

# D!verseWorks

ART  
SPACE

Stephan Koplowitz: TaskForce  
and



PRESENT

## *Natural Acts in Artificial Water*

*A site-specific promenade performance in six sections  
for the Gerald D. Hines Waterwall Park*

Photo: Lynn Lane Photography



May 19 & 20, 2012  
Gerald D. Hines Waterwall Park

in partnership  
with **Hines**

a part of: **INSIGHT OUT**

A Weekend Festival of Media and Live Performance

**Stephan Koplowitz: TaskForce**  
***Natural Acts in Artificial Water***

*A site-specific promenade performance in six sections  
for the Gerald D. Hines Waterwall Park*

**Concept, Direction and Choreography:** Stephan Koplowitz

**Rehearsal Director:** Teresa Chapman

**Core Company Performers:**

Shanon Adams, Christopher Cardenas, Rebekah Chappel,  
Alexandra DiNunzio, Kristen Frankiewicz, Catalina Molnari,  
Kara Newton, Lindsey Sarah Thompson, Toni Valle

*Special thanks to the Core Company Performers for their important  
creative contributions to this work.*

**Extended Company Performers:**

Jessica Capistran, Roberta Cortes, Erica Henderson,  
Mallory Horn, Sean Keil, Sarah Leung, Tina Shariffskul,  
Robin Worley (understudy)

**Music:** Space City Gamelan

Aaron Hermes, Musical Director

Araceli Camacho-McMahan, Rashida Hagakore, Yvonne Kendall,  
Ashdin Medhora, Danny Mauer, Brittany Rohrman

**Costume Design:** Paige Wilson

**Assistant Costume Design:** James McDaniel

**Project Coordination:** Josh Davis

**Stage Managers:** Elizabeth Pelz, Bryan Wallace

**Video Documentation:** Andrew Ford

**Photo Documentation:** Ed Schipul

*Stephan Koplowitz would like to thank:*

DiverseWorks Artistic Director Sixto Wagan for his vision, the invitation to make this work and for his collaboration in the creation of this project and the entire staff at DiverseWorks for their support; Delia Mizwa and John Breeding of Uptown Houston for their warm welcome and partnership; Karen Farber of the Mitchell Center for the Arts; Michael Parsons and Richard Flores, our water engineers; the University of Houston's School of Theater and Dance; David Sheingold for his intelligent consultancy and advice; Karen Stokes for her friendship and important advice; Steven Lavine, President of CalArts, and Lisa Barr TAC Producer for their support of TaskForce; and to my collaborative team of artists and performers, thank you for your hard work, dedication and focus during this intensive and exciting process.

Choreographer Stephan Koplowitz has designed the performance to respond to all areas of the Gerald D. Hines Waterwall Park. **To best view the performance, we ask the audience to follow our ushers as a group through the six sections of the work.**

**BACK STORY: *Natural Acts in Artificial Water*** is part of Stephan Koplowitz's national/international initiative TaskForce, a site-art dance touring company that works on a project to project basis which began in Idyllwild, Los Angeles, CA (2008) and Plymouth, UK (2009). The performance in Houston marks a new evolution of the project *TaskForce: United (States)* which engages local artists, performers and institutions to create original site works across the United States. TaskForce is a process oriented performance laboratory that draws inspiration from the architecture, history, culture, and ecology of a specific site, city or region, all connected by a common theme. To date, the common theme Koplowitz has chosen for his TaskForce projects is water. Since its inception, TaskForce has created more than 20 distinct site-specific works and has collaborated with over 30 different artists in music, theater, visual arts and media. In Houston, over the past six months, Mr. Koplowitz developed the concept and structure of the performance and conducted pre-production research with the producing partners. Though the ideas have been gestating for a while, in keeping with the TaskForce model, this Houston based company of sixteen dancers underwent nine days of intensive rehearsals to develop this weekend's performances.

## PRINCIPAL COLLABORATORS



**Stephan Koplowitz** is an internationally renowned director, choreographer, and media artist known for his site-specific, multi-media works created for architecturally significant sites. He has won numerous awards for his work including an Alpert Award in the Arts (2004), a Guggenheim Fellowship in Choreography (2003), a New York Dance and Performance Award "Bessie" (2000), and six National Endowment for the Arts Choreography Fellowships (1988-97). His work has been produced across the United States and internationally, and in the past twenty-five years he has created 62 works and been awarded 42 commissions.

Currently based in Los Angeles, Koplowitz is on faculty and is Dean of The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at the California Institute of the Arts. In October, 2000, Koplowitz premiered *Open Book/Open House* with 50 dancers for the new Humanities Building at Rice University, Houston. In 2007, he created (*iseea*), a site-specific work for Boston's Institute for Contemporary Art (ICA). Commissioned by Summer Stages Dance and the ICA, it was named one of the Top Ten Dance Productions of 2007 by the Boston Globe. In May 2012, Koplowitz premiered four new site-specific performance events commissioned for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Gustavus Adolphus College, outside of Minneapolis, MN. This summer, he has been invited to the prestigious La Mama/Umbria Summer Institute to teach directing and conduct a residency/workshop on site specificity as part of the Spoleto Festival. For more info: [koplowitzprojects.com](http://koplowitzprojects.com) or [youtube.com/lanycart](http://youtube.com/lanycart)

**Space City Gamelan** features modern and contemporary compositions performed on Indonesian instruments. This bell-chime orchestra is one of the only privately operated gamelans in the United States. Self-described as “psychotropic jungle lullaby trance,” this band will leave you wanting to stay in the dream world they weave with their sound.

**Teresa Chapman** is Associate Professor at the University of Houston where she teaches dance technique, aesthetics, and pedagogy. As a performer, she dances for Karen Stokes Dance and has been seen in works by many other Houston-based choreographers. She has also performed with artists in Santa Barbara, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Washington DC, and New York. In addition, Teresa is an independent choreographer. She received her MFA in Dance from California State University, Long Beach.



**Paige A. Wilson** is Assistant Professor of Costume Design and Technology at the University of Houston School of Theatre and Dance. She received her MFA in Theatre from the University of Houston and her BFA in Dance at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

### Core Company Performers:



**Shanon Adams**



**Christopher Cardenas** is a member of the Houston Metropolitan Dance Company. He began dancing as a freshman at the University of Southern California where he studied Communication. While in Los Angeles, he studied at the Edge and other LA area studios. After graduating from USC, he moved back to Houston and danced with Houston City Dance Company for two years before joining the Met. He has enjoyed performing the many works of the various invited choreographers and the many industrials requested of the Met. Christopher also teaches at many Houston area schools and studios.



**Rebekah Chappell** is from Williamsburg, Virginia. She graduated summa cum laude with a BFA in Dance from Shenandoah Conservatory in 2009. Rebekah has worked with The Doniphan Project, Karen Stokes Dance, Sandra Organ Earthen Vessels, and Suchu Dance. She is an adjunct dance faculty at San Jacinto College.



**Alexandra DiNunzio** has studied dance for over 10 years, dancing with the Houston Metropolitan, graduating from the High School for Performing and Visual Arts, and dancing at the University of Houston. She is currently a senior at UH and will be graduating May 2013 with majors in Dance and Spanish. This is her first time working with Steven Koplowitz.



**Kristen Frankiewicz**, a BFA in Dance at The University of Texas at Austin alum, is a performer, choreographer, and rhythmic gymnastics coach. Kristen currently dances for Reck Dance Projects, Suchu Dance, Frame Dance Productions, Chapman Dance, and has worked for zoejuniper Dance, ODC Dance, American Repertory Ensemble, Margo Sappington, Harrison McEldowney, Michael Foley, Ming-Lung Yang, Charlotte Griffin, David Dorfman, and Dianne McIntyre in her career previously.

Kristen enjoys performing in theaters and unique venues across the United States, as well as internationally on stages in Austria, Germany, Italy, Greece, and Mexico.



**Catalina Molnari** is a native of Bogota, Colombia. She holds a BA in Theater and Dance from the University of Houston. She has also trained at the Instituto Superior de Arte in La Habana, Cuba, and at various national and international festivals. Catalina has performed for various artists in Bogota, La Habana, Ireland, France, and Houston, and she currently works at GYROTONIC® Houston, teaches at Hope Center, and performs with VauLt, and

Hope Stone Dance.



**Kara Newton** is a contemporary dancer from the Houston area. Kara has had the opportunity to travel and work with a diverse group of choreographers including Alvaro Restrepo in Cartengena, Colombia; Charlotte Boye-Christensen from Ririe-Woodbury; Zoe Scofield of Zoe Juniper; and Psophonía Dance Company here in Houston. Kara enjoys exploring movement in the modern, post-modern, and contemporary styles and is always looking for her

next adventure in dance.



**Lindsey Sarah Thompson** is living and working in Houston as an artist and educator of many mediums and processes. She received her Bachelors of Fine Arts in Photography and Digital Media from the University of Houston, but her investment extends into performance arts, dance, and design. Lindsey has been teaching photography, electronic multimedia, filmmaking, movement, drawing and painting in some significant capacity

since 2008, as an employee of Cypress Fairbanks ISD, Living Lines Dance Center, and since, through organizations such as Aurora Picture Show and Houston Center for Photography. Lindsey has been performing with Jennifer Wood and Suchu Dance since 2004.



**Toni Leago Valle** is Artistic Director and choreographer for 6', and an adjunct faculty at University of Houston School of Theatre & Dance. Valle received a B.A. in Theatre, specializing in dance, from University of Houston in 2000. Valle has performed with Suchu Dance, Dancepatheatre, Psophonía Dance Company, and is a current member of Karen Stokes Dance and Becky Valls & Company for Young Audiences. Valle has been featured in numerous concerts, including Open Book, Open House by

Stephan Koplowitz, A Weekend of Texas Contemporary Dance, and Marta Lichlyter's A Thin Line as part of the University of Houston's Choreography in Action series on PBS.

### **Extended Company Performers:**



**Jessica Capistran** is a native Houstonian and a graduate from the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. She holds a BA in Dance from the University of Houston under the direction of Karen Stokes. She is excited to be part of the Koplowitz project in Houston!



**Roberta Cortes** was born and raised in Brazil and received most of her dance training there. While in Houston, Roberta has had the opportunity to work with dance companies and independent choreographers such as Psophonía, Earthen Vessels, Vault, Hope Stone, Jhon Stronks, Elizabeth Lucrezio and Tapley Whaley. She also teaches at Hope Center and at The Houston Metropolitan Dance Center.



**Erica Henderson** is studying dance at the University of Houston; she is a member of their pre-professional company, Ensemble.

### **Mallory Horn**



**Sean Keil** began dancing professionally at the age of 16. He has danced with a diverse range of companies and artists ranging in style from modern to ballet, and African to hip-hop. Sean has a love for site-specific dance work and is especially excited to work with Stephen Koplowitz on this project!



**Sarah Leung** began dancing at Mitsi Dancing School and Dance of Asian America in Houston, TX. She received an Associate of Arts in Dance from Austin Community College and has had the pleasure of choreographing and performing internationally including Honduras with CarolinaMershon Dance Company and Macau. Currently, she is dancing with Suchu Dance Company.



**Tina Shariffskul** has been performing with contemporary dance company, Suchu Dance / Jennifer Wood, since 1993. She has also had the opportunity work with a number of artists including Linda Post / Jim Nolan, Zoe Scofield of zoe | juniper, Natasha Manley, Dana Wessale, Daniel Adame, Toni Leago Valle of Vault, and Rebecca French and Robert Thoth of Freneticore. Other movement styles include hip hop, Thai folk dancing and muay thai. In 2007, Tina was nominated as a Buffy Award finalist.

Robin Worley (understudy) is currently studying Dance at UH and will be graduating in December 2012. She has trained at a studio for many years, and also with local companies in San Diego. She continued dancing at San Francisco State and Palomar College where she received an AA in Fine Arts and Humanities.

## **ABOUT DIVERSEWORKS ARTSPACE**

Known for its groundbreaking artistic and educational programs, DiverseWorks is one of the premiere contemporary arts centers in the United States. DiverseWorks has been a hub for the presentation of daring and innovative work, a commissioner of major artistic projects across disciplines, and an advocate for artists worldwide. Founded by artists for artists, DiverseWorks continues its commitment to bold artistic exploration, creative risk-taking, and building audiences for contemporary art.

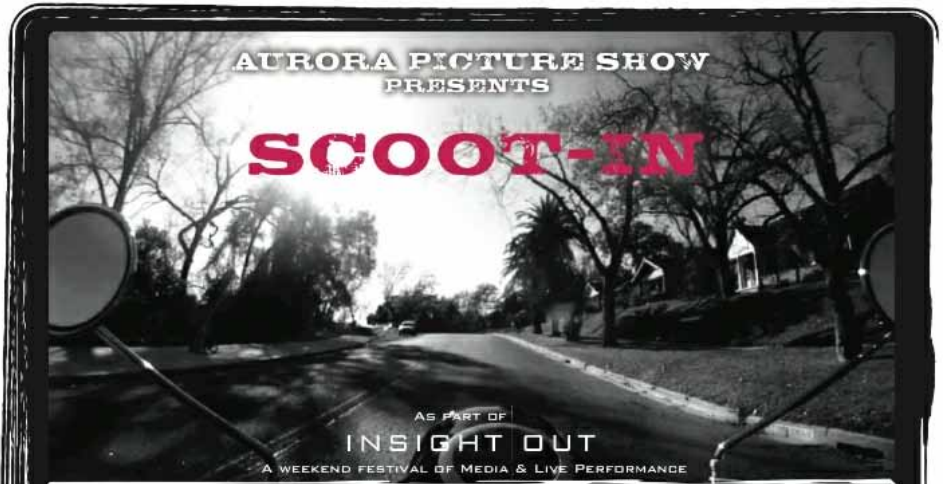
[www.diverseworks.org](http://www.diverseworks.org)

Support for Stephan Koplowitz: TaskForce - *Natural Acts in Artificial Water* is provided by the Transatlantic Arts Consortium (TAC), a collaboration between CalArts, The Dartington Hall Trust, and Idyllwild Arts; Modern B&B; Uptown Houston; and DiverseWorks Underwriters and Major Donors including: The National Endowment for the Arts, Houston Endowment, The City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance, Texas Commission on the Arts, The Brown Foundation and the Cullen Trust for the Performing Arts.



# INSIGHT OUT

A Weekend Festival of Media and Live Performance



**May 19 - 8 pm**

## ***Scoot-In***

Sesquicentennial Park  
400 Texas Ave.

Houstonians can walk, ride their bikes or mopeds, carpool, take the bus or drive to this unique drive-in film event. Presented by Aurora Picture Show and curated by Bart Weiss of the Dallas Video Festival.

**May 20 - noon and 3 pm**

## ***Seven in the Third***

Project Row Houses  
2505 – 2521 Holman St.

Composer Travis Weller provides a site-specific score that's spread across seven of Houston's historic Project Row Houses. Presented by the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts.

