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Dr. Susan A. Cole, President
Daniel Gurskis, Dean, College of the Arts
Jedediah Wheeler, Executive Director, Arts & Cultural Programming

World Premiere!

Liz Gerring Dance Company

glacier

Choreographer **Liz Gerring**
Composer **Michael J. Schumacher**
Production Designer **Robert Wierzel**
Associate Lighting Designer **Amith A. Chandrashaker**
Costume Designer **Márió Talán**
Production and Stage Manager **Bill Schaffner**
Rehearsal Assistants **Elizabeth DeMent** and **Heather Waldon**
Artistic Advisor **Irène Hultman Monti**
Executive Director, Liz Gerring Dance Company **Eric Rosenzweig**

Dancers **Benjamin Asriel, Brandon Collwes, Tony Neidenbach, Adele Nickel, Brandin Steffensen, Jake Szczepk, Jessica Weiss, Claire Westby**

glacier is commissioned by Peak Performances @ Montclair State (NJ).

Supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

glacier is an evening-length choreographic work for eight dancers based on composer Michael J. Schumacher's 2007–2012 work *Glacier*.

Duration: 1 hour, no intermission.

In consideration of both audience and performers, please turn off all electronic devices. The taking of photographs or videos and the use of recording equipment are not permitted. No food or drink is permitted in the theater.

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Montclair State's **Office of Arts & Cultural Programming** (ACP) presents and produces leading artists of the world in dance, music, theater, and opera. Under its signature series Peak Performances, ACP has produced works such as *Zinnias: The Life of Clementine Hunter* by Robert Wilson, Bernice Johnson Reagon, Toshi Reagon, and Jacqueline Woodson; *Dog Days* by David T. Little and Royce Vavrek; Harry Partch's *Oedipus*; and Ridge Theater's *The Difficulty of Crossing a Field* by David Lang. In addition, ACP has commissioned works by Bill T. Jones, Kronos Quartet, Jan Fabre, Liz Lerman, Wayne McGregor, Laurie Anderson, Romeo Castellucci, Richard Alston, Susan Marshall, Fred Hersch, and David Gordon.

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To view our complete season and for more information, visit peakperfs.org.



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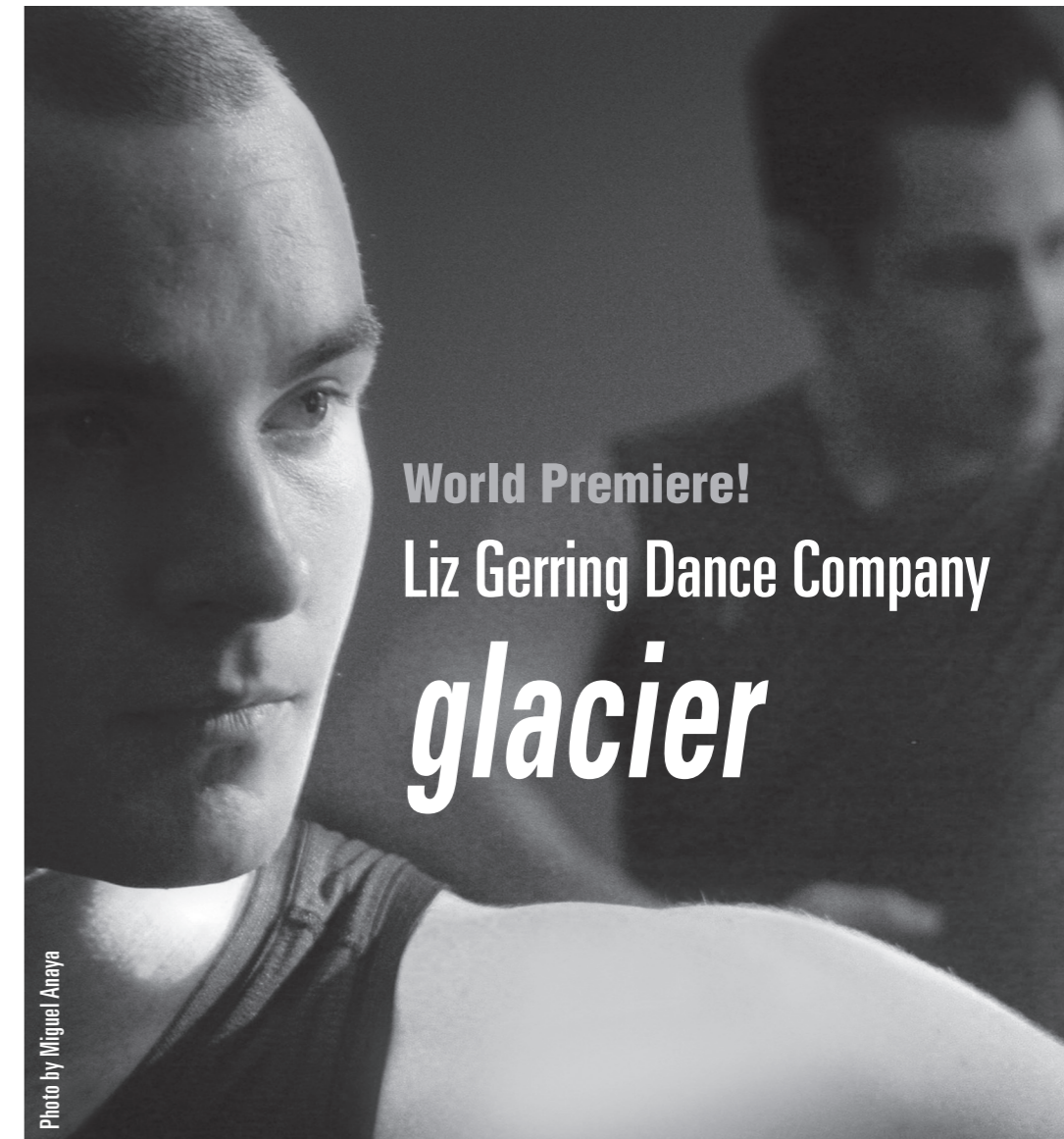


Photo by Miguel Anaya

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glacier

September 19–22, 2013
Alexander Kasser Theater



MONTCLAIR STATE
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Program Notes

I began making this work with a series of gestures: the simple strung movements, initially of hands and arms, transposing my ideas to a sequence of images. Gradually the work unfolded, gestures expanding into fuller body realizations, into a layering of movement as it gathered momentum. I really felt simultaneously both the solidity and the evanescence inside the sound score and used that as we developed the work in residence at the large space of the Alexander Kasser Theater at Montclair State.

My primary concern in choreographing is representing relationships. Behind every piece are hints of my own experience—love, lust, despair, anger, aggression, defeat, and triumph are all present in the movement. Nonetheless, I am most interested in the body and its presentation through space and time, irrespective of plot.

—*Liz Gerring, Choreographer*

Glacier originated during a summer stay at filmmaker Fred Worden's place near Glacier Lake in Nederland, Colorado. This is a secluded cabin situated deep in the woods. I collected sounds, mostly of the lake (wavelets lapping, pebbles tossed) and the wind, insects, some birds, hiking along leaf- and rock-strewn paths, some localities in town and in Boulder. I used these field recordings combined with guitar, piano, harp, cello, clarinet, recorder, and other sounds to build what was initially an algorithmic installation work. Gradually the work was adapted and transformed, in collaboration with the choreography and Robert Wierzel's lighting and set design.

—*Michael J. Schumacher, Composer*

About the Artists

Liz Gerring (Choreographer) was born in San Francisco in 1965. She grew up in the Los Angeles area and began studying dance at age 13. In high school she studied dance at the Cornish Institute in Seattle. In 1987 she received a BFA from The Juilliard School, where she studied with Kazuko Hirabayashi and Doris Rudko. She has been working as a choreographer in New York since 1993. In March 1998, she presented her first piece, a four-hour movement installation. Since then, the Liz Gerring Dance Company has presented work at the Baryshnikov Arts Center, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Danspace Project, the Connelly Theater, The Kitchen, Engine 27, and other venues, both in New York City and nationally.

Michael J. Schumacher (Composer) is a composer, performer, and installation artist based in New York City who works predominantly with electronic and digital media, specializing in computer-generated sound environments that evolve continuously for long time periods. Multiple-speaker configurations relate the sounds of the installation to the architecture of the exhibition space; architectural and acoustical considerations become basic structural elements. His *Living Room Piece* was installed in an apartment at the Chelsea Hotel from August 2008 to May 2010. XI Records has published a set of five of his sound installations as computer applications, playable on up to eight speakers, to create sound environments in the home. *Grid*, a computer-generated score that unfolds in real time, has been in exhibitions in New York, Barcelona, and Houston. In 2007 Schumacher and Nisi Jacobs began DRAW, an audio/video performance group that creates immersive live sets based on collaborative compositions with other artists. Schumacher has lectured at Bard College, The New School, the School of Visual Arts, and Juilliard. He has taught piano, composition, theory, and ear training privately since 1983. He currently teaches at the Polytechnic Institute of New York University in Brooklyn.

Robert Wierzel (Production Designer) has worked as a lighting designer with artists from diverse disciplines and backgrounds in theater, dance, contemporary music, museums, and opera on stages throughout the country and abroad. Wierzel has a long collaboration (26 years) with choreographer and director Bill T. Jones and the Bill T. Jones/Armie Zane Dance Company. His other dance collaborations include works with choreographers Doug Varone, Larry Goldhuber and Heidi Latsky, Seán Curran, Molissa Fenley, Donna Uchizono, Alonzo King, Charlie Moulton, Arthur Aviles, Margo Sappington, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and the Trisha Brown Dance Company. He has also worked on productions with the opera companies of Paris-Garnier; Tokyo; Toronto; Bergen, Norway; Folk Opera, Sweden; New York City Opera; Glimmerglass Festival; Seattle; Boston Lyric; Minnesota; San Francisco; Houston; Washington; Virginia; Chicago Lyric; Montreal; Vancouver; Florida Grand; and Portland, among others. His theater work has been seen on and off Broadway, including the musical *Fela!* (2010, Eugene O'Neill Theatre; Tony Award nomination) and at the Royal National Theatre of London.

Amith A. Chandrashaker (Associate Lighting Designer) has theater/opera credits including *The Drawer Boy* (Soho Playhouse), *Middletown* (Atlantic Theater School), *Twelfth Night* (Mile Square Theatre), *Home for the Holidays* (Little Theatre on the Square), *World of Wires* (Jay Scheib/Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston), *A Lasting Impression* (4th Street Theatre), *Baal* (Hoi Polloi), *Carmen*, *La Bohème* and *Die Fledermaus* (New Jersey Association of Verismo Opera), *Rough Sketch* (59e59), *Angry Young Women...* (Players Theatre), *Measure for Measure* (NYU Tisch), and *Festenmacher* (Robert Woodruff/NYU Tisch). He has worked on dance premieres by Sidra Bell, Alexander Ekman, Aszure Barton, Kate Weare, Benoit-Swan Pouffer, and Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet. Television credits include NBC coverage of the 2012 Democratic

Convention, CNN, WNBC, SNY Sports, and MLS Soccer. He holds a BFA from Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts (2005) and an MFA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts (2012).

Márió Talán (Costume Designer) has nurtured her talents in design by working closely with many local artists, directors, and performers in New York City. Currently she is the wardrobe supervisor at The Juilliard School. Recent work includes coordinating costumes for *Secus* and *From Max and Three* by Ohad Naharin and an updated version of Jerome Robbins's *Opus Jazz* at The Juilliard School; *The Lady and the Unicorn* by Zack Winokur at the Greenwich Music Festival; designing *Reset* for Toy Oglivie in collaboration with choreographers Margie Gillis, Austin McCormick, and Harumi Terayama; *L'histoire du soldat* at the Ravinia Festival (2009); designing costumes for *Tracks that Loop and Record* by Michelle Mola at the Yard (2009); and *Composers and Choreographers* as well as senior productions with the Juilliard School Dance Division (2005–2013).

Bill Schaffner (Production and Stage Manager) first worked in technical theater for the Garden Theater Festival in Los Angeles, where his passion for working with dancers and performers was born. He designed lights and stage managed for the legendary punk performance artist Johanna Went. He moved to New York City in 1982 and started working with downtown performers. With his collaborators Tom Murrin, Jo Andres, Mimi Goese, and Dancenoise, he produced the *Full Moon Shows* at PS122. He designed lighting for the Bessie Award–winning shows of Judith Ren-Lay (*The Grandfather Tapes*), Dancenoise (*All the Rage*), and Paul Zaloom (*My Civilization*). He has worked in various capacities with Merce Cunningham, Nina Wiener, Pierre Dulaine and Yvonne Marceau, Alwin Nikolais and Murray Louis, Ballet Hispanico, Melinda Marquez, Yanira Castro, and Souleymane Badolo, among many others. He has played in the Kimo Theatre in Albuquerque, l'Opéra Garnier de Paris, Deutsches Schauspielhaus in Hamburg, Palais des Papes in Avignon, and a Kiwanis Club luncheon in Poughkeepsie, among many others.

Elizabeth DeMent (Rehearsal Assistant) was born in Ukiah, CA. She began her training with Mary Knight at the Mendocino Ballet Company and the Marin Ballet School. After receiving her BFA from The Juilliard School, DeMent began working as a freelance artist. She currently works with Big Dance Theater and Othershore. She has danced with the Liz Gerring Dance Company, Patrick Corbin Dance, the Metropolitan Opera Ballet, Peridance Ensemble, Stephen Petronio, and Jodi Melnick and has collaborated and performed with the string quartet Ethel. She has been associate choreographer to Annie-b Parson on several David Byrne projects, most recently *Here Lies Love* at the Public Theater and the tour of the album *Love This Giant* with David Byrne and St. Vincent.

Heather Waldon (Rehearsal Assistant) joined Boston Ballet at 16, where she performed works by George Balanchine, Maurice Béjart, Ralph Lemon, Mark Morris, and Twyla Tharp. Waldon was with Boston Ballet for seven years and then joined Hubbard Street Dance Chicago.

After leaving Chicago, she performed with Robert Moses (San Francisco), Arturo Fernandez (San Francisco), and Anna Myer (Boston). She is a founding member of the Seán Curran Company. Besides dancing for Seán Curran, Waldon was rehearsal director and then associate artistic director. She has also performed works by Liz Gerring, Molissa Fenley, Richard Move, Amy Cox, Molly Rabinowitz, and Karl Anderson. Waldon has taught at NYU, Connecticut College, Boston Conservatory, Alvin Ailey/Fordham, and many other universities. She also enjoys teaching for Dance for PD (Parkinson's) and continues to direct rehearsals for Seán Curran Company.

Irène Hultman Monti (Artistic Advisor) is a native of Sweden and a New York–based choreographer, teacher, and dancer. From 1983 to 1988, Hultman Monti was a member of the Trisha Brown Dance Company, where she also worked as rehearsal director from 2006 to 2009. In 1988, she created Irène Hultman Dance, receiving national and international recognition. Hultman Monti is the cofounder of Järna-Brooklyn, a Swedish-American cultural entity that encourages artistic experimentation and exchange. She is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship in Choreography and a Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts Award, among others. Hultman Monti served on the Bessie Committee (New York City Dance and Performance Award) and is serving on Danspace Project's Artist Advisory Board.

Benjamin Asriel (Dancer) grew up in Glasgow, KY, and studied music theory at Brown University (AB Music, 2003) and dance at NYU Tisch School of the Arts (MFA, 2006). In addition to Liz Gerring Dance Company, Asriel dances with Walter Dundervill, Juliana F. May/May Dance, and John Jasperse Projects. He has also performed with Kyle Abraham, Gerald Casel, Douglas Dunn, Milka Djordjevich, Daria Faiñ, Jack Ferver, Gabriel Forestieri, Headwaters Dance Company, John Jahnke/Hotel Savant, MiRo Dance, the Philadelphia Opera, Susan Rethorst, Antonio Ramos, Edisa Weeks, and Pavel Zustiak. In 2010/2011 Asriel was a Choreographic Fellow of New York City Ballet's New York Choreographic Institute, supported by Oregon Ballet Theater. His dances have been presented by Center for Performance Research, the Chocolate Factory Theater, Dance New Amsterdam, Movement Research at the Judson Church, The Tank, and Danspace Project.

Brandon Collwes (Dancer) trained at the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, the Creative and Performing Arts High School of Pittsburgh, The Juilliard School, and SUNY Purchase. He received scholarships at the Martha Graham Center for Contemporary Dance, Dance Theatre of Harlem, and twice at American Dance Festival. He joined the Merce Cunningham Dance Company in January 2006, where he danced until the company closed in December 2011. Collwes earned a 2012 Bessie Award for his participation in the final Merce Cunningham "Event" at the Park Avenue Armory. Since then he has worked with the Stephen Petronio Dance Company, Michael Clark, and Ian Spencer Bell; appeared in the Philadelphia Museum of Art's exhibition *Dancing Around the Bride*; and performed Merce Cunningham's role in *Second Hand* with the New World Symphony.

Tony Neidenbach (Dancer) has been a member of Liz Gerring Dance Company since 2008. He has been seen in *Montauk* (Baryshnikov Arts Center [BAC]), *Lichtung/Clearing* (BAC, City Center Fall for Dance), and *she dreams in code* (Z Space, BAC, Jacob's Pillow). Hailing from Gainesville, GA, Neidenbach came to New York City by way of the Musical Theatre/BFA program at Penn State University. He has worked regionally across the country at numerous theaters. In New York, he has performed in *Erotic Broadway*, the 2010 Fred Astaire Awards, the 2011 Tony Awards, *Broadway Bares XX*, and the off-Broadway production of *Naked Boys Singing!* He is currently on the Broadway First National Tour of *Anything Goes*.

Adele Nickel (Dancer) was born in Portland, OR, and received her early training at Oregon Ballet Theatre and San Francisco Ballet before moving to New York to pursue a career in modern dance. She has since worked with Noémie Lafrance, Karole Armitage, Patrick Corbin, Anne Zuerner, and Sarah Michelson, among others. Nickel holds a degree in creative writing from the New School and is currently studying to become an Alexander Technique teacher.

Brandin Steffensen (Dancer) holds a BFA in Modern Dance from the University of Utah. In addition to Liz Gerring Dance Company, he dances for Keely Garfield Dance and is the director of Underscore NYC. He has been creating dances and teaching since 2000. He travels with his solo adaptation of Deborah Hay's "News" and performs with Nancy Stark Smith and Mike Vargas. He has appeared in films *Walk Away Renee* and *Very Good Girls*. His own *Pentamodes* has been seen at many NYC venues. He has danced with Brian Brooks Moving Company, Tiffany Mills Company, Lawrence Goldhuber, Arthur Aviles, Cherylyn Lavagnino Dance, Christopher Williams, and others. He toured many of Alwin Nikolais's famous works with the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company of Salt Lake City before making New York City his home.

About the Company

Since its inception in 1998, **Liz Gerring Dance Company** has been exploring nonnarrative, abstract movement, often derived from natural gesture. Movement is evolved from cause and effect rather than storytelling and framed by independent media elements. The company is noted for its close collaboration with contemporary visual artists and a longtime association with electronic-music composer Michael J. Schumacher. In 2001, Gerring and Schumacher founded the nonprofit organization Tonalmotion Inc., dedicated to the creation and presentation of movement and sound art. Its activities include Diapason Gallery and the Liz Gerring Dance Company.

For more information about the Liz Gerring Dance Company, visit lizgerringdance.org.

Liz Gerring Dance Company is a program of Tonalmotion Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation.

Jake Szczypek (Dancer), originally from New Haven, CT, began his movement career studying gymnastics and springboard diving. Discovering dance in his teens, he went on to receive a BA in Dance from Sarah Lawrence College in 2007. As a freelance dancer in New York City, Szczypek has performed in the works of Neil Greenberg, David Dorfman, Ezra Caldwell, Doug Varone, Jeanine Durning, Twyla Tharp, and many others. In addition to Liz Gerring Dance Company, he can currently be seen dancing for Alison Chase Performance, Jody Oberfelder Dance Projects, Douglas Dunn & Dancers, White Wave/Young Soon Kim Dance Company, and Mary Seidman and Dancers and choreographing his own work for high school students in Westchester. He also competes as a masters springboard diver for Team New York Aquatics and poses as a figure model for Parsons and SVA.

Jessica Weiss (Dancer) was raised in Cheshire, CT, where she studied ballet and Doris Humphrey technique under the direction of Ernestine Stodelle and Gail Corbin. She studied dance at Sarah Lawrence College, the Limón Institute, and the NYU Tisch School of the Arts. In 2005, she graduated *magna cum laude* with a BA in Dance and Dance Writing from the Gallatin School of Individualized Study at NYU. She has performed and toured with several New York companies, including Douglas Dunn & Dancers, Nejlja Yatkin/NY2Dance, dance by Alan Danielson, and Jody Oberfelder Dance Projects. Weiss has been dancing with the inspiring and innovative Liz Gerring since March 2008.

Claire Westby (Dancer) is a native of Minnesota, where she studied at Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists and at Saint Paul City Ballet. She holds a BFA in Dance from the NYU Tisch School of the Arts with a minor in anthropology. She has worked with Cherylyn Lavagnino, Matthew Jenjeski, Uri Sands, Gus Solomons, Jr., and Gerald Casel. Recently Westby performed at the Whitney in Trisha Brown's retrospective and at the 92nd Street Y for The Weidman Foundation.

Acknowledgments

Liz Gerring would like to thank her dancers; collaborators Michael J. Schumacher, Amith A. Chandrashaker, Márió Talán, Bill Schaffner, and especially Robert Wierzel; the company's team, Eric Rosenzweig, Elizabeth DeMent, Heather Waldon, Irène Hultman Monti, and Philippe Cheng, and Miguel Anaya for his images these past years; much thanks to Ellen Jacobs. Stephen Sherrill, Michel Zaleski, Nancy Dalva, and Lawrence Gerring have provided support to the company in the development of the work. Special thanks to her family and husband, Kirk Radke.