

ARTS

AT BRYN MAWR COLLEGE

Press Contacts:
Canary Promotion | 215-690-4065
Megan Wendell, megan@canarypromo.com
Rose Mineo, rose@canarypromo.com

EPK: <http://canarypromo.com/BrynMawrPAS>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 4, 2013

Visionary Post-Modern Choreographer Susan Rethorst in Philadelphia; World Premiere This Month at Bryn Mawr College

PHILADELPHIA — The **Bryn Mawr College Performing Arts Series** presents the Philadelphia premiere of *Behold Bold Sam Dog* and the world premiere of *208 East Broadway Part 5*, part of *Susan Rethorst: Inquiring Mind/Choreographic Mind*, an exploration into the artistic process of acclaimed New York choreographer and dancer **Susan Rethorst**, a recent Philadelphia transplant. Rethorst's work has been called "meticulously made, sensually satisfying and thrumming with possibilities" by *The New York Times*. Performances take place **February 22–24, 2013**.

On **Saturday, February 23**, Danspace Project's **Judy Hussie-Taylor** will curate a day of dance focusing on Rethorst's career in Bryn Mawr's Goodhart Hall. Rethorst's choreographic approach includes ideas such as "collaboration with circumstance" influenced, in part, by **John Cage's** explorations of chance and circumstance and the teachings of choreographer **Judith Dunn**. Cage will be represented through the performative lecture "**How to Get Started**," a structured improvisation conceived by Cage in which he addressed the "creative process, and improvisation, a subject about which he had long been deeply ambivalent," according to **Slought Foundation's** director **Aaron Levy**. "This amounted to an experiment having to do with thinking in public before a live audience."

In considering Rethorst's thinking around choreographic and poetic minds (her recent book ***A Choreographic Mind*** was named "Best of 2012" by the *New Yorker* magazine) Hussie-Taylor has invited four artists to think in public before a live audience for a unique iteration of Cage's piece. Presenting will be two "choreographic minds", **Elizabeth Streb** and **Douglas Dunn**, and two "poetic minds" **Anne Waldman** and **Claudia La Rocco**, frequent contributor to *The New York Times* who will each engage with Cage's instructions. *How To Get Started* is a permanent installation created and presented in collaboration with the Slought Foundation in partnership with the John Cage Trust. Rethorst's dance/film installations can be viewed from 4 pm - 7 pm between performances of *208 East Broadway* and *Behold Bold Sam Dog*.

Bryn Mawr's Campus is located at 101 N. Merion Ave. General admission for performances is \$20, \$18 for seniors, \$10 for students with ID and Dance Pass holders, and \$5 for children under 12. Day pass for events on Saturday, February 23 is \$45 and includes dinner. **Tickets and information:** brynmawr.edu/arts/series.html or 610-526-5210.

RESIDENCY EVENTS SCHEDULE & INFORMATION

Tuesday February 19, 2:15 – 3:45 p.m.

Master Class in Composition with Vicky Shick

Location: Bryn Mawr College, Pembroke Dance Studio.

Reservations requested: reservations@brynmawr.edu or 610-526-5210

Wednesday, February 20, TBA

Open Rehearsal for 208 East Broadway, Part 5

Location: Bryn Mawr College, McPherson Auditorium in Goodhart Hall

Thursday, February 21, 4:00 pm – 5:30 p.m.

Master Class in Technique with Jodi Melnick

Location: Bryn Mawr College, Pembroke Dance Studio

Reservations requested: reservations@brynmawr.edu or 610-526-5210

Friday, February 22, 8 p.m.

Behold Bold Sam Dog

Location: Bryn Mawr College, Hepburn Teaching Theater in Goodhart Hall

Saturday, February 23 (more info: <http://rethorst.brynmawr.edu/>)

Day of Dance at Bryn Mawr College in Goodhart Hall

12:30p.m – 2:00p.m., *How to Get Started*

with Elizabeth Streb and Claudia La Rocco in Hepburn Teaching Theater

3:00 p.m., *208 East Broadway Part 5* (premiere) in McPherson Auditorium

4:00 – 7:00p.m., *dance/film installations*

with Susan Rethorst in McPherson Auditorium

2:00 – 3:00p.m. and 4:00 – 8:00p.m. Exhibition, Glass lobby

5:00 – 6:30p.m. *How to Get Started*

with Anne Waldman and Douglas Dunn in Hepburn Teaching Theater

5:45 – 7:45 Dinner in Common Room

8:00p.m. *Behold Bold Sam Dog* in Hepburn Teaching Theater

9:00p.m. *Philly Performance Club*

Led by Claudia La Rocco, frequent contributor to the *New York Times*, in Common Room

Sunday, February 24, 3 p.m

208 East Broadway Part 5

Location: Bryn Mawr College, McPherson Auditorium in Goodhart Hall

March TBA

Wreckings/Coda with selected area dance companies

ABOUT SUSAN RETHORST

Rethorst began her study of modern dance at an early age under Erika Thimey, a contemporary of Mary Wigman. She then studied with Judith Dunn at Bennington College, laying the groundwork for her artistic sensibility. Rethorst has been creating dances out of New York City since 1975 and teaching choreography while creating work throughout Europe, Scandinavia, and the U.S. since 1995. She has lectured at Dartington College in the U.K., Arizona State University, New York University, and the Amsterdam School of the Arts.

Rethorst was among the first to receive a New York Dance and Performance Award ('Bessie') for Outstanding Achievement in 1985. In further recognition of her choreographic achievements, she has been the recipient of many grants from the National Endowment for the Arts (1979-1989, 1992-1995), as well as support from the Creative Artist's Public Service Program (1979), the New York State Council on

the Arts (1979-1983), the Foundation for Contemporary Performance (1988 and 2003), the New York Foundation for the Arts (1989,1993), the Ernie Pagnano Memorial Fund (1991), the Joyce Mertz Gilmore Foundation (1992), and a fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation (1999). In 2008, Rethorst received her second Bessie for *208 East Broadway: Suitcase Dreams* and in 2010 she received the prestigious Alpert Award.

In 2005, Rethorst started a summer program devoted to the study of choreography in Pennsylvania co-sponsored by Wilson College: Studio Upson in Pennsylvania (SUPA). A mid-career retrospective of her work, *Susan Rethorst: Retro(intro)spective*, was presented at Danspace in 2011, and her book *A Choreographic Mind: Autobodygraphical Writings* was published by the Theater Academy of Helsinki in April of 2012.

ABOUT THE BRYN MAWR COLLEGE PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

Since 1984 the Bryn Mawr College Performing Arts Series has presented great artists and performances to audiences in the Philadelphia area, creating an environment in which the value of the arts is recognized and celebrated. Talks and workshops provided free to the public help develop arts awareness and literacy. The Series works to lower barriers to arts access through its partnership with Art-Reach, a nonprofit dedicated to improving arts accessibility for people of all ages and circumstances, and through its low ticket prices. Partnering in recent seasons with such organizations as the Baryshnikov Arts Center, the Bryn Mawr Film Institute and the Philadelphia Live Arts Festival, the Bryn Mawr College Performing Arts Series has presented performances and enriching events by such luminaries and visionaries as Meredith Monk, John Waters, Il Fondamento, the Khmer Arts Ensemble of Cambodia and Urban Bush Women. The Bryn Mawr College Performing Arts Series gratefully acknowledges support for its 2012-13 season from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

The Bryn Mawr College Performing Arts Series will conclude its 2012/13 season with:

Sheetal Gandhi – *Bahu-Beti-Biwi*

Friday, March 22 at 8 p.m.

McPherson Auditorium, Goodhart Hall

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This presentation of *Susan Rethorst: Inquiring Mind/Choreographic Mind* is part of *Susan Rethorst/Moving in Philadelphia 2013-2014*, which will continue through a second collaboration with Philadelphia's **Group Motion** and **Philadelphia Dance Projects**. Support for these projects has been provided by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage through Dance Advance.

###

To request high-resolution images, interviews and more information, please contact:

Canary Promotion | 215-690-4065
Megan Wendell, megan@canarypromo.com
Rose Mineo, rose@canarypromo.com