



Stockton Dance Company Presents 'A Concert of Dance' in the Stockton PAC

Shows Feb. 26-28 at 7:30 p.m. and March 1 at 2 p.m.

For Immediate Release

Thursday, February 05, 2015

**Contact: Susan Allen
Office of News & Media Relations
Galloway Township, NJ 08205
Susan.Allen@stockton.edu
(609) 652-4790**

Galloway Township, NJ- Each spring, dance students and faculty at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey join forces with national and international guest choreographers to perform "A Concert of Dance," which features diverse contemporary and modern dance works.

Performances are set for Feb. 26 – 28, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. and March 1 at 2 p.m. in the Stockton Performing Arts Center, located on the main Galloway campus.

This year, the concert will feature faculty works by Henry van Kuiken, professor and director of Dance, Rain Ross, associate professor of Dance, and Andrea Mychaels, adjunct professor of Dance. The guest artist series features works by Dance Now! Miami, the dance company that was in-residence at Stockton this past fall, and Jae Hoon Lim, emerging scholar-in-residence in dance and former dancer with Koresh Dance Company. The young choreographer series will feature a work by Stockton senior Courtney Colón.

"Performing in the spring dance concert is something I have looked forward to for the past two years now," said Deanna Sciortino, a sophomore Accounting major and Dance minor. "There is a family-like bond formed within the Stockton Dance Company after spending several hours working together to create such a rewarding performance. The ability to work with people that share your passion is unbeatable."

In order to be eligible to audition for the spring dance concert, students must be enrolled in a dance technique class. All eligible dancers who wish to participate then audition for the choreographers who are presenting a work. Choreographers can cast whomever they wish, and dancers can be cast in more than one piece, giving them the benefit of working with multiple choreographers.

-more-

A Concert of Dance/ page 2

Emily Vaughan, a junior from Manahawkin, NJ, who is dual majoring in Dance-Performance and Elementary Education, said, "Working with a variety of different choreographers does push you out of your comfort zone. Especially when it comes to working with guest artists who you have never even taken class with. Some don't like to be pushed in new ways, but it is the only way to grow as an artist."

"I was able to experience new ways of learning, thinking, and working while working with Dance Now! Miami and Rain Ross, both of whom I have never worked with previously. Working with these choreographers has forced me to grow as a young professional who hopes to continue to work with a variety of choreographers as the years come," Vaughan continued.

When cast, dancers participate in an intensive rehearsal process over winter break, and then spend the month of January and much of February preparing for the concert.

"The auditions were the hardest part because you wanted to be able to work with all the different choreographers and impress them enough to be picked for their piece. Over the winter break, we have our intensives for the pieces we were chosen to be in, and it helps with the process of putting a piece together because you get to know all your fellow dancers and your choreographer as well. Rehearsals are long, but they are always worth it in the end," explained Danielle Gillis, a sophomore Dance Studio Operations Major from Howell, NJ.

"I love learning the different styles of each of the choreographers because it helps me grow in technique as a dancer. It definitely pushes me and teaches me that if you think you're doing the movement right, there is always a way to make it better," Gillis said.

For many dancers, the spring dance concert is a challenging time, while they learn from professionals and balance their academic workload.

Dylan Brierley, a junior Dance Performance major from Manahawkin, NJ, said, "The spring dance concert experience for me this year has been challenging. This upcoming concert is my first time being in a guest artist piece and I am learning so much. The piece is choreographed by our visiting scholar, Jae Hoon Lim, and he has pushed my boundaries as a dancer and male performer."

"I am also in Henry van Kuiken's piece, and this is my second time working with him and I am still being challenged as a performer. Learning from fellow male performers is giving me the opportunity to learn what other choreographers are expecting of male performers and I'm glad I get to learn these things from Stockton professors," he added.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$8 for students and seniors with identification. Ticket orders can be made online at www.stockton.edu/pac or by calling the Stockton Box Office at (609)-652-9000. The Box Office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and an hour and a half before each performance.

For patrons with special needs, the Performing Arts Center offers wheelchair accessible seating, listening assistive devices, and large type programs. Please identify any needs you may have when making a reservation.

-more-

A Concert of Dance/ page 3

This program has been funded in part by the NJ State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, through the Local Arts Grant administered by the Atlantic County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

STOCKTON The Richard Stockton College Performing Arts
PAC RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE Center is located in the M-Wing of the college's
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER Galloway, NJ 08205-9441
Box Office: 609-652-9000

#