Choreography by Stockton Dance Faculty, Guest Artists to be Performed by Stockton Students

“A Concert in Dance” Runs March 3 Through March 6 in the Performing Arts Center

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Galloway Township, NJ- “A Concert in Dance,” the annual faculty and guest artist concert at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, brings world-class dance to the stage at the College’s Performing Arts Center (PAC). This concert, performed by the Stockton Dance Company, has 30 students performing in seven different choreographic works.

The concert will run Thursday, March 3 through Saturday, March 5, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 6, at 3:00 p.m.

Michael Spencer Phillips, a guest artist who currently performs with Rioult Dance Company in New York, has created “Eye, Alone,” a work based on a series of photographs of students from Nicaragua. This highly energized dance takes a journey through ordinary school-day routines, incorporating travel to school by boat as well as the pledge of allegiance as unifying factors. The precise, sharp and, at times, stark choreographic work represents the realities of the struggles of these children; yet it also playfully interjects childish and innocent fun.

Stockton’s other guest artist, Lauren Putty, performed with Parson’s Dance Company and Urban Bush Women, among others. Her work, “Making Haste,” begins with a feeling of unusual calm which bursts into non-stop high-energy. The dancers perform wild, frantic and even uncontrollable movements to convey the never-ending struggle against the clock. Yet, with a sudden shift, the work juxtaposes the previous sense of haste with soft, elongated and graceful choreography.

This year, the student choreographer who has been invited to present work in the concert is Brittany Loos. Her work, “Reap,” originally performed this past December as part of the student concert, shows an epic struggle of good versus evil. This highly physical and dramatic work had audiences catching their breath during the premiere, and will continue to do so for its presentation in the PAC.

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This is the second year that the audience will get to see the work of Assistant Professor Rain Ross. She has restaged “B.,” a fun and playful quartet set to music sung by Brigitte Bardot. Originally created for her company in 2006, this work shows lighthearted playfulness and girlish competition. Ross has also created a second work, “Epistles of Memory,” which utilizes beautiful, fluid movement to evoke a mysterious sense of gathering and retreat.

Henry van Kuiken, artistic director, takes the audience on a quirky and twisted family outing through the park. “Arcadia” promises to bring you excitement, despair and an unexpected conclusion. This unforgettable adventure includes extravagant costumes, which were also created by Professor van Kuiken.

The choreographer for the Soulmates and adjunct professor at Stockton, Andrea Guadagno, once again brings out the funk with an exciting hip hop number. In “Old Skool Jam,” the dancers get down to a remix of songs, showing sharp popping and locking. The crazy movement and enthusiasm of the dancers makes the audience want to get out of their seats and join in the fun.

For tickets, contact the Stockton Performing Arts Center at 609-652-9000 or http://intraweb.stockton.edu/pac/stocktonarts.html. Tickets are $8 for general admission and $6 for students and seniors.

Photographs are available upon request: http://intraweb.stockton.edu/eyos/page.cfm?siteID=69&pageID=284

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