Passport

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World Premiere!

Passport
by Robert Whitman
April 16 & 17, 2011 • 8:00pm
Alexander Kasser Theater
Montclair State University/
Riverfront Park, Beacon, NY

World Premiere!

My Coma Dreams
by Fred Hersch
May 7 and 8, 2011
Alexander Kasser Theater

The 2010/11 season is made possible in part by funds from:

- Association of Performing Arts Presenters
- The National Endowment for the Arts
- The New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts
- Discover Jersey Arts
- Alison and James T. Cirenza
- The Honorable Mary Mochary

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

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

Peak Performances @ Montclair  
in association with Dia Art Foundation

Presents:

World Premiere!  
Passport

Written and Directed by Robert Whitman  
Coordinating Producer Julie Martin

For Peak Performances @ Montclair  
Lighting Designer William Growney  
Video Production and Editing Katelynn Altgilbers, Gianluca Bianchino, Klimentina Jauleska, Chris Luongo  
Isadora Programmer Joseph Cantalupo  
Scenic and Prop Fabrication Andrew Boyle, Timothy DiGregorio, Elizabeth Flynn, Joseph Geitner, Jeremy Lydic, Jesse Monahan, Christopher Santilli  
Video Networking Systems Designer Shawn Van Every  
Production Run Crew Cordero Acevedo, Andrew Boyle, Jason Flamos, Christopher Santilli  
Performers at the Alexander Kasser Theater: Tony Bordonaro, Klimentina Jauleska, Eric Stalowski, Dana Thomas, Dani Vialpando

For Dia Art Foundation  
Curator Yasmil Raymond  
Curatorial Associate Jeanine Dreskin  
Audio-Video Technician Patrick Heilman  
Assistant to Coordinating Producer Hedi Sorger  
Production Manager Will Knapp  
Stage Manager Jenni Bowman  
Lighting Designer Frank D’Antoni  
Master Electrician Greg Goff  
Prop Design and Fabrication Chad Bowen, Kurt Diebboll, Curtis Harvey, Jeremy Lydic, Caleb Taggart  
Video Networking Systems Designer Shawn Van Every  
Audio-Video Assistants Brian Lootman, Dan Masterson, Emily Shepard, Dan Wolfe  
Performers at Dia:Beacon: Ashley Brocious, Nick Djandji, Curtis Harvey, Josh Hurt, Rayvawn Johnson, Kit Messick, Jenna Otter, Nick Ruiz, Robert Vincent Smith, Hedi Sorger  
Horse courtesy Chateau Stables, Inc.

Co-commissioned by Peak Performances @ Montclair State (NJ) and Dia Art Foundation. Simultaneous performances are presented at the Alexander Kasser Theater in Montclair, NJ, and Riverfront Park, Beacon, NY.

This project is made possible in part by a grant from the Association of Performing Arts Presenters Creative Campus Innovations Grant Program, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Flying effects provided by Flying by Foy.

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 inside the theater.

**PROGRAM NOTES**

In most of the pieces that I’ve done, I like the idea of people having a specific point of view, and if not one person, it could be a group of people who see the piece in one way and another group of people who see it another way. So there are specific communities that may have an experience that’s not identical, but it’s the same piece—let’s say it’s the same thing but a different point of view. So there’s that aspect of this piece, because it’s going to happen simultaneously in two places, and there will be aspects that have to be different; so one is going to be outside, and we do outside stuff there, and one will be inside in a conventional theater, and we’ll do inside stuff there, and transmit images from one place to the other so that they kind of mesh—you know, part of the same composition, but different.

—Robert Whitman

**ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Robert Whitman was born in New York City in 1935. He received a BA in English Literature from Rutgers University in 1957 and studied art history at Columbia University in 1958. As a pioneer of artists’ theater of the late 1950s and early 1960s, Whitman, together with Jim Dine, Red Grooms, Allan Kaprow, and Claes Oldenburg, presented performances that combined performers, props, sound, and lights in nontraditional theater spaces throughout lower Manhattan. Notably, with his pioneering piece The American Moon (1960), Whitman became the first artist of his generation to incorporate film into his performances. During this time he also exhibited mixed media works at some of New York’s more important contemporary venues, including the Hansa, Reuben, Martha Jackson, and Sidney Janis galleries.

During the 1960s, Whitman became increasingly interested in creative collaboration with scientists, engineers, and specialists beyond the realm of the visual arts world, which led to his participating in 9 Evenings: Theatre & Engineering at the 69th Regiment Armory in New York City in 1966. The same year Whitman co-founded, with engineers Billy Klüver and Fred Waldhauer and artist Robert Rauschenberg, Experiments in Art and Technology (E.A.T.), a foundation that provided artists with access to technology through collaborations with engineers and scientists. He also collaborated on the design, construction, and programming for the Pepsi Pavilion at Expo ’70 in Osaka, Japan, and made a new work for the Art & Technology Show, shown at the U.S. Pavilion at Expo ’70 and at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (1971).


Dia Art Foundation organized a retrospective of his theater works in 1976, and, in 2003, presented Playback, an exhibition bringing together a selection of key works from the early 1960s to late 1970s spanning various media, including presentations of Light Touch (1976) and Prune Flat (1965). The exhibition traveled to Porto, Portugal, and Barcelona.

In 2005 Whitman produced Local Report, a large-scale communications project, the latest version of a series of telephone pieces beginning with NEWS, in New York in 1972, where reports from participants using pay phones all over the city were played over radio station WBAI. Local Report consisted of live performances held on successive weekends at five different places around New York City in which participants used video cell phones to create and send short video films and sound reports from their areas, which were incorporated into a five-screen video and sound installation shown at the Guggenheim Museum, New York.

Whitman is represented by The Pace Gallery, New York.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The artist would like to express his thanks to Andrew Atkinson, Katelynn Altgilbers, Gianluca Bianchino, Klimentina Jauleska, and Chris Luongo, who worked on video elements; Elizabeth Reese for sharing her knowledge of horses; and all the volunteers whose generous help and support made this production possible.

Additional thanks are extended to Ryan Brickle, Hector Cruz, Leanne Long, Debbie Saitz, and members of the Montclair State University Broadcasting department, including Lawrence Londoño, Beverly Peterson, and Patricia Pirosh, as well as Bob Hoffman, Adam Kowalczyk, John Tejada, Matt Marinski, and Manecha Guillaume.

Dia Art Foundation’s presentation in Beacon is supported in part by Lisa and Richard Baker, Heidi Olson and Roger Duffy, and The Pace Gallery. Additional support is provided by the New York State Council on the Arts, a State agency.

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