ROCCO

Office of Arts + Cultural Programming

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

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

Costume Designer Clifford Parlier
Lighting Designer/Technical Director Paul Beumer

Performed by Dereck Cayla, Quentin Dehaye, Edward Lloyd, Amaud Marquet
Technical Crew Maarten Heijdra, Hugo van der Veldt

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 "Oedipus: The Life of Clementine Hunter" by Robert Wilson, Berenice Johnson Reagon, Toshi Reagon, and Jacqueline Woodson; "Zinnias:" by David T. Little and Royce Vavrek; Harry Partch’s "Oedipus" and Ridge Theater’s "The Difficulty of Crossing a Field," directed by David Lang. In addition, ACP has commissioned works by Will T. Jenkins, Kriese Quartet, Jan Faire, Liz Leeman, Wayne McGregor, Laurie Anderson, Romeo Castellucci, Richard Alston, Susan Marshall, Fred Hersch, and David Gordon.

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 MAPF 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. Enio Greco & Pieter C. Scholten form the artistic core of the International Choreographic Arts Centre (ICKamsterdam). ICKamsterdam is supported by the Performing Arts Fund NL, The Netherland–America Foundation, and by public funds from the Consulate General of The Netherlands in New York (dutchcultureusa.com).

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.

To view our complete season and for more information, visit peakperfs.org.
The boxer, the dancer, the body.

“Boxing is dancing, a duel is a duel.”
—José Raudart, Narcos 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 clash with each other in constant conflict. The boxer Simone, begins a love affair with Nadia, a Widow Rosario Parondi moves from Lucania to Rome. She 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.

In Rocco e i suoi fratelli, a real battle unfolds in ROCCO—we are witness to a series of rounds (ring dong) in which lightning-fast footwork is paired with rough hooks. But just as the men in Visconti’s film are fighting for more than just 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

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 (Innsbruck Chair in Multicultural Theater) on the relationship between ROCCO and Luchino Visconti’s operatic 1985 film Rocco and His Brothers.
RSVP at inyart.org/DanceAFilm

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

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 1989 to 1996, Greco danced with the historical 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 at educational 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 Instant, 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 performance forms. They created their first joint work in 1996: the solo Blanco, which became the first part of the trilogy Fio Cervelo e Movimento (between brain and movement). That same year they wrote a manifesto setting out seven principles of dance and their interplay on the body and the spectator. They founded dance company Emio Greco | PC in 1996. From the beginning, the dancers have 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 the body through its body, barriers, producing dance productions by the in-house company (Emio Greco | 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), Passion in Due (2012), Le Corps du Ballet (2011), Nardini Cascate (2011), You Pays I Diso (2010), Beyond Seoul (2009), (Poggiotto) Popopera (2006), (Poggiotto). In Violence (2008), The Assassin Tree (2006), Hello Devil (2004), Evocir (2004), Terzo (2003), Rimasta Orfano (2002), and Conjunto de Nero (2001), to name a few. They have toured internationally to France, Italy, Spain, Germany, Finland, 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 Porter (Costume Designer) graduated from the Fashion Academy Charles Montague in Amsterdam. He specializes in making costumes which work as a 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 Porter. His ingenious design has become a hallmark of ICKamsterdam.

Paul Beuver (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 1993. After finishing his studies, Beuver specialized in creating lighting designs for dance and puppetry. Throughout his career, he has collaborated with several groups and individuals, including Guadé, Pava, and Sarah Wockey. In 2003, he worked as a 3D designer at the Theater Studies Department of the University of Amsterdam. Beuver has been involved with Emio Greco | PC since 2006. Since 2005, he has been ICKamsterdam’s lighting designer and technical coordinator. He created lighting designs for several of the company’s productions, including Beyond and ROCCO.

Derek Cayla (Dancer) studied at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris, graduating in 2001. In 2002 she was selected for the company’s production of Visconti’s Rocco e i suoi fratelli. In 2003, she joined the company and specializes in creating visually exciting lighting design for theater and opera productions.

The Company

Maarten Heijdra (General Manager) joined ICKamsterdam in 2013 and has been involved with technical work at age 14, using innate skills and natural abilities for lighting and sound design. Since after launching his own company providing design work for several theater companies in The Netherlands, he joined the National de Marseille by French Minister of Culture Aurélie Filippetti. Heijdra has toured with the company to Finland, Germany, Poland, Columbia, and Brazil.

Hugo van der Velt (Technical Crew) joined ICKamsterdam as a technician intern in 2013 under the guidance of Paul Beuver. He also worked with the Staatsdanschouwtig Veendam as a volunteer for the technical crew of the Houtfestival Haarlem and Bevrijdingspop Haarlem. After graduating from the Mediacelebrum Amsterdam Podiumtechniek in 2014, he was promoted into technical designer for the company and continues to work on all of its productions.

Van der Velt has been part of ICKamsterdam’s productions of De Sopranos’ (2014), ROCCO (2012), La Commedia (2013), Double Points: HELL (2011), Beyond Seoul (2010), Purgatorio (2008), Zorro (2003), and many others.

About MAPP

MAPP International Productions is a nonprofit producer of challenging new works by contemporary performing artists whose projects raise critical awareness and motivate social change. It is a singular organization that supports all phases of an artist’s creative process, from concept and production to premier and touring, while also engaging audiences in the issues behind the art. Through this heightened focus, MAPP International Productions 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 15 countries. MAPP International has introduced the American public to artists from 25 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, Australia, and the Caribbean. mappinternational.org