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# **Double Vision**

Office of Arts + Cultural Programming

PEAK Performances at Montclair State University

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Credit: © Electronic Shadow

# Carolyn Carlson Company–CCN Roubaix Electronic Shadow

# **Double Vision**

October 14–17, 2010 Alexander Kasser Theater Montclair State University



Dr. Susan A. Cole, President
Dr. Geoffrey W. Newman, Dean, College of the Arts
Jedediah Wheeler, Executive Director, Arts & Cultural Programming

Peak Performances @ Montclair presents:

Carolyn Carlson Company–CCN Roubaix Electronic Shadow

# **Double Vision**

Choreography and Dance Carolyn Carlson Stage and Video Design Electronic Shadow (Naziha Mestaoui and Yacine Aït Kaci)

Original Music and Sounds Nicolas de Zorzi Lights Emma Juliard, Electronic Shadow Costumes Chrystel Zingiro Costume Sketches Crstof Beaufays Artistic Advisor Maud Margot Bigiani

Production Centre Chorégraphique National Roubaix Nord-Pas de Calais, iDEALiD, La Condition Publique

## **PROGRAM NOTES**

Double Vision is an interdisciplinary encounter between two artists: star choreographer Carolyn Carlson, whose creations portray a global, narrative, imaginary, and metaphorical world, and creative group Electronic Shadow, consisting of architect Naziha Mestaoui and director Yacine Aït Kaci, who fuse space and image to offer fresh ways of viewing of dance.

The fruit of this encounter, *Double Vision*, is a choreographic work that incorporates the entire stage, in which the body—in this case Carolyn Carlson's in a solo choreography—orchestrates a universe brought to life by technology. The stage becomes an extension of the movements so the only image is the stage itself, and the technology is transparent, making the viewing experience feel removed from reality. The show is an ode to the imaginary world, a double vision of reality, a visual and sound poem about how our perceptions interrelate, a vision beyond sight. Time and space fold and unfold in an eternal cycle, and the show represents a perceptible slice of this.

More than the synchronization of movement and image, the stage is brought alive by Carolyn Carlson's highly original movements. The space echoes the body, and the gigantic costumes become the skin of an image in perpetual motion.

Duration: I 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 inside the theater.

## **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

#### **Carolyn Carlson**

California-born Carolyn Carlson defines herself first and foremost as a nomad. From San Francisco Bay to the University of Utah, from the Alwin Nikolais company in New York to Anne Béranger's in France, from Paris Opera Ballet to Teatrodanza La Fenice in Venice, from the Théâtre de la Ville de Paris to Helsinki, from Cullberg Ballet to La Cartoucherie in Paris, from the Venice Biennale to Roubaix, Carlson is a tireless traveler, always seeking to develop and share her poetic universe.

She arrived in France in 1971, the beneficiary of Alwin Nikolais's ideas about movement, composition, and teaching. The following year, with *Rituel pour un rêve mort*, she wrote a poetic manifesto that defined an approach to her work that she has adhered to ever since: dance that is strongly oriented towards philosophy and spirituality. Carlson prefers the term "visual poetry" to "choreography" to describe her work. She creates works that express her poetic thoughts and a form of complete art within which movement occupies a special place.

For four decades, Carlson has had significant influence and success in many European countries. She played a key role in the birth of French and Italian contemporary dance through the GRTOP (theater research group) at Paris Opera Ballet and Teatrodanza at La Fenice.

She has created over 100 pieces, a large number of which are landmarks in the history of dance, including Density 21.5, The Year of the Horse, Blue Lady, Steppe, Maa, Signes, Writings on Water, and Inanna. In 2006, her work was rewarded with the first ever Golden Lion given to a choreographer by the Venice Biennale.

Today, Carolyn Carlson is director of two organizations: the Centre Chorégraphique National Roubaix Nord–Pas de Calais, which produces and tours shows all over the world, and the Atelier de Paris–Carolyn Carlson, an international center for master classes, residencies, and creating new works, which she founded in 1999.

#### **Electronic Shadow**

Naziha Mestaoui was born in 1975 in Brussels and has a diploma in Architecture (La Cambre, Brussels). She used to work in the field of architecture and urbanism, dealing with technologies. Yacine Aït Kaci was born in 1973 in Paris and studied graphic design, video, and multimedia (ENSAD). He had a career in cultural multimedia as designer and director (Le Louvre, DVD-Rom) and worked for French television. Mestaoui and Aït Kaci met in 2000 and decided to create a fusion between their

fields. Established in Paris in 2000, Electronic Shadow is a hybrid design platform based on research and innovation from both the artistic and technological points of view—a patented system based on space/image projection. This multidisciplinary approach allows innovative proposals that merge space and image, material and light, in diverse contexts from art to architecture, design, and scenography.

Electronic Shadow has many exhibitions to its credit (NY MoMA, Centre Georges Pompidou, Musée d'Art Moderne de la ville de Paris, La Villette, Künstlerhaus, Japan Media Art Festival, etc.) and has created applications from this artistic research in many different fields, including design (Giorgio Armani, Cassina, Boffi, and others) and museum scenography (Palais de la découverte, Cézanne 2006). In 2006 Electronic Shadow started to explore live performance and stage design with a new kind of show, merging choreography and image in collaboration with choreographer Carolyn Carlson (Double Vision). Electronic Shadow has won several international awards, including in 2005 the Grand Prix of Japan Media Art Festival. www.electronicshadow.com

#### Centre Chorégraphique National Roubaix Nord-Pas de Calais

The Centre Chorégraphique National Roubaix Nord-Pas de Calais was founded in Roubaix, northern France, in 1983 under the direction of Alfonso Catá. It comprises a dance company and a school and organizes a program of productions in Le Colisée theater and other venues in the Lille area.

Carolyn Carlson was appointed artistic director in December 2004 and immediately embarked on creating a host of new works, starting with a piece for seven dancers, a commission from the young Finnish choreographer Juha Marsalo, a show for young audiences, and a solo. All of these projects have been crowned with great success.

Today the company presents over 90 performances a year, ranking it in the top five national choreographic centers that tour the most in France and around the world. Every year over 50,000 spectators watch shows by the Centre Chorégraphique National Roubaix Nord–Pas de Calais.

Carolyn Carlson's drive has today positioned the Centre Chorégraphique National Roubaix Nord—Pas de Calais as a regional and European benchmark for both new works and formative projects. Examples of these are the Centre's participation in Valenciennes, Regional Capital of Culture 2007; the *Création Chorégraphique Nomade* project run by the UK dance company New Art Club throughout the Pas-de-Calais *département*; and the mentoring and support given to Roubaix choreographer Brahim Bouchelaghem.