

UNCIVIL WARS: MOVING W/BRECHT & EISLER



Skidmore College Dance Theater

Friday, February 27 & Saturday, February 28 at 8:00 pm

The Skidmore College Dance Department presents
a Pick Up Performance Co(S.) production
February 27 & 28, 2009

UNCIVIL WARS: MOVING WITH BRECHT & EISLER

Based on *The Roundheads and the Pointheads* by **Bertolt Brecht**

as translated by **Michael Feingold**

Music by **Hanns Eisler**

Directed, choreographed and edited by **David Gordon**

CAST:

Charlotte Cohn*: Nana Callas/Mrs.Callas/Isabella De Guzman.

Davis Duffield*: Vice Viceroy/Hat Knocker/Farmer Lopez/Nun.

Norma Fire*: Tobacconist/Abbess/Mrs.Lopez/Lawyer.

John Kelly: Madam/Mother Superior.

Gina Leishman: Hanns Eisler.

David Skeist: Farmer Callas/Hat Knocker/Nun.

Louis Vuolo*: Viceroy/Slumlord/De Guzman.

Valda Setterfield*: Bertolt Brecht/Judge.

AT SKIDMORE:

Natasha Brown, Christian Grunnah, LaChrisha LaSane,

Emi Lipcsey-Magyar, Sara Miller-Hornick, Lily Robinson, Sam Szabo

Produced by **Alyce Dissette**

Music Director: **Gina Leishman**

Media: **Dean Moss/Ed Fitzgerald**

Lighting Design: **Jennifer Tipton**

Assistant Lighting Designer: **Burke Brown**

Stage Manager: Ed Fitzgerald*

Company Manager: Sarah Robinson

Wardrobe Assistant: Hebe Joy

*appearing courtesy of Actor's Equity Association

The running time is approximately 90 minutes with no intermission.

This production is co-commissioned by The Kitchen and the Walker Art Center, and is made possible, in part, with funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, Cornell University, and The Lila Wallace Theater Fund.

The Skidmore College Residency and performances were made possible in part by a NYSCA Dance Program Long-Term Residency Grant.

PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES *in alphabetical order:

Burke Brown (Assistant Lighting Designer)

Recent designs include: *Wickets* (3LD Art & Technology Center); *The Brothers Size* (NYSP-Public Theater; The Studio Theatre, DC; Abbey Theater, Dublin); Elfriede Jelinek's *Sleeping Beauty* (Seoul Performing Arts Festival); *The Mound Builders and Book of Days* (Julliard Drama Division); *Tell Out My Soul* (SPF-Anspacher Theater); Bone Orchard's *The Stubborn Illusion of Time* (The Brick); John Selya's *La Voix* (Joyce Soho); Aszure Barton's *A Traveling Show* (Baryshnikov Arts Center); *Finding Ways to Prove You Are Not an Al-Qaeda Terrorist* (Here Art Center); *Calling; An Opera of Forgiveness and Journeys*, (LaMaMa ETC); *The Song for New York: What Women Do While Men Sit Knitting* (Mabou Mines, Associate Designer); *Lulu* (Yale Rep); *The Flight of Icarus* (Soho Think Tank); *Hotel: Eight Rooms* (Yale Cabaret). Artist in Residence for Lighting Design at Ars Nova (2008). Mr. Brown is a member of the Wingspace Design Collective. www.wingspace.com/Burke BA, Guilford College, MFA, Yale.

Charlotte Cohn (Nana/Isabella/Mrs. Callas) Broadway/*La Boheme* (Musetta) dir. Baz Luhrmann, Ovation Award Winner; *Coram Boy*. Off Broadway – *Cheri*; *Ambivalence*; *One Hundred Gates*. Regional – A.C.T.: *Happy End* (Hallelujah Lil), Bay Area Critics' Circle Award nominee; Centerstage: *The Boys From Syracuse* (Adriana); *The Murder of Isaac* (Talia). The Prince Music Theater: *A Night in the Old Marketplace* (Gargoyle); North Shore: *Nine* (Stephanie Necrophorus). Film/TV – *Dandelion Man*; *Little Kings*; *The Danish Play*; *God in the Machine*; *Guiding Light*. Recordings – *La Boheme* original cast recording; *Happy End* A.C.T. cast recording. www.charlottecohn.com

Davis Duffield

Broadway: *Cyrano De Bergerac* with Kevin Kline and Jennifer Garner. Regional and Off-Broadway: *Eurydice* at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, *Becky Shaw* at the Actors Theater of Louisville's Humana Festival. *Ghosts* at Berkeley Rep. *All's Well that Ends Well* at California Shakespeare Theater, *Chasing Nicolette* at The Prince Music Theater. *Secret Order* at Merrimack Rep, *stirring* at 59E59/Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and *Mirette* at the The York/Goodspeed Opera House. Film: *Unbreakable*, *Quality of Life*, *Freegan Love*, *Wilderness*. Television: *As The World Turns*, *Law & Order*, and *Cyrano de Bergerac* as part of the "Great Performances" series on PBS. MFA from American Conservatory Theater. More info at www.davisduffield.com.

David Gordon

Commissions for directing &/or choreographing include: American Ballet Theater, American Repertory Theater, American Conservatory Theater, Dance Theater Workshop, Danspace Project, Dance Theater of Harlem, White Oak Dance Project, British Dance Umbrella, Barbican Centre, On The Boards, Joyce Theater, Theater For a New Audience, Guthrie Theater, New York Theater Workshop, Mark Taper Forum, Brooklyn Academy of Music Next Wave, Serious Fun@Lincoln Center, Spoleto Festival USA, The Actors Studio, PBS/WNET Great Performances, PBS/KTCA Alive TV, BBC 1 & 2, Channel 4, UK.

Awards include: two Obies, three Bessies, two Dramalogues, two Guggenheims, two Pew Charitable Trust National Residency Grants (in both Theater and Dance).

Current member: Actors Studio, Center for Creative Research.

Previous panel/chair: NEA Dance Program.

Founding artist: Pick Up Performance Co(s)/ Grand Union/Judson Church Performances.

Previous performer: Grand Union/Yvonne Rainer Co./James Waring Co.

Michael Feingold (translator) joined *The Village Voice*, New York City's weekly newspaper, in 1971 and has been its chief theatre critic since 1974. He has also worked directly in the theatre for more than twenty-five years. A graduate of Columbia University and the Yale School of Drama, he spent much of the 1970s as literary manager for the newly formed Yale Repertory Theatre. He has since directed many other theatre groups throughout the country and in New York he has directed for such renowned venues as the American Place Theatre and Circle Rep. Feingold has taught at the O'Neill Theater Center's National Critics' Institute and at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. His current work has included a new translation of Schiller's *Mary Stuart*, commissioned by the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco, an adaptation of *Offenbach's La Perichole* with Richard Pearlman, a translation of Jean-Francois Regnard's *Le Legataire Universal* entitled *A Will of His Own*, a translation of Jean Giraudoux's *Sodom and Gomorrah* for the O'Neil Playwrights Conference and *Andorra*, a translation of Max Frisch's play. His honours include the American Book Awards' Walter Lowenfels Prize in Criticism and a Guggenheim Fellowship. Past recipients of his latest honour, the Nathan Award, have included Walter Kerr (1963) and Mel Gussow (1978) of *The New York Times*, Kevin Kelly (1992) of *The Boston Globe* and John Lahr (1969, 1994) of *The New Yorker*.

Norma Fire (Lawyer/Tobacconist/Mrs. Lopez/Abbess) most recently performed in "Three Viewings" at Harbor Light Stage; in Rachel Lampert and Larry Pressgrove's "Bed No Breakfast" and "Comfort Food", Albee's "Three Tall Women" and Lampert's, "The Book Club", Kitchen Theatre, Ithaca; David Gordon's "Uncivil Wars" at Cornell; in "Wintertime", by Chuck Mee at Round House Theatre, Bethesda; in *The Golem* with Robert Prosky at MET; with Susan Marshall and Co. at BAM; in new works at various NYC venues including Lincoln Center, Public Theater, SoHo Rep, EST, and Naked Angels. Regional productions include David Gordon's and Ain Gordon's *The First Picture Show* with Estelle Parsons at Mark Taper in L.A., and ACT in San Francisco; *The School For Scandal*, *Hamlet*, *The Comedy of Errors* at No. Carolina Shakespeare; in 20 productions at Actors Theatre St. Paul; and in a recurring role as Judge Jensen on *Law & Order*.

Ed Fitzgerald (Stage Manager) has been a professional stage manager for 33 years and a member of Actors Equity for 31, working on Broadway (*Da, A Little Family Business*, *The Tap Dance Kid*, *Carrie: The Musical*, *The Violet Hour*) off-Broadway (Manhattan Theatre Club, *The Best of Friends*, *Tick, Tick...Boom*), off-off-Broadway, and in major regional theatres throughout the country (ART, ACT, Mark Taper Forum, Geffen Playhouse, BAM, Spoleto USA) and overseas (London, Berlin, Singapore, Seoul, Avignon, Strasbourg). He's been associated with David Gordon, Ain Gordon and the Pick Up Performance Co(S.) for 17 years and 23 productions.

John Kelly is a performance and visual artist. Awards and Fellowships include: 2 Bessie Awards; 2 Obie Awards; American Choreographer Award; CalArts/ Alpert Award. Fellowships include: American Academy in Rome; Radcliffe Institute; NYFA; NEA; Guggenheim Foundation. Collaborated and recorded with David Del Tredici, Laurie Anderson, Antony and the Johnsons, and The Jazz Passengers. Currently beginning a collaboration with Director/Writer Moises Kaufman. Acting credits: the Broadway production of "James Joyce's *The Dead*" (Bartell D'Arcy); Christopher Marlowe's "Dido, Queen of Carthage" at A.R.T. (Cupid--2005 Elliot Norton Award Best Actor); Rinde Eckert's "Orpheus X" at A.R.T. (Jon/Persephone). Visual Art Exhibitions: New Museum; PS 1; Art In General; American Academy in Rome; MACRO, Roma; Biagiotti Progetto Arte; Firenze; Harvard University. Autobiography "John Kelly" was published by the 2wice Arts Foundation. Online archive: www.johnkellyperformance.org

Gina Leishman composer and multi-instrumentalist, has written for theater, opera, dance, film, television and concert stage, garnering numerous awards. Collaborations with other artists include directors Robert Woodruff, Lisa Peterson, Daniel Fish and Joseph Chaikin, writers Ellen McLaughlin, Tony Kushner and Naomi Wallace, choreographers David Gordon, Bebe Miller and Deborah Slater, composer Doug Wieselmann (with whom she co-leads Kamikaze Ground Crew and Mr. Wau-Wa), and performance artist Rinde Eckert. Her theater credits include critical acclaim as an actor at Lincoln Center, the Los Angeles Olympic Arts Festival and the Goodman Theater of Chicago (*Comedy of Errors*), BAM's Next Wave Festival (Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat*) and the Eureka Theater of San Francisco (*Threepenny Opera* and *Ubu Roi*), amongst others. She also co-leads Mr. Wau-Wa, for whom she is the primary arranger and vocalist. Founded in 1998 for Bertolt Brecht's centenary, the band is dedicated to performing the songs of Bertolt Brecht as set by his collaborators Kurt Weill, Hanns Eisler, and Paul Dessau, as well as contemporary settings by David Hidalgo (from Los Lobos). This is in some ways a continuation of the work she began in London in the early '70s, when she co-founded a theater company in an abandoned taxi-meter factory in Paddington - a theater dedicated to the work of Bertolt Brecht, specifically his work with Hanns Eisler, which had been recently translated for the first time.

Sarah Robinson (Company Manager) - Ms. Robinson has served as an artist services associate and visa coordinator at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) and as the assistant company manager for the Latino International Theater Festival's 2008 *TeatroStageFest*. Sarah has served as an intern at BAM in the artist services and special events department and as an intern with Stomp at Richard Frankel Productions. Sarah is a current M.F.A. candidate for performing arts management at Brooklyn College and has her undergraduate degree in dramatic performance from the Syracuse University Department of Drama.

Valda Setterfield is a British born dancer/actor. She has worked with JoAnne Akalaitis, Woody Allen, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Caryl Churchill, Merce Cunningham, Graciela Daniele, Richard Foreman, Maria Irene Fornes, Carmen deLavallade, Brian DePalma, Ain Gordon, David Gordon, Ivo van Hove, Don Mischer, Marie Rambert, Yvonne Rainer, Donald Saddler, Michael Sexton, Gus Solomons Jr, Jeanine Tesori, James Waring, Robert Wilson and Mark Wing-Davey at BAM, NYTW, DTW, PS 122, Danspace Project, Soho Rep, The Joyce, The Public, A.R.T., A.C.T. Mark Taper Forum, Adirondack Theatre Festival and in 2006 in Russia, at The Seventh International Festival of Movement and Dance On The Volga in Yaroslavl. She was a member of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company for ten years and is a founding member of the Pick Up Performance Co(S.) She is an OBIE and BESSIE recipient and the winner of a second BESSIE in 2006.

David Skeist has appeared in Julian Sheppard's *Los Angeles* directed by Adam Rapp and Len Jenkin's *Christmas Song* (Flea Theater), in *The Misanthrope and Tartuffe* (Classic Stage Company), and is a writer and performer in the revue *Political Subversities* (Joe's Pub) directed by Liz Swados. He works in New York with the companies Quality Meats, PL115, Stolen Chair, and International Wow. In Berlin, he appeared in and composed spoken-song choruses for Gertrude Stein's *Dr. Faustus Lights the Lights*. Film and TV: *Memorial Day*, *Veronika Decides to Die*, *Law & Order*, *All My Children*. Training includes SITI Company, Harvard (BA), and Columbia (MFA).

Jennifer Tipton (Lighting Designer) is well known for her work in theater, dance and opera. Her recent work in opera includes Salvatore Sciarrino's new opera *DA GELO A GELO* directed by Trisha Brown at the Paris Opera and Mozart's *THE MAGIC FLUTE* at BAM designed and directed by William Kentridge. Her recent work in dance includes Balanchine's *JEWELS* for the Royal Ballet, London, Trisha Brown's *O COMPOSITE* for the Paris Opera Ballet and Paul Taylor's *LINES OF LOSS* at City Center in New York. In theater her recent work includes Caryl Churchill's translation of Seneca's *THYESTES* directed by JoAnne Akalaitis at the Court Theater in Chicago and the Wooster Group's *HAMLET* at the Public. Ms. Tipton teaches lighting at the Yale School of Drama. She received the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize in 2001, the Jerome Robbins Prize in 2003 and in April 2004 the Mayor's Award for Arts and Culture in New York City.

Louis Vuolo: recently played the father, Old Mahon, in J.M. Synge's "The Playboy of the Western World" directed by Susan Einhorn. He started acting playing Cuthman in the American Premiere of Christopher Fry's "Boy with a Cart" at the Cherry Lane. He has worked with the living theater in Gertrude Stein's "Doctor Faustus" and "The Brig". His other off-b'way credits include "The Pinter Plays" and "Six Characters" directed by William Ball. He played Elia Kazan in "Are You Now or Have You Ever Been?" at Ford's Theater, Artaud in "Artaud le Momo" for the NY Fringe, Salieri in Pushkin's "Mozart and Salieri", one of 4 singers in "Marat/Sade" directed by Michael Howard, the Ghost in "Hamlet" and Joseph K in Kafka's "The Trial" performed in N.Y. and at the Suwon Int'l Theater Festival, South Korea. He also sang Jabe Torrance in a modern opera of Tennessee William's "Orpheus Descending" by Bruce Saylor and J.D. McClatchy. He holds a BFA from Columbia University and an MFA from Tisch School of the Arts, NYU. He is a member of the Accidental Repertory Theater headed by John Strasberg. He teaches acting at Queens College.

The Pick Up Performance Co., Inc. (producers) was founded in 1971 and incorporated in 1978 to facilitate projects by David Gordon, the company was expanded in 1992 to include projects by Ain Gordon, and subsequently renamed **The Pick Up Performance Co(S.)** in recognition of the company's plural artistic leadership with individual yearly projects. From his seminal beginnings as a founding artist in the Judson Dance Theater, David Gordon has purposefully examined and expanded the line between theater and dance and pioneered the use of text and textual narrative in movement work. In this early work Gordon not only presaged his later writing and directing for the stage but also predated the live theater form which came to be known as "performance art." Cementing his dual status as a dance and theater artist, Gordon was awarded a Pew Charitable Trust National Dance Residency grant and National Theater Residency grant in successive years. In 1992, Ain Gordon (David Gordon's son) joined the company as Co-Director. Starting with his first work in 1983, Ain Gordon found his roots in the performance art world his father helped to create and by the late 1980's he was producing and touring his work nationally. In 1987 Ain Gordon was awarded support from National Endowment's inaugural round of "New Forms" grants - designed specifically for artists who defied clear classification. By 1992, Ain Gordon began a move toward a more continuous emphasis on text-based theater or playwriting. In 1993, Ain Gordon and David Gordon collaborated on *The Family Business* (as writers, directors, and performers) and received an OBIE for their work. In recent years, at the invitation of Mikhail Baryshnikov, David Gordon directed, choreographed and wrote narration for a tribute to and revival of dance/theater work from the Judson Church era that toured nationally and internationally. His work has also been recently seen at the Joyce Theater, The Actor's Studio, the Barbican in London, On the Boards in Seattle, the Brooklyn Academy of Music Next Wave Festival at the Harvey and Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church. Alyce Diisette has been the Co.'s producer since 2001 and has worked with Ain Gordon and David Gordon for over 20 years.

For the Pick Up Performance Co(S.)

Co-Directors: Ain Gordon and David Gordon

Producer: Alyce Dissette

Finance: Henry Liles

FUNDERS:

Altria Group, Inc, The Carnegie Corporation, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, The Gladys Kreible Delmas Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation The Edith Meiser Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts, New England Foundation for the Arts, The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, The New York State Council on the Arts and The Lila Acheson Wallace Theater Fund.

Board of Directors

Kathy Brown (Chair), Rhoda Cerritelli (Co-Chair), David Gordon, Robert Gottlieb, Rhoda Grauer, Donna Lieberman (Secretary & Treasurer), Nadine Bertin Stearns, Suzanne Weil, Catherine Wyler

Special Thanks

J.Ryan Graves, Skidmore College Media Services,
David Yergan and Skidmore College Theater Department

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c/o MARY DISANTO-ROSE, Chair
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SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY 12866

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T.J. Conde • Rebecca Fink • Jenna Glendye • Eli Gold
Terry Ann Howell • Jeremy John • Sean Junda • Elyse Levesque
Andrea Marks • Will Patteson • Kelsey Renning • Tess Wendel

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LIGHTING DESIGNER & MANAGER**

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THEATER SUPERVISOR

Peter Kobor

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Carl Landa — Music Director
Patricia Hadfield • Oleg Moston • Adrian Cohen

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Exits are located to your right and your left  
The taking of video and photography is strictly prohibited  
Please turn off all noise making devices

# SKIDMORE DANCE THEATER

## Fall 2008

|                                           |                                      |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Ellen Sinopoli Dance Company.....         | 9/26 @ 8:00pm                        |
| Celebration Weekend Performance.....      | 10/18 @ 2:30 & 4:30pm                |
| PearsonWidrig DanceTheater .....          | 11/1 @ 8:00pm & 11/2 @ 2:00pm        |
| Choreo II & Dance Production Showing..... | 11/15 @ 3:00pm                       |
| Winter Dance Concert.....                 | 12/5 @ 8:00pm & 12/6 @ 2:00 & 8:00pm |

## Spring 2009

|                                                                                                       |                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Kirsten Simone Lecture Demonstration .....                                                            | 2/4 @ 6:00pm                            |
| David Gordon's Pick Up Performance Co(s.) UNCIVIL WARS: Moving w/Brecht & Eisler.2/27 & 2/28 @ 8:00pm |                                         |
| Summer Rhatigan Talk with Video.....                                                                  | 3/4 @ 5:00pm                            |
| **Dance+19 Festival.....                                                                              | 3/21 @ 10:00am-5:30pm                   |
| Martine van Hamel Talk with Video.....                                                                | 3/25 @ 5:00pm                           |
| Dance Department Senior Capstone Concert.....                                                         | 4/3 @ 8:00pm & 4/4 @ 2:00pm & 8:00pm    |
| Spring Dance Concert.....                                                                             | 4/24 @ 8:00pm & 4/25 at 2:00pm & 8:00pm |

Box Office Information 518-580-5392

\*\* For Dance +19 information at the Dance Alliance Web site: [www.dancealliance.org](http://www.dancealliance.org)

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Summer Dance Workshop
with the Taylor 2 Dance Company
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Skidmore College

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