2014-2015 Season Brochure

Office of Arts + Cultural Programming

PEAK Performances at Montclair State University

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Alexander Kasser Theater Celebrating 10 Years of Creation Without Compromise
On October 7th, 2004, Mikhail Baryshnikov stepped onto the Alexander Kasser Theater stage in a wholly original work. His entrance was the first ever by an artist onto the Kasser stage. In the ten years since that moment, many artists from around the world have performed and created new works for Peak Performances. Artists of note and artists of promise have realized works reflecting each one’s singular imagination. And we are proud to say this has been accomplished without compromise.

Conventional wisdom might say that the user defines the space. Yet the Alexander Kasser Theater is not a conventional theater, as it was designed for both audience and artist to flourish - spacious for performing while intimate for appreciation.

The 14/15 season reflects a philosophy that has become the hallmark of Peak Performances and its home, the Kasser: discovery is the heartbeat of creative life.

Celebrate the unique synergy of artist and audience made tangible by the Alexander Kasser Theater.

— Jedediah Wheeler
Executive Director, Arts & Cultural Programming

The 2014 | 15 Season at a Glance

Sept. 10 – 13
Richard Schechner | East Coast Artists
Imagining O

Sept. 17
Daniel C. Dennett
Why Are There Reasons?

Sept. 25 – 28
Liz Lerman
Healing Wars

Oct. 1
Richard Schechner
Valuing Live Performance in a Digital Age

Oct. 4 – 5
Scott Johnson | Alarm Will Sound
Mind Out of Matter

Oct. 12
Shanghai Quartet | Wu Han
Quintets by Dvořák and Schumann

www.peakperfs.org
For full cover photo credits, see inside back cover.
Oct. 16 – 19
The Symptoms | Réka Szabó
Apropos

Oct. 30 – Nov. 2
Richard Alston Dance Company
Dances Set to the Music of Benjamin Britten

Dec. 13
NPR’s From the Top Live
With Host Christopher O’Riley

Jan. 24 – Feb. 1
Robyn Orlin | Compagnie Jant-Bi
At the same time we were pointing a finger at you, we realized we were pointing three at ourselves…

Feb. 7
American Contemporary Music Ensemble | Roomful of Teeth
Works by Caroline Shaw, Gavin Bryars, and Henry Purcell

Feb. 8
Shanghai Quartet | Du Yun
Works by Beethoven, Ravel, and Du Yun

Feb. 12 – 15
ICKamsterdam
(Emio Greco | Pieter C. Scholten)
ROCCO

Mar. 26 – 29
Robert Whitman
Swim

Apr. 16 – 19
Heidi Latsky Dance
Triptych

May 10
Repast Baroque Ensemble
La Madonna

June 18 – 21
Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company
Analogy*

*working title

Alexander Kasser Theater
One Normal Ave., Montclair, New Jersey 07043
Theater

All Seats $20
WORLD PREMIERE

Richard Schechner
Benjamin Mosse
Roanna Mitchell
East Coast Artists

Imagining O

Conceived by Richard Schechner
Directed by Richard Schechner and Benjamin Mosse
Choreography & Movement Direction by Roanna Mitchell
Environments by Chris Muller
Costumes by Oana Botez
Films and Photographs by Matt Bockelman
Additional Films by Jake Juba

How better to celebrate the Kasser Theater’s 10th anniversary than with a world premiere that makes the entire facility its stage? In the latest devised work from maverick director and pioneering founder of The Performance Group Richard Schechner, nothing is off-limits as performers guide you through the space from stage to wings, dressing rooms to lobby. Imagining O – part theater, part dance, part installation art – investigates sexuality and artistry, abjection and power as imagined by Hamlet’s Ophelia, O from Pauline Réage’s Story of O, and the ensemble.

LIMITED SEATS! 90 minutes, no intermission. General admission. The audience will stand and move about throughout the performance. The performance is wheelchair accessible. For more information, call the box office at 973-655-5112. PLEASE NOTE: the production contains nakedness and adult themes.

Engage!

Richard Schechner
Valuing Live Performance
in a Digital Age

Oct. 1 - 7:00 p.m.


There is no charge for this event, but tickets are required.

Learn more about Richard Schechner and East Coast Artists
www.eastcoastartists.org

973-655-5112 | www.peakperfs.org

Produced by Peak Performances @ Montclair State (NJ). Imagining O began as a work-in-progress in 2011 at the University of Kent, Canterbury, UK, where Richard Schechner was in residence as a Leverhulme Fellow, and in 2012 at the International Theatre Festival of Kerala, Thrissur, Kerala, India. General Management for East Coast Artists by Sarah Lucie.

Krysta Dennis and company in Imagining O. Photo by Ken Pias. Inset: Richard Schechner. Photo by Sophie Proust.
“Lerman has created something brilliant and incisive here, something that should be seen and felt.” – THE BALTIMORE SUN

All Seats $20
Healing Wars was commissioned by The George Washington University. The development of Healing Wars has been made possible by the Maggie Alissee National Center for Choreography at Florida State University. Production support provided by Peak Performances @ Montclair State (NJ). The presentation of Healing Wars was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts’ National Dance Project with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts.
Music

Scott Johnson

All Seats $20
WORLD PREMIERE

Scott Johnson
Alarm Will Sound

Mind Out of Matter

Composed by Scott Johnson  Performed by Alarm Will Sound (Conducted by Alan Pierson)
Featuring the sampled voice of Daniel C. Dennett

What are the origins of religion and supernatural ideas in human consciousness and culture, and how do they evolve into our religious traditions? Groundbreaking composer Scott Johnson’s newest work, *Mind Out of Matter*, approaches this and other perennial questions of human existence with a lively, rock-infused musical sensibility. Inspired by the ideas of renowned philosopher Daniel C. Dennett, Johnson weaves Dennett’s recorded voice into a rich instrumental score performed by Alarm Will Sound, an adventurous 20-member band acclaimed by *The New York Times* as “one of the most vital and original ensembles on the American music scene.”

75 minutes, no intermission

Engage!

**Why Are There Reasons? A Lecture by Daniel C. Dennett**

*Presented in collaboration with Montclair State University’s Department of Philosophy and Religion*

Sept. 17 – 3:00 p.m.
University Hall, Room 1070

Learn more about the fascinating ideas that inspired *Mind Out of Matter* when renegade philosopher Daniel C. Dennett, author of *Breaking the Spell* and *Darwin’s Dangerous Idea*, visits campus to speak about how Darwin’s insights sketch the path from a purposeless world of cause and effect—but no function, no reasons—to the purposeful, reason-drenched world we inhabit today.

This event is free and open to the public. No tickets are required.

Learn more about Daniel C. Dennett at [www.ase.tufts.edu/cogstud/dennett](http://www.ase.tufts.edu/cogstud/dennett)

Learn more about Scott Johnson at [www.scottjohnsoncomposer.com](http://www.scottjohnsoncomposer.com)
Alarm Will Sound and Alan Pierson at [www.alarmwillsound.com](http://www.alarmwillsound.com)

973-655-5112 | [www.peakperfs.org](http://www.peakperfs.org)

The creation of *Mind Out of Matter* was supported by New Music USA and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, with additional production support from Peak Performances @ Montclair State (NJ).

Inset: Daniel C. Dennett. Photo by Phil Wickens.
Music

Wu Han

All Seats $20
The internationally-acclaimed Shanghai Quartet is joined by pianist Wu Han, artistic director of Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and one of the most esteemed classical musicians in the world today, for a program including Dvořák’s ebullient, exuberant Second Piano Quintet, Schumann’s Piano Quintet in E-flat Major, op. 44, and Haydn’s String Quartet in D Major, op. 20, no. 4.
All Seats $20
With trademark playfulness and wit, The Symptoms, Hungary’s premiere contemporary dance/theater company, ponders the critical questions of aging. When will I lose my virginity? Will I find work I love? How do I balance work with parenthood? Do I have enough money to retire? How long will I keep my looks? Will I ever have sex again? The Symptoms’ clear-eyed, kind-hearted response to our human vulnerabilities is poignant, funny, and brave. Don’t miss the American debut of this highly original troupe.

90 minutes, one intermission. PLEASE NOTE: This production is performed in English. It contains nudity and adult themes.
Dance

Learn more about Richard Alston Dance Company at www.richardalstondance.com

105 minutes, two intermissions

973-655-5112 | www.peakperfs.org

Rejoice in the Lamb was commissioned by The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury, with production support from Peak Performances @ Montclair State (NJ).

Unfinished Business Duet was commissioned by Octagon Theatre, Yeovil.

Holderlin Fragments was commissioned by the Barbican Centre, London.

All Seats $20

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Artistic Director Richard Alston
Choreography by Richard Alston Music by Benjamin Britten and W.A. Mozart with Nicholas Phan, tenor Jason Ridgway, piano
American Contemporary Music Ensemble (Clarice Jensen, Artistic Director)
Vocal Accord (Dr. Heather J. Buchanan, Director)

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Music

All Seats $20
Concert pianist and Peak Performances favorite Christopher O’Riley returns with a live recording of NPR’s *From the Top*, which *The Boston Globe* called “an unpretentious mix of the ridiculous and the sublime...[Featuring] an entertaining, accessible and often inspirational mix of outstanding musical performances, informal interviews, skits and games, the show is a celebration of extraordinary musicians who happen to be teenagers leading fairly normal lives.” The whole family will enjoy seeing this beloved radio program come together on the stage of the Alexander Kasser Theater.

Learn more about *From the Top Live* at [www.fromthetop.org](http://www.fromthetop.org)

Christopher O’Riley at [www.christopheroriley.com](http://www.christopheroriley.com)

90 minutes, no intermission

973-655-5112 | [www.peakperfs.org](http://www.peakperfs.org)

From the Top is an independent non-profit organization headquartered in Boston. From the Top’s radio program is made possible through grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation and support from U.S. Trust. It is also supported through the generous contributions of individuals and institutions as well as public radio stations. From the Top’s founding partners are New England Conservatory and WGBH.

All photos courtesy of From the Top.
Dance/Theater

All Seats $20
Provocative South African choreographer Robyn Orlin returns to Peak Performances after the success of 2011’s exuberant *Walking next to our shoes…* For her latest work, she joins forces with Germaine Acogny’s famed Compagnie Jant-Bi, a touchstone of new and traditional African dance in Dakar, to investigate the charged and often taboo issue of the human body itself. Questioning standards of ugliness and beauty, illness and health, Orlin places the body itself at the heart of the debate, revealing the range of pressures to which it is subjected, especially in the African context.

A Piece by Robyn Orlin
Performed by the Dancers of Compagnie Jant-Bi (Germaine Acogny, Artistic Director)
Assistant Choreographer Shush Ténin  Lighting by Laïs Foulc  Video by Aldo Lee
Costumes by Birgit Neppl  Scenography by Robyn Orlin in collaboration with Maciej Fiszer

AMERICAN PREMIERE

Robyn Orlin (South Africa)
Compagnie Jant-Bi (Sénégal)

At the same time we were pointing a finger at you, we realized we were pointing three at ourselves…

Learn more about Compagnie Jant-Bi at www.jantbi.org

973-655-5112 | www.peakperfs.org

A production of City Theatre and Dance Group, Damien Valette, producer. Co-produced by La Halle aux Grains, Scène nationale de Blois, Festival Rayons Frais, Tours; L’Opéra de Lille; Le Théâtre de la Ville, Paris; Les Treize Arches; Scène conventionnée de Brive; Les Théâtres de la ville de Luxembourg. Additional production support is provided by Région Centre (France). École des Sables provided a residency at Toubab Dialaw for the work’s development.

At the same time… Photo by Christophe Raynaud de Lage. Inset: Robyn Orlin. Photo by Marie-Pierre Moinet.
Music

Caroline Shaw

All Seats $20
Ask Caroline Shaw – composer, violinist, vocalist, and now youngest-ever recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for Music – to program a concert for the two ensembles with which she performs, and what do you get? An incredible evening of music that celebrates the works of three breathtakingly original composers, including Shaw’s own Partita for 8 Voices, declared a “dazzling, emotionally generous take on a Baroque dance suite” by The New York Times; the world premiere of a new version of her multimedia tour de force, Ritornello, featuring elements of American hymnody and Baroque music; Gavin Bryars’ heartrending Jesus’ Blood Never Failed Me Yet; and the intense, introspective glory of Henry Purcell’s fantasias.
“If there is a string quartet currently in circulation that produces a more beautiful sound than the Shanghai Quartet, the name doesn’t immediately come to mind.”

–The New York Times

Shanghai Quartet

All Seats $20
WORLD PREMIERE

Shanghai Quartet

Works by Beethoven, Ravel, and Du Yun

The New York Times called Shanghai Quartet’s performance of the Ravel String Quartet in F Major “passionate…driven, elegant and nuanced.” In this program, the Quartet pairs it with Beethoven's String Quartet no. 12 in E-flat Major, op. 127, and the world premiere of a new work by acclaimed young composer Du Yun. Tentatively titled Tattooed in Snow, the new work is inspired by the temporary and fragile crystallization of art in nature and in space, as well as by chant and poetry.

Feb. 8 – 3:00 p.m.

Shanghai Quartet
Weigang Li, Violin
Yi-Wen Jiang, Violin
Honggang Li, Viola
Nicholas Tzavaras, Cello

Learn more about the Shanghai Quartet at www.shanghaiquartet.com
Du Yun at www.channelduyun.com

105 minutes, including one intermission

973-655-5112 | www.peakperfs.org

Tattooed in Snow was commissioned by Peak Performances © Montclair State (NJ).
Shanghai Quartet. Photo by Xiao Dong.Inset: Du Yun.
Dance

All Seats $20

Emilio Greco
The North American tour of ROCCO is produced by MAPP International Productions. The world premiere of ROCCO took place in 2011 at ImpulsTanz, Austria. Emio Greco | Pieter C. Scholten forms the artistic core of the International Choreographic Arts Centre (ICKamsterdam). ICKamsterdam is supported by the Performing Arts Fund NL and the municipality of Amsterdam.

WORLD PREMIERE

Robert Whitman

Swim

Performance pioneer Robert Whitman is always at the vanguard of theater and art. With Swim, he creates an enchanting, thrillingly inventive new work that expands and heightens the theater experience by creating a rich environment of sound, movement, smells, and activities, in which the visual is only one part of the experience. According to Whitman, “an image, an object, a performer, or an action may not be seen, but it can be heard; it can be smelled; it can be perceived and felt; and in this shared experience the audience, sighted and blind, can be brought into a single community.”
“Latsky all but sets fire wherever she treads. The balance between thrashing, full-throttle dancing and control is astonishing. Ever heard of immaculate mayhem?”
— The New York Times

Dance

All Seats $20
Heidi Latsky is a choreographer who “beautifully resets preconceptions about bodies and movement” (The New Yorker). Ideas about beauty are often shaped by convention, but Latsky defies convention by exposing the gorgeous virtuosity of unconventional dancers’ bodies in motion in an edgy, intimate way. With Triptych, comprised of two live works and a new dance created especially for film, she celebrates the essence of individual dancers, exults in the pure joy of movement in a piece created for herself, as an “older dancer” at 56, dancing in juxtaposition with five younger dancers, and reveals the hidden beauty of all bodies.

Dance for Film on Location at Montclair State University makes its debut with the world premiere of Heidi Latsky’s short film. With support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the project will bring three outstanding choreographers and cinematographers to campus to collaborate on the creation of short dance films.

Learn more about Heidi Latsky Dance at www.heidilatskydance.com
973-655-5112 | www.peakperfs.org

Dance for Film on Location at Montclair State University is funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. This program is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and the Harkness Foundation for Dance. Developed in residence at the Alexander Kasser Theater at Montclair State University.

Jeffrey Freeze and Heidi Latsky. Still image from film by Zachary Halberd. Inset: Heidi Latsky. Photo by Darial Sneed.
Music

All Seats $20
A Baroque celebration of Mother’s Day and motherhood! Repast Baroque Ensemble, a group of “practiced period perfectionists” whose articulate, spirited playing has won rave reviews, has created a program of works in praise of motherhood. From Biber’s 
*Annunciation* sonata to Purcell’s *Blessed Virgin’s Expostulation*, all the works on this program, played by some of the finest instrumentalists on period instruments, will honor the mothers among us.

**Core Trio**
- Amelia Roosevelt, Baroque Violin
- John Mark Rozendaal, Baroque Cello
- Avi Stein, Harpsichord

**Featured Guests**
- Claire Jolivet, Baroque Violin
- Jessica Troy, Baroque Viola
- Laura Heimes, Soprano

Learn more about Repast Baroque Ensemble at [www.repastbaroque.org](http://www.repastbaroque.org)  
85 minutes, no intermission

973-655-5112 | [www.peakperfs.org](http://www.peakperfs.org)  
Assumption of the Virgin by Guido Reni. Repast Baroque Ensemble members Avi Stein, Amelia Roosevelt, and John Mark Rozendaal. Photo by Peter Karl.
Dance

All Seats $20
WORLD PREMIERE

Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company

Analogy*

Conceived and Directed by Bill T. Jones
Choreographed by Bill T. Jones with Janet Wong and the Company
Original Score Composed by Nick Hallett  Text by W.G. Sebald and Dora Amelan
Décor by Bjorn Amelan Lighting Design by Robert Wierzel Costumes by Liz Prince
Video Design by Janet Wong Associate Set Design by Solomon Weisbard

Two-time Tony winner and National Medal of Arts recipient Bill T. Jones’ long affiliation with Peak Performances has produced some of his most profoundly moving works, including the highly acclaimed Blind Date (2005) and the widely celebrated Story/Time (2011). Analogy*, his new evening-length piece, draws on two tales that question the nature of service, duty, and what constitutes a life well lived: W.G. Sebald’s celebrated historical novel The Emigrants and Jones’ own oral history of Dora Amelan, a French Jewish nurse and social worker who survived World War II. Focusing on memory and the effect of powerful events on the actions and inner lives of individuals, Jones continues his exploration of how text, storytelling, and movement pull and push against each other. The outstanding company dances, sings, and speaks in this evocative, inspirational new performance.

*working title

Learn more about Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company at www.newyorklivearts.org

973-655-5112 | www.peakperfs.org

Commissioned by Peak Performances @ Montclair State (NJ), Co-commissioned by Dancers’ Workshop, Developed in residence at the Alexander Kasser Theater at Montclair State University, Bard College, and Dancers’ Workshop in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Analogy (working title) is produced by New York Live Arts. The development of new works by the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company is made possible by the Company’s Partners in Creation: Ellen Poss, Jane Bovingdon Semel & Terry Semel; Anne Delaney; Stephen & Ruth Hendel; Eleanor Friedman; and Zoe Eskin.

Office of Arts and Cultural Programming

The Office of Arts and Cultural Programming (ACP) at Montclair State University provides a place for important artists to create and perform innovative works, produced and presented through its Peak Performances series. ACP aims to provide unique theatrical experiences that foster both creativity and learning for on-campus and community audiences throughout the academic year. In collaboration with Montclair State faculty and staff, as well as community-based cultural organizations, ACP offers master classes, workshops, lectures, and discussions designed to provide participants with a deeper understanding of the aesthetic, cultural, and social contexts of the performances presented.

Engage!

ACP's Cultural Engagement program involves students, faculty, and community members in creative and intellectually stimulating education events that connect audiences with artists from around the globe. Share reflections and comments with artists and fellow audience members at a post-performance Community Conversation, get a behind-the-scenes peek into some of our most exciting and challenging productions at a pre-show Sneak Peek, or mix and mingle with the artists at an informal lobby reception. Ask a question, get an insider's view, learn the story behind the story. All engagement events are free and open to the public. For updates throughout the season, visit www.peakperfs.org.

Peak Performances
The 2014 | 15 Season
Creative Thinking

A partnership between ACP and Montclair State’s Research Academy for University Learning, the Creative Thinking project draws on Peak Performances artists to explore how creativity can be integrated into the curriculum to ignite innovation and critical thinking across disciplines as varied as the performing arts, math and science, humanities, and business. The cornerstone of the project is the Creative Thinking course (CRTH-151), now in its fourth academic year. The course is based on the core premise that it is possible to develop tools and approaches to foster innovative thinking. Faculty from multiple departments lead the class in hands-on activities designed to help students synthesize an experiential and theoretical understanding of creative processes. Past guests have included such unique artists as choreographer Liz Lerman, director Robert Wilson, and musician Laurie Anderson. For more on Creative Thinking, visit www.peakperfs.org/creativethinking.

Dance for Film on Location at Montclair State University

This unique project, supported by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, pairs three outstanding choreographers with three gifted cinematographers during a year-long residency at Montclair State University, where they will work as artistic co-pilots to create dances especially for film.

College of the Arts – Daniel Gurskis, Dean

In addition to the professional programs featured in this book, Montclair State’s College of the Arts presents a full season of dance, theater, and music events that are open to the public. Tickets and more information can be found at www.peakperfs.org.
How To Order Tickets

EVERY PERFORMANCE, EVERY SEAT - $20

ONLINE: www.peakperfs.org
PHONE: 973-655-5112

IN PERSON:
Box Office
Alexander Kasser Theater
Montclair State University
One Normal Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07043

BOX OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Friday: noon-6:00 p.m.
On Performance Dates: 10:00 a.m. until curtain

AUDIENCE SERVICES:
boxoffice@mail.montclair.edu

TICKET POLICIES
• All performances, dates, and times are subject to change.
• There is a $3 handling fee per ticket for telephone or online orders.
• There is a flat $10 handling fee per telephone order of ten (10) tickets or more.
• Tickets and all processing/handling fees are nonrefundable, except in the event of show cancellation.
• Subject to availability, tickets may be exchanged at the box office up to 24 hours prior to the originally purchased performance, with a $5 per ticket exchange fee.
• Latecomers will be seated solely at the discretion of the Alexander Kasser Theater management.
• No exchanges are allowed between the Peak Performances professional series programming (this brochure) and Peak Performances programming presented by Montclair State’s College of the Arts. See peakperfs.org for a full list of College of the Arts programming.

GETTING HERE
There are many convenient ways to get to the Alexander Kasser Theater, including direct weekday NJ Transit train service and weekend charter bus service from Manhattan. Visit peakperfs.org for more information, including details on directions and convenient parking.

SPECIAL SERVICES
• Special Seating: ADA accessible seating is available for all performances and events.
• Listening Assistive Devices: Wireless hearing enhancement systems are available free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis for all performances.
• Programs in large type are available free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis for all performances. Forty-eight hours’ notice is required.
• Other special requests will be accommodated whenever possible. Direct inquiries to Audience Services at 973-655-4010.

Special Thanks
Programs in this season are made possible in part by funds from:

The National Endowment for the Arts
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
The New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Dept. of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts
Discover Jersey Arts
The National Dance Project (NDP) of the New England Foundation for the Arts
Alison and James T. Cirenza
Robert and Holly Gregory
The Honorable Mary Mochary

COVER PHOTO LEGEND:

No charge for undergraduates with valid MSU ID for any of these performances!