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**MIRO DANCE THEATRE presents *How Am I Not Myself*
new work-in-progress explores ballet, Indian & contemporary dance
featuring live Indian music @ Open Studio Series, June 26th**

WHEN: Thursday, June 26th, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
[Previously scheduled for June 12th]

WHERE: Miro Studio at Girard College
2101 South College Ave. (at Girard Ave. & Corinthian Ave.)
Accessible by #15 & #33 buses; free and secure parking.

ADMISSION: FREE; light refreshments will be served.
For directions and more information, visit www.mirodancetheatre.org
or call (215) 962-4773.

Philadelphia's **Miro Dance Theatre** has been actively developing their latest work-in-progress, ***How Am I Not Myself*** – a celebration of the contemporary and the unclassifiable – and will showcase a preview of the work at the **Open Studio Series** event held at Miro's **Girard College** studio on **Thursday, June 26th** from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. *How Am I Not Myself* collaborator **Viji Rao**, founder of Philadelphia's Threeksha Institute of Performing Arts, will join Miro co-Artistic Director and choreographer **Amanda Miller**, in an exploration of ballet, bharatanatyam – a classical dance from Southern India – and contemporary dance while navigating the questions: "Who are we? Where did we come from? Where are we going?"

Visiting composer and multi-percussion instrumentalist **Praveen D Rao**, of Bangalore, India, and **Usha Gupta**, dancer and North Indian Vocalist of Edmonton, Canada, will also accompany with a live musical performance. As part of the Open Studio program, Miro Dance Theatre invites audiences to join in a discussion with the artists about the first phase of the project.

While working with Rao on Miro's *Principles of Uncertainty* and *Civilian/Warrior*, Amanda Miller discovered that the two dancers have many parallels in their own artistic paths. At the age of four, Rao and Miller began their classical dance training on opposite sides of the world – one in ballet and the other in bharatanatyam. Now, thirty years later, they are both engaged in unique forms of contemporary dance.

Rao is a professional dance artist based in Philadelphia where she has an active career as a performer and teacher of bharatanatyam. Rao has trained under noted gurus K.Shivarao, Dr. Alakananda and Anuradha and Sridhar and has performed as a guest artist with several international dance and theatre

companies including the England-based Shobana Jeyasingh Company, Chitrleka Dance Company, SAMPAD and Moby Duck, the India based Arangham, and SAMPRADAYA Dance Creations.

Slated to premiere in India in December 2008, *How Am I Not Myself* is directed by Miro's co-Artistic Director and video and visual artist **Tobin Rothlein**, who is documenting the dancers' transition from classical to contemporary.

"*How Am I Not Myself* is a conversation in movement and stories," said Rothlein. "As the projects documentarian, the first thing I did was interview both Amanda and Viji. Through our discussions, it was immediately revealed that this piece is about more than artistic struggles. The performance also explores universal issues centering on individuality and female identity across different cultures, through a dialogue of movement, music and multimedia."

Miro Dance Theatre's monthly Open Studio Series, which launched in December 2006, provides audiences with open access to the creative process and a chance to see and respond to new dance works in progress, as well as previous pieces from the Miro repertoire. All series events are held at Miro's Girard College studio where the company also serves as artists-in-residence and continues to oversee an outreach program with the school's students. Open Studio Series performances are free and open to the public.

Miro Dance Theatre and the Open Studio Series are supported by the Philadelphia Cultural Fund, Independence Foundation, Advanta Foundation, Samuel S. Fels Fund, and Girard College.

About Miro Dance Theatre

Miro Dance Theatre ("Miro") creates and performs original work that explores the collaborative intersections of dance, video, and visual art. Miro uses classical technique as a departure point from which to explore new and challenging dance vocabularies, ideologies, performance disciplines, and the way media co-exist within the performance space. The company was founded in 2004 by dancer and choreographer Amanda Miller and video and visual artist Tobin Rothlein, following five years as Co-Artistic directors of Phrenic New Ballet. Miller, with ten years experience as a dancer with the Pennsylvania Ballet and choreographic studies in Europe under Siobhan Davies, is at the helm of Miro's choreographic exploration. Rothlein, whose work as video artist and visual designer for Rennie Harris Puremovement and others has garnered national and international accolades, oversees the company's work in combining dance, multi-media and visual arts.

About Girard College

Girard College is a private boarding school for academically capable students, grades 1 through 12, from families with limited financial resources, each headed by a single parent or guardian. All Girard students receive full scholarships to take part in the school's strong academic program and to live safely on its enclosed 43-acre campus in the Fairmount section of Philadelphia. Girard is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. It holds membership in the National Association of Independent Schools, The Association of Boarding Schools, the Coalition for Residential Education, and the Association of Delaware Valley Independent Schools. For information, visit www.girardcollege.com.

For more information, visit www.mirodancetheatre.org or call (215) 962-4773.

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To schedule interviews, request photos and additional information, please contact:

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