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ROCCO

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

East Coast Premiere!
International Choreographic Arts Centre (ICKamsterdam)
ROCCO

Choreographers/Artistic and General Directors, ICKamsterdam **Emio Greco and Pieter C. Scholten**

Costume Designer **Clifford Portier**
Lighting Designer/Technical Director **Paul Beumer**

Performed by **Dereck Cayla, Quentin Dehayé, Edward Lloyd, Arnaud Macquet**

Technical Crew **Maarten Heijdra, Hugo van der Veldt**

Arts and Cultural Programming at Montclair State University is honored to have been awarded a 2015 Citation of Excellence from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts for achieving the highest standard of excellence as recognized by our peers.

The North American tour of *ROCCO* is produced by MAPP International Productions. The tour is supported in part by FPK/Fonds Podiumkunsten/Performing Arts Fund NL, The Netherlands–America Foundation, and by public funds from the Consulate General of The Netherlands in New York (dutchcultureusa.com).

The world premiere of *ROCCO* took place in 2011 at ImPulsTanz in Vienna, Austria. Emio Greco I Pieter C. Scholten form the artistic core of the International Choreographic Arts Centre (ICKamsterdam). ICKamsterdam is supported by the Performing Arts Fund NL and the municipality of Amsterdam.

Duration: 65 minutes, 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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The 2014/15 season is made possible in part by funds from:

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Peak Performances


THE 2014-15 SEASON

East Coast Premiere!

International Choreographic Arts Centre (ICKamsterdam)


ROCCO





February 12–15, 2015

Alexander Kasser Theater

 **MONTCLAIR STATE**
UNIVERSITY

Program Notes

The boxer, the dancer, the body. . .

“Boxing is dancing, a duel is a duet.”
—Joyce Roodnat, NRC Handelsblad

Boxing and ballet may seem at first sight to have little in common, but nothing could be farther from the truth. Extreme body control and an iron discipline are indispensable in both domains. *ROCCO* illustrates how the sport inspires the dance. In *ROCCO* we see two men locked in close combat. The relationship between the dancers is defined differently in each round. Perceptions of masculinity become fluid. The men in the ring are brothers as well as lovers, friends as well as enemies.

A similar force is shown in the film *Rocco e i suoi fratelli* (*Rocco and His Brothers*) by Luchino Visconti, from which *ROCCO* has drawn inspiration. The film tells a story about brotherly love, the struggle for a better existence, and the search for identity. The film shows five men who cling to each other in constantly changing ways. Widow Rosario Parondi moves from Lucania to Milan with her five sons. One of her boys, boxer Simone, begins a love affair with Nadia, a prostitute. Then his brother Rocco casts his eye on her. The conflict between the two boys tears the family apart, with all its consequences.

The fight among the brothers that Visconti portrays reaches farther than just their physical scuffles. In *Rocco e i suoi fratelli*, Visconti’s characters throw their bodies into the struggle to survive. Simone Parondi signs up as a

professional boxer, but in the end it is brother Rocco who achieves fame as a match boxer and thereby raises the whole family’s prestige. Visconti portrays boxing in his film as a sport of the lower classes that offers them a chance to rise socially.

As in *Rocco e i suoi fratelli*, a real battle unfolds in *ROCCO*—we are witness to a series of rounds (ding dong!) in which lightning-fast footwork is paired with tough right hooks. But just as the men in Visconti’s film are fighting for more than mere victory, the dancers’ bodies never just adopt poses on the stage or in the ring. The dance is like a lively discussion where everyone defends his own point of view. The body leads the way. The dancers are forced to try out different ways of relating to one another in a very short time, not just to their opponent but also to third parties—the audience, the spectators. In this way, *ROCCO*, like Visconti’s film, deals with opinions about people, about bodies, about men in our society today.

Ultimately, Visconti did not answer the question of whether Rocco and his brothers made the right choices. We also like to leave it up to you to decide how you regard the choices of our dancers. After all, is that not the difference between sports and the art of dance? Whereas in the boxing ring the fight goes on until a winner emerges, the dance is not expected to produce a winner. When one fighter is knocked out, all movement ceases.

—Emio Greco and Pieter C. Scholten,
Choreographers

About the Artists

International Choreographic Arts Centre (ICKamsterdam)

Emio Greco (Choreographer/Artistic and General Director, ICKamsterdam) (Italy) received his dance education at the Centre de Danse International Rosella Hightower in Cannes and danced with the Ballet Antibes in Côte d’Azur. From 1993 to 1996, Greco danced in works by visual artist and director Jan Fabre and from 1996 to 1998 collaborated with Japanese choreographer Saburo Teshigawara in various productions.

Pieter C. Scholten (Choreographer/Artistic and General Director, ICKamsterdam) (The Netherlands) studied drama and initially directed theater productions about historical characters like Oscar Wilde, Yukio Mishima, and Pier Paolo Pasolini. He also worked with several choreographers as a dance dramaturg. In 1995, he developed the *Dance Instants*, short “work-in-progress” projects for choreographers and dancers.

Since 1995, Emio Greco and Pieter C. Scholten have worked together in their joint search for new dance forms. They created their first joint work in 1996: the solo *Bianco*, which became the first part of the trilogy *Fra Cervello e Movimento* (between brain and movement). That same year they wrote a manifesto setting out seven principles of dance and their impact on the body and the spectator. They founded dance company Emio Greco I PC in 1996. From the beginning, they have been driven to be more than just a dance company: their company promotes a broader attitude toward the consciousness of the body. In 2009 this ambition gave rise to ICKamsterdam, which they jointly lead. The Centre strives for a continuous development and enrichment of dance and breaks through artistic barriers, producing dance productions by the in-house company (Emio Greco I PC), supporting emerging artists, and maintaining educational and research programs.

In this partnership, Greco and Scholten have created 17 productions, 12 dance performances, 2 dance films, an installation, a theater production, and an opera. Some of their past works include *Great Expectations* (2013), *Passione in Due* (2012), *Le Corps du Ballet* (2011), *Nardini Cascade* (2011), *You Para I Diso* (2010), *Beyond Seoul* (2009), (*Purgatorio*)

Popopera (2008), (*Purgatorio*) *In Visione* (2008), *The Assassin Tree* (2006), *Hell* (2006), *Orfeo ed Euridice* (2004), *Teorema* (2003), *Rimasta Orfano* (2002), and *Conjunto di Nero* (2001), to name a few. They have toured internationally to France, Italy, Spain, Germany, Finland, Russia, Hungary, Belgium, China, Korea, Australia, the United States, and Venezuela. Greco, Scholten, and ICKamsterdam’s body of work have consistently received numerous awards and accolades. The company and both directors are recognized around the world as leading voices in dance performance.

In 2013, ICKamsterdam was appointed as the City Dance Company of Amsterdam and is a major player in the international dance development of the city. In February 2014, Greco and Scholten were appointed artistic directors of the Ballet National de Marseille by French Minister of Culture Aurélie Filippetti.

The Company

Clifford Portier (Costume Designer) graduated from the Fashion Academy Charles Montaigne in Amsterdam. He specializes in men’s fashion and works as a designer and concept designer for various international fashion brands, including Mexx and Falke. In 2009, the urge to make a transition to couture prompted him to develop his own line, Maison Portier. His ingenious design has become a hallmark of ICKamsterdam.

Paul Beumer (Lighting Designer/Technical Director) began working as a theater technician and lighting and stage designer in 1984 with several companies in The Netherlands. In 1991, he enrolled at the Utrecht School of the Arts to study performance design, obtaining a bachelor’s degree in Performance Design in 1996. After finishing his studies, Beumer specialized in creating lighting designs for dance and puppetry. Throughout his career, he has collaborated with several groups and individuals, including Quade, Paiva, and Sarah Wookey. In 2000, he worked as a 3D designer at the Theatre Studies Department of the University of Amsterdam. Beumer has been involved with Emio Greco I PC since 2006. With ICKamsterdam, he has served as lighting designer and technical coordinator. He created lighting designs for several of the company’s productions, including *Beyond* and *ROCCO*.

Dereck Cayla (Dancer) studied at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris, graduating in 2008. In autumn 2008 he did a dance apprenticeship with Emio Greco and Pieter C. Scholten, during which he learned *Double Points: HELL* and was involved in the creation of *ROCCO*. Cayla joined ICKamsterdam in 2009; he works exclusively for the company and has toured internationally with them in several productions.

Quentin Dehaye (Dancer) studied at the École de Ballet Balletomania in Brussels and at the dance department of Codarts in Rotterdam, where he graduated in 2012. During his studies, Dehaye danced with Scapino Ballet Rotterdam, choreographer Ederson Rodrigues Xavier, and the Belgian National Opera, among others. Dehaye joined ICKamsterdam in 2012 and works exclusively for the company.

Edward Lloyd (Dancer) joined ICKamsterdam in 2014. He studied at Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance (UK), where he graduated in 2012. Between 2008 and 2012 Lloyd worked as a guest artist with Rambert Dance Company in Itzik Galili’s *A Linha Curva* and toured with the company as part of their *Seven for a Secret* tour. In January 2012 he joined the Henri Oguike Dance Company, with whom he toured nationally and internationally. As a freelancer in London, Lloyd also worked with Wayne Sleep, Lea Anderson, Robert Cohen, Les Child, and the Yorke Dance Project.

Arnaud Macquet (Dancer) studied at the École d’Arts (Annecy) and the École-Atelier Rudra Béjart, where he graduated in 2005. After two years at the Institut del Teatre in Barcelona, he joined the Noord Nederlandse Dans under the direction of choreographer Itzik Galili, and in 2010 he moved to Dansgroep Amsterdam with artistic directors Itzik Galili and Krisztina de Châtel, where he danced in pieces including *Sub*, *Bulletproof Mama*, *Six*, *Waltz*, and *Trip en Masse*. Macquet joined ICKamsterdam in 2013, working exclusively for the company, and has since toured internationally.

Maarten Heijdra (Technical Crew) got involved with technical work at age 14, using innate skills and natural abilities for lighting and sound design. After launching his own company providing design work for several theater companies in The Netherlands, he joined the Het Muziektheater of Amsterdam and pursued a

degree in Technical Theatre Arts at Media College Amsterdam, graduating in 2004. From 2002 through 2004, Heijdra managed lighting design at Het Muziektheater and was manager of theater operations through 2009, working on several of the company’s productions, including *Carmen*, *Tamerlano*, *Alcina*, *Rage d’Amours*, *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, and many others. In 2009, Heijdra launched his own business, Maarten H, as a freelance theater technician. In 2010 he joined ICKamsterdam, becoming one of the core theater technicians and playing pivotal roles on productions including *De Soprano’s*, *ROCCO*, *La Commedia*, *Addio alla Fine*, *Passione in Due*, and *Le Corps du Ballet*. Heijdra has toured with the company to Finland, Germany, Poland, Columbia, and Brazil.

Hugo van der Veldt (Technical Crew) joined ICKamsterdam as a technician intern in 2013 under the guidance of Paul Beumer. He also worked for the Stadsschouwburg Velsen as a volunteer for the technical crew of the Houtfestival Haarlem and Bevrijdingspop Haarlem. After graduating from the Mediacollege Amsterdam Podiumtechniek in 2014, he was promoted from intern to full-time technician at the company, continuing to work on all of its productions. Van der Veldt has been part of ICKamsterdam’s productions of *De Soprano’s* (2014), *ROCCO* (2012), *La Commedia* (2013), *Double Points: Verdi* (2013), *Passione in Due* (2012), and *One Man without a Cause* (2014) and has toured with the company throughout The Netherlands.

MAPP International Productions

MAPP International Productions is a nonprofit producer of challenging new works by contemporary performing artists whose projects raise critical consciousness and motivate social change. It is a singular organization that supports all phases of an artist’s creative process, from concept and production to premiere and touring, while also engaging audiences in the issues behind the art. Through this heightened focus, MAPP International supports an evolving and elite cadre of creators whose work ignites communities worldwide. Since its founding in 1994, MAPP International has produced 33 acclaimed multidisciplinary performing arts projects created and performed by more than 300 artists and toured to 42 US states and 16 countries. MAPP International has introduced the American public to artists from 25 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, Australia, and the Caribbean. mappinternational.org

Dancing a Film: A Conversation with the Choreographers February 17 | 6:30pm | Memorial Auditorium

Join Emio Greco, Pieter C. Scholten, and the ICKamsterdam dancers for a discussion with Dr. Teresa Fiore (Inserra Chair, Montclair State) on the relationship between *ROCCO* and Luchino Visconti’s operatic 1960s film *Rocco and His Brothers*.
RSVP at tinyurl.com/DanceaFilm.

Presented in collaboration with the Inserra Chair in Italian and Italian American Studies, Film Studies Program, and Amici Italian Club at Montclair State University.