for 20 years performing at the American College Dance Festival in 2003 and the distinguished Yosakoi Soran Festival in Japan in 2004 as well as in works by Richard Dickinson, Nina Nelson, James Hansen, Gary Galbraith, Sabatino Verlezza, Pascal Rioult and Martha Graham.

**Brad Petot** (*Lighting Designer*) earned his undergraduate engineering degree with a minor in theater from Case in 1980 and his MS in engineering in 1997. He has been designing at Mather Dance Center since 1983. Mr. Petot has worked with and designed for many local and notable artists, including Kathryn Karipides, Kelly Holt, Karen Potter, Gary Galbraith, Melanee Darby, David Shimotakahara, Gina Gibney, and Joan Meggitt. In his spare time, he is Sr. Staff Engineer from Philips Medical Systems, where he designs MRI machines.

**Sabatino Verlezza** (*Choreographer*) is Artistic Director of Verlezza Dance and the School of Verlezza Dance. He holds an M.F.A. from the University of Michigan (1979), a B.S. from the State University of New York at Brockport (1977) and an A.A. degree from Orange County Community College, (1975). He danced professionally in New York City with the May O’Donnell Dance Company, Joyce Trisler Danscompany, Glenn-Lund Dance, Sophie Maslow, Norman Walker and Dances/Janet Soares among others. In 1988, he established his own company comprised of former O’Donnell, Maslow and Trisler dancers entitled, Verlezza Dance. He has choreographed for many other companies in NYC including the May O’Donnell Dance Company, Joyce Trisler Danscompany, Joffrey II, Larkspur Dance Theater and continues to direct/choreograph the operas of I Giullari di Piazza (NYC) founded by Alessandra Belloni as well as Opera Circle (OH), founded by Dorota Sobieska. Sabatino has taught at many universities including, Marymount Manhattan College, California Institute of the Arts, Dowling College, Akron University and Kent State University. Sabatino and Barbara as well as the Verlezza Dance Company are honored to be part of the ‘NO BOUNDARY’ concert Mather Dance Center.

## Performers

**Jennifer Birou-Lakamp** (*Dancer*) earned her bachelor's in performing arts at The University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) where she studied under Sarah Stravinska and Kenneth Jenkins, and after graduation was able to teach as an adjunct dance instructor. She has choreographed and performed in numerous works for *An Evening of Dance*, and *State of La Danse* concerts at ULL. Jennifer spent a year with the Baton Rouge, LA based company, Of Moving Colors, before coming to Case to pursue her graduate work in dance.

**Dave Burrington** (*Dancer*), a graduating Kent State University BFA Dance Performance major, began his dance career at age five at the Cleveland Ballet School of Dance. Five years later, he was introduced to the figure skating world, ultimately acquiring the title of 2004 National Colligate Men's Novice Champion while skating for the University of Delaware. The founders of Verlezza Dance inspired him to become a dance major when he arrived at KSU. Dave hopes to continue performing with Verlezza Dance and other contemporary dance and classical modern companies, as well as those infused with fashion and visual art.

**Danielle Dowler** (*Dancer*) is a third year undergraduate student at Case Western Reserve University. She is pursuing degrees in both Dance and Psychology. While at Case, Ms. Dowler has been privileged to perform in the heralded works *Panorama* and *Heretic* by Martha Graham, Erick Hawkins’ *Daughters of Okeanos*, in *Fields of Motion* by guest artist and Case Alumnae Nina Nelson, in Pascal Rioult’s *Wien* and in MaDaCol concerts in works by Sheau-Feng Luo. She is also an active officer and participant of several Case Dance Clubs including the Spartan Tappers and the Swing Club.