

philadelphiadanceprojects



Press Contact:

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

High-resolution images and audio files are
available upon request and online at:
www.canarypromo.com/PDP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 17, 2013

***Philadelphia Dance Projects and Group Motion Present a World Premiere
by Venerated New York Choreographer Susan Rethorst***
*New work, on stage at the Arts Bank, January 16-19, is the culmination of celebrated
dancemaker's yearlong residency in Philadelphia*

PHILADELPHIA – October 17, 2013 – **Philadelphia Dance Projects** opens its 2014 season by presenting ***perceiving the 'just this'-ness***, a world premiere by New York choreographer **Susan Rethorst**, whose work has been called “meticulously made, sensually satisfying and thrumming with possibilities” by *The New York Times*. Produced and performed by **Group Motion**, Rethorst's piece engages with Artistic Director **Manfred Fischbeck** and dancers **Lindsay Browning, Eleanor Goudie-Averill, Gregory Holt, David Konyk, Lesya Popil and Hedy Wyland**. Performances take place **January 16 – 19, 2014** at the Arts Bank on South Broad Street.

perceiving the 'just this'-ness reflects on the unique movement potential of the individual and embraces life's daily routines. In Rethorst's words from her essay *Dailiness*, the work is about “finding each moment, holding the moment until it is perceived, keeping the accumulation of moments until something is happening, something starts to kick in — the dance begins to squeak a little interest at you.”

The piece is the culmination of **Susan Rethorst: Moving in Philadelphia**, Rethorst's yearlong residency in the city that included open workshops, special events and new works meant to bring the scope of her artistry to the Philadelphia community. As part of this residency, an Informance will be held on **Thursday, December 5** for the public to observe selections of the work in progress and hear a panel discussion featuring Rethorst, Fischbeck, Danspace Project Executive Director Judy Hussie-Taylor, choreographer Vicki Shick and <fidget> co-director Megan Bridge, with DanceUP Executive Director Lois Welk as moderator. Rethorst will be signing copies of her book *A Choreographic Mind* after the event.

“I find work with a group of dancers unknown to me to be a particularly interesting challenge,” says Rethorst of her Philadelphia residency. “I am required to develop new strategies to work with dancers who may have a different background/set of goals/expectations from my own. This demands new awareness of what I want and what I take for granted in subtle ways. Daily-ness is embraced over magic and spectacle, informed by a profound acceptance of the body and its knowledge.”

Adds **Terry Fox**, executive director of Philadelphia Dance Projects (PDP): “Rethorst reminds us that all the various and simple ways we move can be viewed as dance or a dance. And that this is worth contemplation philosophically.”

Informance for *perceiving the "just this"-ness*, including preview and book signing, will be held on Thursday, December 5 at 7 p.m. at the Performance Garage, 1515 Brandywine Street. Tickets are \$5-10. Performances are Thursday, January 16 through Saturday, January 18 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, January 19 at 3 p.m. at the Arts Bank, 601 S. Broad St. in Philadelphia. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at DanceBoxOffice.com. For more information, please visit PhilaDanceProjects.org or call 215-387-9895.

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 GROUP MOTION | www.groupmotion.org

"Each dance becomes a world of its own, transforming the stage into a ritual space to explore life's mysteries and journeys. Group Motion's 45-year legacy is a testament to this philosophy." – Lisa Bardarson, thinkingdance.net

"What's most impressive about the company, however, is that it remains relevant after over four decades and the tradition of improvisation is alive and well..." – Kat Richter, The Dance Journal, Philadelphiadance.org

Group Motion Multi Media Dance Theater is one of Philadelphia's longest running contemporary dance organizations supporting a locally, nationally and internationally respected dance company. The company was founded in 1968 by Brigitta Herrmann, Helmut Gottschild and Manfred Fischbeck. Under the sole artistic direction of Manfred Fischbeck since 1989, the company has created a substantial body of over 50 works and continues to perform nationally and abroad. Group Motion also has a long history of collaboration with prominent national and international artists in all fields, including choreographers Carol Brown (New Zealand), Kenshi Nohmi and Akiko Kitamura (Japan), Oscar Araiz (Argentina), Wally Cardona (New York), Rennie Harris (Philadelphia), composers Phil Kline (New York), Andrea Clearfield (Philadelphia), and visual artists Peter Rose (Philadelphia) and Quintan Ana Wikswa (New York). In the creation of the company's own work, Manfred Fischbeck works in close collaboration with the dancers who are also choreographers in their own right.

Support for Group Motion Dance Company has been provided over time by funding from The Dolfinger McMahon Foundation, PennPAT, William Penn Foundation, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Independence Foundation, Stockton Rush Bartol Foundation, Samuel S. Fels Fund, Philadelphia Cultural Fund, US /Japan Friendship Commission, Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, Philadelphia Foundation and The Pew Center for Arts and Heritage.

ABOUT PHILADELPHIA DANCE PROJECTS | www.philadanceprojects.org

Philadelphia Dance Projects (PDP) supports contemporary dance through Projects that encourage artists and audiences to more fully participate and engage in the experience and pursuit of dance as an evolving form. Since its inception in 1993, under the aegis of Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Philadelphia Dance Projects has engaged stellar dance artists many of whom were enlarging the modern and postmodern vocabularies with personal and/or

cultural explorations in both technique and content. PDP achieves its mission by presenting performances, workshops, classes, a dance-film fest, dialogs and forums for a broad-based audience including artists, aspiring artists, students and the general public. In 2009 PDP launched *Philadelphia Dance Projects Presents DANCE UP CLOSE* a full presenting series highlighting national and local contemporary dance artists. The successful series is introducing new artists to Philly and premiering work by some of Philadelphia's finest contemporary dance artists.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Susan Rethorst/ Moving in Philadelphia has been supported by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage.

###

To request photos and interviews, please contact:

Canary Promotion | 215-690-4065

Rose Mineo, rose@canarypromo.com

Megan Wendell, megan@canarypromo.com