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SAINT  
JOSEPH  
BALLET

## NEW DANCE AT SAINT JOSEPH BALLET, MARCH 13 & 14

SANTA ANA, California (February 18, 2009)—Saint Joseph Ballet once again hosts four modern dance companies to present World Premiers at its third annual *New Dance* production on March 13&14, 2009 at 8:00 pm. *New Dance* is the only annual contemporary dance festival in Orange County. Its aim is to support and produce new contemporary work by local artists in Southern California. In addition, Saint Joseph Ballet's nearly 400 students will be exposed to the various creative processes of the participating choreographers through master classes and other art-making opportunities.

Artists participating in New Dance at Saint Joseph Ballet:

### **Collage Dance Theatre (CDT)**

Founded and directed by Heidi Duckler, CDT is a nonprofit, site-specific dance performance company based in Los Angeles, which actively seeks collaborations with artists, arts organizations, and community groups to forge a link between professional performance, public space and audience. CDP's piece for New Dance, *(s)Naked* is a contemporary retelling of Eve's expulsion from the Garden, expressed through Eve's point of view.

### **Keith Johnson/Dancers**

Based in Long Beach, Keith Johnson/Dancers is a contemporary dance company that challenges and explores human connection through bodies moving through space. Keith Johnson/Dancers' New Dance commission, *Autumn Signal* features a women's trio inspired by a scientific study of the significant decline of songbirds in the world and the impact on nature.

### **Kristen Smiarowski**

Smiarowski has dedicated the majority of her choreographic projects to investigating the relationship between accessibility and abstraction in contemporary dance, with a specific focus on how dances politically engage with world events through movement metaphors. For their new piece to be presented at New Dance, *Indexical Permutations*, choreographer Kristen Smiarowski and composer Douglas C. Wadle analyzed and re-processed movement and sound material from *The Key Game* (a dance Smiarowski created in 2008 in response to Holocaust survivor Ida Fink's short fictional story by the same name) to create a fragmented, anti-redemptive memory of the original work.

### **Rae Shao-Lan Blum**

Rae Shao-Lan Blum is an independent, interdisciplinary dance artist based in Los Angeles making multi-media dance theater works. Her New Dance World Premiere, *Captain* is a multi disciplinary, solo dance theater work and surreal journey into becoming, being, and un-becoming the comically tragic character of The Captain: guardian of the dismembered, fallen loves and forgotten messes.

Saint Joseph Ballet is one of the nation's most innovative arts-based programs for youth and celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary last year. The after-school program provides hope and opportunity, using dance to teach young people what it takes to succeed in life: self-esteem, confidence, leadership, cooperative learning and discipline. Cutting edge programs, exposure to internationally celebrated contemporary dance choreographers and insight from specialists in the academic and social service fields all combine to ignite creativity and awaken the spirits in nearly 400 low-income youth each year. Since 2005, 100% of Saint Joseph Ballet's graduates have enrolled in college, far exceeding the national average for their peers.

Saint Joseph Ballet has pioneered the practice of involving youth in a high quality and professional process of creating new, contemporary dance with leading choreographers and other top collaborating artists. Saint Joseph Ballet believes in contributing to the research and development of contemporary dance in Southern California as a way to live its vision of innovation. More information on *New Dance* and Saint Joseph Ballet are online at [www.SaintJosephBallet.org](http://www.SaintJosephBallet.org).

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Members of the Media may request to visit master classes, cover/attend performances and schedule interviews with commissioned choreographers, Executive and Artistic Director Melanie Ríos Glaser, or participating students by calling Payal Kumar at 714-541-8314 x19 or e-mail [Payal@saintjosephballet.org](mailto:Payal@saintjosephballet.org). High resolution photos of *New Dance* companies and Saint Joseph Ballet students available on request.