

**Performing Arts Center/ SUNY Purchase**

**presents**



**David Gordon/Pick Up Company**

**Theater B**

**Friday & Saturday, November 3, & 4, 1989**



**United States**  
a work constructed by David Gordon  
featuring  
the Pick Up Company

Valda Setterfield

Dean Moss

Chuck Finlon

Scott Cunningham

Karen Graham

Cynthia Oliver

Heidi Michel

Angela Vaillancourt

Timothy Hadel

Jora Nelstein

David Gordon

Produced by Alyce Dissette

The United States project

is sponsored by

The Lila Wallace - Reader's Digest Fund

These performances are part of the AT&T Dance Tour.



Assistive listening devices are available for rent for all SUNY Purchase sponsored events through a contribution from General Foods USA



## Program A

Performed Friday, November 3

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### Mozart, Memories and the First Frost

Piano Concerto No.17 in G Major, W.A. Mozart, 1st Movement played by The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra; Emmanuel Ax, Piano — Minnesota  
2nd Movement played by the Minnesota Orchestra; Walter Klein, Piano — Minnesota

Text excerpts from Carol Bly, Meridel Le Sueur, Toyse Kyle, Edna & Howard Hong and Mary Hong Loe, Minnesota, read by Valda Setterfield  
Final words: Suzanne Weil — Minnesota

Excerpt from a discussion with Robert Frost — New England

## INTERMISSION

### Pounding the Beat and Slaughter

*Fade Away* David Boles — New York

*Bear Bones, Bingo Montage, Chinlash, Don't Move* Miles Green — New York

*Andrew Rider* Maggie Dubris — New York

*Slaughter on Tenth Avenue* Richard Rodgers, from *On Your Toes*, 1983  
Broadway cast recording — New York

*Racing Thoughts, Gridlock* The Ordinaires — New York

Readings from Mark Feder and Ain Gordon — New York

*Slaughter on Tenth Avenue* played by the New York Philharmonic; Richard Rodgers, conductor — New York

Police Drawings by Rocky Pinciotti

## INTERMISSION

### Sang and Sang and the Final Frost

Performance excerpts of Carmen McRae, Judy Garland, Jeanette MacDonald, Tony Bennett, The Residents, The Charlie Byrd Trio.

*Piano Concerto No. 17 in G Major*, 3rd Movement, W.A. Mozart, transcribed for the synthesizer and performed by Norman Landsberg — San Francisco

Excerpt from a discussion with Robert Frost — New England

Sound score assembled by Chuck Hammer

## Program B

Performed Friday, November 4

### Weather

Weather forecast - **San Antonio, Texas**

Excerpt from *The Poltergeist (Rag)* by William Bolcom, **Seattle, Washington** played by Paul Jacobs

Excerpt from *The Tempest* by Tchaikovsky, played by the National Symphony Orchestra of **Washington D.C.**, led by Antal Dorati

*Dustbowl Story* - **Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Texas**

from *Remembering America: a sampler of the WPA American guide series*, edited by Archie Hobson, read by David Gordon

Weather forecast - **Albuquerque, New Mexico**

*Twister Tales* - **Dallas, Texas, St. Louis, MO** from *Madstones and Twisters* compiled by Howard C. Key, edited by Mody C. Boatwright, read by Gayle Tufts

*Ice storm blues* - **Houston, Texas**, performed by Lightnin' Sam Hopkins

Weather cast - **Portland, Oregon**, text by Merrill Lynn Taylor, read by Don Alder and Ms. Taylor

*Rain* - **Dallas, Texas**, Red Garland Trio



Excerpt from *String Quartet in F Major, Op. 96 (American)* by Anton Dvorak  
in **Iowa**, played by the Stradivari Quartet

*The world's smallest church - Iowa*, from *Spillville*, text by Patricia Hampl,  
read by Valda Setterfield and Meg Sewell

Excerpt from *Fantasy after Dante for orchestra, Op. 32* by Tchaikovsky,  
played by the National Symphony Orchestra of **Washington D.C.**,  
led by Antal Dorati

*In all it's fury: A history of the blizzard of January 12, 1888*,  
compiled by W.H. O'Gara. Excerpts from: W.A. Sexton - **Eaton, Colorado**,  
Wm.L. Stillwell - **Unadilla, Nebraska**, Oren H. Cave, **Lincoln, Nebraska**,  
Albert Bauer, **West Lincoln, Nebraska**, J. Sions Likens, **Omaha, Nebraska**,  
Mrs. Ed Townsend, - **Rockport, Missouri**. Read by Valda Setterfield, Gayle  
Tufts and David Gordon

*Los Angeles against the mountains* by John McPhee, Excerpt  
read by Norma Fire

*Delusion of the fury* by Harry Partch - **San Diego**

Final excerpt from *The Tempest* by Tchaikovsky, performed by the National  
Symphony Orchestra of **Washington D.C.**, led by Antal Dorati

## INTERMISSION

### **Birds in Trees and the Birthday of Congress**

*The bird with the silver bracelet: an essay on birdbanding* by Erma J. Fisk, **Ithaca, N.Y.** excerpt read by Valda Setterfield

\* *Prelude (The birds)* by Respighi

*Among the Giant Trees of the Wild Pacific Coast* -environmental sounds re-  
corded and produced by Dan Gibson

*How do you tell a chair from a cat?* by Malcolm W. Browne, *New York Times*,  
-**Iowa**, read by Ms. Setterfield

*Bob White* by Johnny Mercer and Bernard Hanighen, -**Nebraska**, sung by  
Carmen McRae

*Listen to the mockingbird* by Septimus Winner, AKA Alice Hawthorne,  
**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**, performed by the **New York Vocal Arts**  
Ensemble, directed by Ray Beagle

*Out of the cradle, endlessly rocking* Walt Whitman -**New York, Philadelphia**  
*The mockingbird* by Robin W. Doughty, (**Dallas**)

excerpt read by Valda Setterfield

*Lumber Barons* from *100 Years of Humboldt County Culture and History*  
1850--1950, **Arcata, California**, text by Virginia M. Fields,

excerpt read by Meg Sewell

\**The hen (The birds)* by Respighi

*Pecking disorder* by Carol Trujillo, **Dallas Morning News**,  
excerpt read by Gayle Tufts

*Bird study* from *Know your birds* radio program, Charlie Smith, host, May 16,  
1986, Library of Natural Sounds, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology —  
**Ithaca, NY**

Excerpt from *Mother Goose* by Ravel,

played by the **Dallas Symphony Orchestra**, led by Eduardo Mata

\**The dove (The birds)* by Respighi

*A brief history of the St. Louis Cardinals* read by Ms. Setterfield

*Red, red robin* by Harry Woods, **New England**,

played by Yehudi Menuhin and Stephane Grappelli

*Shooting blackbirds* (a **Kansas** folktale) read by Ms. Tufts

*Bye, bye blackbird* by Mort Dixon and Ray Henderson,

excerpts sung by Jason Robards (from *Melvin and Howard*)

and Peggy Lee (From *Pete Kelly's Blues*)

\**The nightingale (The birds)* by Respighi

*Weeders and Seeders* story by Barbara Perry Lawton, **St. Louis Post Dispatch**  
read by Ms. Setterfield

\**The cuckoo (The birds)* by Respighi

Excerpt from *The MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour*, March 2, 1989,

*Finally - Happy 200th - Washington D.C.*,

The voices of Charlayne Hunter-Gault and David McCullough

*Home Sweet Home* played by Cleofes Ortiz — **New Mexico**

\**The birds* by Respighi, played by the **Philadelphia Orchestra**

led by Eugene Ormandy, Recorded in Town Hall,

**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.**



## The David Gordon Pick Up Company

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At its inception, the ensemble of performers in the Pick Up Company was not fixed. Since then, though the number of dancers has varied on a project-by-project basis, a "core company" has emerged with whom I rehearse, perform and tour regularly.

"The dancers of this Company are the main collaborators in my work. They are responsive and creative and I thank them. I would especially like to thank Dean Moss and Chuck Finlon who continue to up the ante on what I ask for with their talent and their imagination ... and Valda Setterfield who is my partner and my teacher and my best friend. I would also like to thank Allan Kerr who has bitten off more than most people can chew."

"I think of my work as an ongoing process in which the materials I work with reappear under new circumstances. I support changes in context, the freedom to re-examine, to alter, to abandon materials or to re-use them for a good laugh at myself and my world. Keeping the options open extends the life span of a work and my interest in it."

— David Gordon

The United States is a co-commission project between the David Gordon/Pick Up Company and the following performing arts presenters across the nation:

City of Albuquerque/Cultural Affairs  
BAM NEXT WAVE Festival  
Cal Performances  
Fine Arts Series, Colorado State University  
University of Colorado at Boulder  
Cornell University  
Dance Affiliates

Hopkins Center, Dartmouth College  
Harvard Summer Dance Center  
Houston Society for the Performing Arts  
Center Arts/Humboldt State University  
Hancher Auditorium/University of Iowa  
Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Inc.  
UCLA Center for the Performing Arts  
University of Kansas-Lawrence  
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts  
Lively Arts at Stanford  
University of Nebraska - Lincoln  
Portland State University  
Dance Saint Louis  
San Antonio Performing Arts Association  
San Diego Foundation for the Performing Arts  
San Francisco Performances  
TITAS, Dallas, Texas  
Walker Art Center  
Meany Hall at the University of Washington

The Pick Up Co. gratefully acknowledges the following Foundations and Corporations and Funding Agencies for creatively embracing this project:

The National Endowment for the Arts  
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The Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities  
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The Rockefeller Foundation  
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Western States Arts Federation

A very special thank you to Arlene Shuler, our wonderful Board Chairperson.



## Biographies

**David Gordon** performed in the companies of James Waring and Yvonne Rainer in the 1960's. He showed work at the Living Theatre and in the first Judson Church performances. In the early 1970's he was a founding member of the improvisational ensemble the Grand Union. In 1978 he formalized the process of making work for varying numbers of performers by establishing the Pick Up Company as a legal entity. Since that time a core company has been established with whom he rehearses and tours regularly. Between 1978 and 1986, Gordon has made work for companies in the United States and Europe, including American Ballet Theatre, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Groupe de Recherche Choreographique de l'Opera de Paris, and recently for the Rambert Dance Co.. Gordon's work was seen at The Brooklyn Academy of Music in 1984 when he constructed the movement for the NEXT WAVE Festival's presentation of the Phillip Glass work *The Photographer*. The Pick Up Company has since been presented in the NEXT WAVE Festival in both 1986 and 1988. Mr. Gordon is a Guggenheim Fellow (1981 and 1987), has served as a panelist for the Dance Program for the New York State Council on the Arts and as a Panelist and Chairman of the Dance Program Panel of the National Endowment for the Arts. In September 1984, he received a New York Performance Award (Bessie) for Sustained Choreographic Achievement. He is profiled in Sally Baner's book *Terpsichore in Sneakers* and by Arlene Croce in the November 29, 1982 issue of *The New Yorker*. In May 1980, David Gordon's work was included in the *Dance in America* broadcast *Beyond the Mainstream*, and he is one of seven artists featured in Michael Blackwood's film *Making Dances*. His ten minute TV videotapes produced by the Pick Up Company have been shown by Channel 4/Great Britain. They were selected for the 1984 Olympic Arts Festival and were aired in August 1986 on as episode of the national PBS series *Alive from Off Center* devoted to Gordon's work. In October of 1987 *David Gordon's Made in U.S.A* aired nationally on WNET/*Great Performances* and later received three Emmy nominations. The program featured Mikhail Baryshnikov and Valda Setterfield in three of Gordon's works for the Pick

Up Co. and American Ballet Theatre. This past summer the Company completed a video work titled *My Folks* which will be aired on BBC-TV.

**Valda Setterfield** is from England where she performed in pantomimes and with Ballet Rambert. In 1958, she came to America and joined the companies of James Waring (1958-62) and Merce Cunningham (1965-74). She has appeared on stage with Grand Union and in Works of Katherine Litz, Yvonne Rainer, Robert Wilson, Richard Foreman, JoAnne Akalaitis and on film in works of Ms. Rainer and Brian de Palma. She performed in the works of David Gordon at the Living Theater and the Judson Church and has been a featured member of the Pick Up Co. since its inception. In September 1984, she received a New York Performance Award (Bessie) as an outstanding performance artist. In 1987, she co-starred with Mikhail Baryshnikov in *David Gordon's Made in U.S.A.* for WNET/*Great Performances*, and in May, 1988, returned as a guest artist to the Rambert Dance Company in Gordon's *Mates*.

**Dean Moss** Has Performed with the Cleveland Ballet, Louis Falco Dance Co., American Dance Machine and in the Broadway revival of *West Side Story*. His work has been shown at Dance Theatre Workshop and P.S. 122. He joined the Pick Up Company in 1983.

**Chuck Finlon** has a degree in dance from the University of Wisconsin. Before that he studied biochemistry and linguistics at two other universities. He studies ballet with Janet Panetta and the Alexander technique with Ann Rodiger.

**Scott Cunningham** has danced with the companies of Elisa Monte, Ohad Naharin, and the Mark Morris Dance Group. He received a B.A. from U/Mass, and grew up in Needham, Massachusetts. He joined the Pick Up Co. in 1986.

**Cynthia Oliver** grew up in the Virgin Islands where she performed with Theatre Dance, Inc. and The Carribean Dance Co.. In New York, she has



performed with Throne Dance Theatre and the Nanette Bearden Contemporary Dance Co.. She studies ballet with Pam Critelli.

**Karen Graham** was born and raised in Illinois and she attended the University of Illinois and performed with the Illinois Dance Theatre. She has been with the Pick Up Co. for two years.

**Heidi Michel** began dancing and taught dance for several years in Southold, New York. She received a B.F.A. degree from the North Carolina School of the Arts and currently studies ballet with Janet Panetta in New York. Heidi has performed with Joan Lombardi, Judith Moss and Mark Dendy.

**Angela Vaillancourt** began her early dance training in San Diego with Marius Zirra and at Les Grands Ballet Canadiens and Alvin Ailey Dance Center. A finalist in 1985 for the National Society of the Arts and Letters Competition, Angela has performed with Peridance, Elisa King and Lisbon Dance Company.

**Timothy Hadel** was born and raised in Kansas City and attended the University of Utah. He has performed with Tandy Beal, Charles Moulton, Doug Varone and Lucinda Childs. Tim joined the Pick Up Co. in the fall of 1988.

**Jora Nelstein** was born in Amsterdam and began her dance training at the Dance Academie in Arnhem, Holland. She toured Europe and Canada with Brazil Tropical and danced the opera *Labelle Mellene* with the Dutch National Ballet and Sanda Ballet in London. In New York, Jora danced with Rush Dance Company, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane. She has worked with Jennifer Muller, Margot Sappington and Michelle Kadison, and thanks Lynn Simonson, Maggie Black and Kathy Grant.

**Alyce Dissette** (Producer) began her professional career as a production stage manager specializing in opera and ballet. She was personal assistant to lighting designer/production manager/teacher Gilbert V. Hemsley and worked with him on numerous projects, including the 1976 Tony Award winning production of *Porgy and Bess* and President Carter's nationally televised Inaugural Eve Gala. In 1977 she joined the management staff of the Presentations Department at the Metropolitan Opera, NYC, and assisted the department in producing American Ballet Theatre, the Stuttgart Ballet, Ballet Nationale de Cuba, and the Martha Graham Dance Company. Prior to her collaboration with David Gordon she was Executive Director of ODC/San Francisco. She is currently working with her own production company, Art Producers International, Inc.

**Mark Hough** (Managing Director) has previously worked for American Ballet Theatre as Director of Development Operations. He received his BFA from the North Carolina School of the Arts and has an MFA pending in Arts Administration from Brooklyn College.

**Mark W. Stanley** (Lighting Designer) is currently the Resident Lighting Designer of the New York City Ballet. Most recently he has completed three years as Resident Lighting Director of the New York City Opera, where he designed more than fifteen operas for the repertory and touring companies. His additional credits include serving as Lighting Director for the Sankai Juku Dance Company. He has also designed for the Kirov Ballet, several regional opera companies, the American Opera Center at The Juilliard School, the Hannah Kahn Dancers, *The Perfect Party* at the Kennedy Center, the Off-Broadway production of *Curse of the Starving Class*, and Karen Aker's one woman show. Mr. Stanley is the author of *The Color of Light Workbook*.

**Curtis Grund** (Research) was born in Idaho Falls, Idaho, and has lived in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Iowa City, Iowa, and New York, New York. He has an MPA from New York University.



**Roger Oliver** (Research) has been the Humanities Director for The Brooklyn Academy of Music's Next Wave Festival since its inception in 1983. In this capacity, he has designed and implemented an internationally recognized audience education program encompassing a variety of publications, exhibitions, symposia and discussions. In addition to his duties for The Brooklyn Academy of Music, Dr. Oliver also teaches humanities and dramatic literature at The Juilliard School, and is adjunct Associate Professor of English and Dramatic Literature at New York University. He holds the B.A. degree in English from Middlebury College, the Ph.D. degree in Drama from Stanford University, and is the author of *Dreams of Passion: The Dramatic Art of Luigi Pirandello*.

**Managing Director for the Pick Up Co. - Mark Hough**

*For the United States Project*

Production Stage Manager: Allan Kerr

Lighting Director: Michael Baldassari

Sound Score Assembled by Chuck Hammer

Costume Consultant for *Slaughter*: Jeffery Ullman

Sound Engineer: Bruce Cameron

Graphic Designs: Rocky Pinciotti

Pick Up Co. Admin. Asst.: Christopher McCarthy

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**Music and Text Credits:**

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cerpts from a discussion with Robert Frost on *Robert Frost Speaks*, The Center for Cassette Studies, Inc., 8110 Webb Ave., N. Hollywood, CA, 91005.

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**Folklore from Kansas: Customs, Beliefs and Superstitions** by William E. Koch, copyright 1980 University Press of Kansas, used by permission. *Bye, Bye Blackbird* music used courtesy of Ray Henderson Music and Olde Cliff Music, performance by Peggy Lee in *Pete Kelly's Blues* courtesy of MCA Records. *Weeders and Seeders* by Barbara Perry Lawton, copyright St. Louis Post-Dispatch, used by permission. Excerpt from *MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour* copyright 1988 by Educational Broadcasting Corporation and GWETA, all rights reserved, used courtesy of WNET.

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David Gordon/Pick Up Company  
104 Franklin Street  
New York, N.Y. 10013

The Pick Up Company receives fiscal management from Pentacle, a non-profit organization which provides administrative services to a variety of performing arts groups.

Tour Arts is the official travel agency of the Pick Up Company.

The Pick Up Company's performances are made possible in part with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, and by grants from American Express Foundation, AT&T Foundation, Booth Ferris Foundation, Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A., Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, Inc., Consolidated Edison, Goldsmith-Perry Philanthropies, Inc., William and Mary Greve Foundation, Inc., Harkness Ballet Foundation, JCT Foundation, Mobil Foundation, Inc., Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, National Corporate Fund for Dance, Inc., S.I. Newhouse Foundation, Inc., New York Times Company Foundation, Inc., Philip Morris Companies, Inc., Reed Foundation, Inc., The Rockefeller Foundation, Emma A. Sheaffer Charitable Trust and the Lila Wallace - Readers Digest Fund.



## A Greeting to Our Audience

Welcome to the 1989/90 season. I would like to extend a special welcome to those of you who are new to the SUNY Purchase Performing Arts Center, a theatre complex with a unique three-fold mission that serves both the campus and the community.

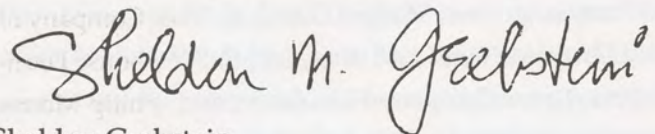
Four theatres of different seating and staging capabilities, with administrative and technical support spaces, function as a teaching laboratory for the training of the next generation of artists. Students work with professional directors, choreographers, performers, designers, technicians and administrators to produce engaging public performances in dance, music, opera and theatre.

The Performing Arts Center also presents a professional performing arts series featuring distinguished artists from all over the world, in theatre, dance, music, and performance art.

Finally, the Center serves the Westchester and Greater New York community by providing superior performance, rehearsal and recording space.

As is its tradition, the 1989-90 SUNY Purchase Performing Arts Center Series will present a number of the world's finest classical, solo-recital, and ensemble musicians. But, this season marks a new direction in its dance and theatre/performance programs. New exciting inter-disciplinary art forms, that combine movement theatre, live original music, video, text, and non-traditional use of props and lighting will be offered. Some of the leading artists in the movement are represented.

We are proud of SUNY Purchase's Performing Arts Center and the rich cultural environment that flourishes here. As members of our audience, you are an essential part of that environment. We hope you will join us again and again.



Sheldon Grebstein  
President

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## Coming Events at the Performing Arts Center

The Performing Arts Center at SUNY Purchase is presenting an exciting variety of music, performance/theatre and dance. Brochures with complete listings are available in the lobby. Tickets may be purchased at the box office in the lobby, by mail, or by telephone, (914) 251-6200. The box office is open through the intermission for your convenience.

### Concerts

Andre Watts.....	Friday, November 17
Emerson String Quartet.....	Friday, March 2
Mitsuko Uchida.....	Friday, March 9
Orpheus Chamber Orchestra.....	Friday, March 16
Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Octet....	Friday, March 23
Kalichstein/Laredo/Robinson Trio.....	Saturday, April 7

### Dance

Susan Marshall & Company.....	Saturday, March 17
Lar Lubovitch Dance Company.....	Saturday, March 31

### Performance/Theatre

Flying Karamazov Brothers.....	Saturday, November 11
Flying Karamazov Brothers.....	Saturday, November 12
Adaptors Movement Theater.....	Saturday, March 3
PS 122 Field Trips.....	Saturday, March 24



## **Performing Arts Center General Information**

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**Smoking** is prohibited inside the Performing Arts Center except in the lower lobby in front of the box office.

**Emergency fire exits** are indicated by red exit signs located above the entrances to the house. For your safety, please check the location of the exit nearest to your seat.

**Rest rooms and pay phones** are located in the lower lobby at the foot of the stairs.

**Doctors** expecting calls during performances should leave their names and seat locations with the Box Office.

**Lost items** will be held in Lost-and-Found. Please check with the House Manager or call 914/251-6222 between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.

**Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the management.**

**Box Office hours:** 10:00 - 5:00 pm daily. Telephone: 914/251-6200.

**Please note:** The use of recording equipment or the taking of photographs in the theater is strictly forbidden. Film may be confiscated. If you are wearing an alarm watch or pager in the theater, please make sure that it is turned off during the performance. Thank you.

**Tours of the Performing Arts Center** can be arranged for groups by calling the Prompters at 914-251-6272