

McKNIGHT ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS  
FOR DANCERS

AT NORTHROP

SOLO

McKNIGHT DANCE  
FELLOWS

SAT, OCT 4, 8:00 PM

SUN, OCT 5, 5:00 PM

CARLSON FAMILY STAGE

2012 FELLOWS

Taryn Griggs  
Ashwini Ramaswamy  
Stephen Schroeder

2013 FELLOWS

Kari Mosel  
Tamara Ober  
Greg Waletski

Dear Friends of Northrop,

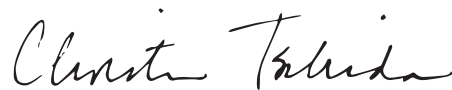
Welcome to SOLO, an evening that features some of Minnesota's extraordinary dancers. Tonight we showcase recipients of the 2012 and 2013 McKnight Artist Fellowships for Dancers—Taryn Griggs, Kari Mosel, Tamara Ober, Ashwini Ramaswamy, Stephen Schroeder, and Greg Waletski—in six world premieres created by choreographers who hail from near (Minneapolis) and far (India, New York, Massachusetts).

The McKnight Artist Fellowship for Dancers is a rare bird. It is a fellowship. For dancers. Fellowships with unrestricted funds are few and far between in our country and fellowships for dancers are even more exotic. We are grateful to The McKnight Foundation for their commitment to individual artists. The foundation established the fellowship program in 1981, adding the dancer fellowships in 1997. The McKnight Foundation supports fellowships for Minnesota dancers, choreographers and artists in eight other disciplines, comprising what is perhaps the largest ongoing artist fellowship program in the U.S.

Tonight's six SOLO world premieres are the result of months of creative work, where each choreographer-dancer team entered into a process full of mystery, risk, imagination, hard work and joy. The solos are tailored expressly for these dancers, each dance a very personal expression. Though you see one dancer onstage, the backstory is an intimate relationship between choreographer and performer. We give you an inside glimpse of the behind-the-scenes stories through Saturday's pre-performance talk with the choreographers, Sunday's post-performance discussion with the dancers, and a series of short videos incorporated into the performance.

The Twin Cities is blessed with a vibrant dance scene, with many fine dancers, choreographers, dance companies, and associated artists. Through SOLO, Northrop is pleased to showcase some of our exceptional local artists in a season that celebrates stellar dance from all over the world.

Enjoy the show.



Christine Tschida  
Director of Northrop



Mary Ellen Childs  
Program Director, McKnight Artist Fellowships  
for Dancers and Choreographers

Northrop at the University of Minnesota  
Presents

# SOLO

MCKNIGHT DANCE FELLOWS

Premiere performances by the recipients of the 2012 and 2013  
McKnight Artist Fellowships for Dancers

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**LIGHTING DESIGNER**

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**TECHNICAL DIRECTOR**

Justin Burke

**LIGHTING SUPERVISOR**

Allana Olson

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**STAGE CREW MANAGER**

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**STAGE MANAGER**

Natalie Wilson

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Caitlin Hammel

**VIDEO EDITOR**

Allyson Taubenheim

**ASL INTERPRETER (SUNDAY)**

Carlos Grant

THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

The McKnight Artist Fellowships for Dancers and Choreographers and the McKnight International Artist program is funded by The McKnight Foundation and administered by Northrop.



Christine Tschida. Photo by Patrick O'Leary, University of Minnesota.



Mary Ellen Childs.  
Photo © Warwick Green.



Activities at Northrop are made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund, and a grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota.

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## PROGRAM ORDER

**Ashwini Ramaswamy**

***Shankara Sri Giri***

Choreography by Alarmél Valli

**Tamara Ober**

***The Entertainment***

Choreography by D.J. Mendel

**Stephen Schroeder**

***I met the soul walking along the path***

Choreography by James Morrow

INTERMISSION

**Taryn Griggs**

***soloscape***

Choreography by Jodi Melnick

**Greg Waletski**

***Gut Renovations with Greg Waletski***

Choreography by Karen Sherman

**Kari Mosel**

***Striptease***

Choreography by Lane Gifford

## McKNIGHT ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS



Northrop is pleased to be the home of the McKnight Artist Fellowships for Dancers and the McKnight Artist Fellowships Choreographers. The McKnight Artist Fellowships annually award three fellowships of \$25,000 each to Minnesota dancers and three fellowships of \$25,000 each to choreographers. McKnight Artist Fellowships deliver significant financial assistance to mid-career individuals whose work demonstrates artistic excellence.

### **SOLO Commissioning Project**

As part of the McKnight Artist Fellowships for Dancers, Northrop commissions a new work for each dance fellow, created by a choreographer of the fellow's choice.

Northrop presents these new works every other year on our dance series. Tonight's SOLO performance features the 2012 and 2013 McKnight Dance Fellows, premiering new work by choreographers from India, New York, Massachusetts, and Minnesota. (Watch for the next SOLO show in 2016!)

SOLO and the McKnight Artist Fellowship Program for Dancers are funded by The McKnight Foundation and administered by Northrop.





ASHWINI  
RAMASWAMY

# R A M M

**ASHWINI RAMASWAMY** has studied Bharatanatyam with Ragamala Dance Company Artistic Directors Raneer Ramaswamy and Aparna Ramaswamy—her mother and sister—since the age of five and is a founding company member and soloist with Ragamala. She has been accepted as a student of Bharatanatyam legend Alarmél Valli, one of the greatest living masters of the form. The company's most recent work, in which Ramaswamy was a featured dancer, was hailed by *The New York Times* as “soulful,” “marvelously danceable,” and “breathtaking,” and the *Star Tribune* says “Ashwini brings a level of athleticism, ferocity and even a touch of mischief to her dancing.” Ramaswamy has toured extensively with Ragamala, performing throughout the U.S. and in Russia, Taiwan, Indonesia, Japan, the U.K., and India, highlighted by performances at Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, American Dance Festival, Music Center of Los Angeles, Krannert Center, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Bali Arts Festival, Soorya Festival, and National Centre for Performing Arts in Mumbai. Ramaswamy is the recipient of two Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Initiative Grants for Dance, a 2013 Metropolitan Regional Arts Council Next Step Fund grant, and a 2014 Jerome Foundation Travel Study Grant. Ramaswamy recently began choreographing and is continuing to create new work. Ramaswamy is Ragamala’s director of publicity and marketing and holds a degree in English Literature from Carleton College. She currently serves on the board of Arts Midwest.

## **SHANKARA SRI GIRI**

**Musical composition by Swati Tirunal**

**Musical ensemble**

**Aparna Ramaswamy (nattuvangam)**

**Ramya Kapadia (vocals)**

**Rajna Swaminathan (mridangam)**

**Anjna Swaminathan (violin)**

**ALARMÉL VALLI** is a leading Bharatanatyam dancer and choreographer of international renown, acclaimed for her ability to turn a traditional grammar into a subtle, deeply internalized, personal dance poetry. Having studied with great masters, she has evolved a distinctive style of dance that is classical and yet contemporary, precise, and poetic. She has received numerous awards including the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan conferred by the President of India, The Sangeeth Natak Academy award from the Indian National Academy for Dance, Music and Drama, and the Chevalier of Arts and Lettres award from the Government of France. Valli’s early training in music under Smt. T. Muktha helped shape her ideal of an intensely musical dance style, based on an awareness of the fact that text and music are as inseparably linked, ‘as the word and its meaning.’ In 2012, *Lasya Kavya*, a film on her by Sankalp Meshram, won the National Award for Best Non-Feature Film on Art and Culture. Valli’s has danced at renowned venues worldwide, including the Bolshoi Theatre, the Theatre De La Ville and the Avignon Festival, the Edinburgh Festival, the Royal Albert Hall and the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the New York International Festival of Arts and The Kennedy Center, the Venice Biennale, the Lyon Biennale, the Frankfurt Alte Oper, the Vienna International Dance Festival, and the Israel Festival.

“Alarmél Valli is a paragon. She is that rare thing—the solo performer who puts all others out of mind.” —*The New York Times*

# OBER

**TAMARA OBER** is a Minneapolis based dancer, choreographer, and multidisciplinary creator. She graduated from the University of MN with a B.F.A. in Dance and BA in Sociology, and joined Zenon Dance Company in 2002, where she's worked with over 40 emerging and renowned choreographers. Ober has created 2 critically acclaimed solo shows integrating dance, theater, and film. *Pipa* and *Sin Eater* have toured the U.S., and Canada, and have been produced by the Seattle Performance Festival, L1 Festival in Budapest, and the Red Eye Theater. *Pipa* received the Montreal Fringe's first-runner-up Best English Language Production Centaur Award ('09), *City Pages'* Best Artist ('09), a Sage Award for Outstanding Performer ('10), *Metro Magazine's* Keeper Award ('11); *Sin Eater* received 3 Sage Award Nominations for Performance, Performer, and Design ('12). Ober is excited to be creating new work with composer/musician Julie Johnson, and New York filmmaker D.J. Mendel. Supported by the 2012 MacPhail Center for Music Artist Grant, Live Music for Dance MN grant ('13), and a Tofte Artist Residency ('14), they created *Standing on the Hollow*, and are in progress with new work for future release. Ober has enjoyed consulting, performing lecture/demonstrations, speeches, and workshops for various educational institutions, and creating movement in plays and theater works. She is grateful to the Minneapolis art community, her friends, family, and co-artists, and looks forward to continuing to bring her heart and spirit to the arts well into the future.

[tamaraober.com](http://tamaraober.com)

A long time collaborator with Rosanne Cash, **D.J. MENDEL** has directed and designed video for her last three concert tours: *Black Cadillac*, *The List* and *The River*, and the *Thread*, as well as music videos for her songs, "Motherless Children," and "I'm Moving On." Mendel also has worked with composer/ violinist Daniel Bernard Roumain, directing two of Roumain's music/theater pieces: *Darwin's Meditation for the People of Lincoln*, and *Symphony for the Dance Floor*. Both shows premiered in New York at the Next Wave Festival at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and also toured the U.S. For the past nine years, Mendel has directed all of Cynthia Hopkins work including the award winning *Accidental Nostalgia*, *Must Don't Whip 'Um*, *The Success of Failure*, *The Truth: A Tragedy*, and most recently, *This Clement World*. All of these shows have toured the U.S. and Europe. Mendel has directed two feature films: *Make Pretend*, which he also wrote, and *Planet Earth: Dreams*, written by avant-garde theater legend Richard Foreman, as well as numerous shorts films. As a performer he has worked numerous times with legendary theater director, Richard Foreman and has appeared in many films directed by Hal Hartley.

[djmendel.net](http://djmendel.net)



TAMARA  
OBER

**THE ENTERTAINMENT**  
Choreography/Sound Design  
by D.J. Mendel

Music by Kevin MacLeod/Licensed  
under Creative Commons



# S C H

STEPHEN  
SCHROEDER

**STEPHEN SCHROEDER** currently dances and has danced with Zenon Dance Company since 2001. He's also been seen in the Twin Cities with the likes of Shapiro and Smith Dance, Penny Freeh, Minnesota Dance Theater, ARENA Dances, TU Dance, the Minnesota Opera, and Nautilus Music Theater. Originally, he hails from Colorado where he earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Since becoming a professional dancer in 1996, Schroeder has taught and performed across the country and internationally. He seeks the essence of movement and strives to share it with all who'll listen. An avid lover of horses, dogs, cats, good music, and live performance, Schroeder will attempt to combine all in his largest endeavor yet, the raising of his daughter Paityn Joy. "Many thanks to all I've worked with throughout my years here in the Twin Cities and to those I continue to and will work with as we strive to better ourselves, our lives, and the lives of others with our artistry. And of course the most thanks and love to Stephanie, my wife, my love, my life."

A native of Chicago, IL, **JAMES MORROW** is the founder and artistic director of james morrow/ The Movement. Coming from an urban background, Morrow yearned to see the classical vocabulary prevalent in concert dance integrated into the hip-hop culture with which he was submerged. His movement has become a fusion of modern, contemporary, and urban dance styles. His choreography can be seen on companies throughout the U.S. and internationally, most recently working in Utrecht, Vienna, Mumbai, Krasnoyarsk, and New Brighton. Morrow was on Faculty at the American Dance Festival (summer 2010). He received a fellowship to Hollins University/The American Dance Festival (2011) where he earned his MFA in dance. He has been recipient of the Artist Ambassador Award to Northeastern Illinois University (2001), The Mordine and Co. Mentoring Project (2006), Chicago Cultural Dance Center's Dance Bridge (2008), Movement Research at Judson Church (2012), and Bates Teacher Fellowship (2013), Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellow in Choreography (2014). As an educator, Morrow has been a guest lecturer/ adjunct professor at Jacksonville University and Amherst College. He has worked as dance faculty at Northeastern Illinois University, Florida State College at Jacksonville, Episcopal School of Jacksonville, Hartford Academy for the Arts, and Pioneer Valley Performing Arts. He is currently an assistant professor of dance at Salem State University. [jamesmorrowthemovement.com](http://jamesmorrowthemovement.com)

## **I MET THE SOUL WALKING ALONG THE PATH**

**Choreography by James Morrow**

**Music by Michael Wall**

**Costume design by Mico Fuentes**





TARYN  
GRIGGS

## SOLOSCAPE

Choreography by Jodi Melnick

Sound design by Chris Yon

Sourced from Roberta Flack, Les Paul,  
Phil Spector and more

# G R I

**TARYN GRIGGS** is a dancer originally from North Carolina. She attended the North Carolina School for the Arts from the age of 15 through college. Griggs spent a decade in New York and the last 6 years living and working in Minneapolis. Some of the choreographers she has worked with include: Ivy Baldwin, Mary Cochran, Yoshiko Chuma, Angharad Davies, Dustin Haug, Sara Hook, Justin Jones, Michael Mao, David Neumann, Susan Rethorst, Liz Roche, Anna Sperber, Sara Smith, Karinne Keithley Syers, Tamin Totzke, and Johannes Wieland. Since 2002 she has been dancing with and for her husband, Chris Yon. Their work together has been presented locally, nationally, and internationally. Last year, they co-curated the 41st Choreographer's Evening at the Walker Art Center. Griggs is a 2009 Sage Award winner for Performance. This fall, Griggs and Yon moved to Iowa City with their daughter Beatrix to embark on their next adventure. Taryn would like to thank Jodi, Mary Ellen, Natalie, Lindsay, Sarah, Liz at Tofté, The McKnight Foundation, Northrop, F. John Herbert, Mel Andringa and the staff of Legion Arts, Reay and Rich Griggs, Beatrix, and the love of my life, Chris.

**JODI MELNICK** is a New York City based choreographer, dancer, and teacher. She is a 2014 Doris Duke Impact Award recipient, a 2012 Guggenheim Fellow, a Jerome Robbins New Essential Works Grant (2010-2011), a Foundation for Contemporary Arts 2011 Grants to Artists Award, and has been honored with two New York Dance and Performance (Bessies) Awards for sustained achievement in dance (2001 and 2008). Her work has been presented/commissioned at City Center, The Joyce Theater, New York Live Arts (NYLA), The Kitchen, La Mama., Jacob's Pillow, American Dance Festival, Martha's Vineyard, and internationally, in Kansai, Japan, and opening the Dublin Dance Festival (2011). In 2012, Melnick collaborated with Trisha Brown, creating and performing the solo *One of Sixty Five Thousand Gestures*. Melnick continues to perform and collaborate with choreographers such as Sara Rudner, Vicky Shick, Jon Kinzel, Susan Rethorst, David Neumann, and John Jasperse (creating Becky, Jodi, and John). Melnick worked with video artists Burt Barr, Charles Atlas, and currently, Jillian Pena. Melnick revisited working with Donna Uchizono (2005-8), creating and performing in a trio with Mikhail Baryshnikov and danced with the Twyla Tharp Dance Company from 1991-94 and again in 2009. She currently teaches at Barnard College, NYU (in the Experimental Theater Wing), Sarah Lawrence College, and as guest teacher at The Trevor Day School. Along with *Soloscape* for dancer Taryn Griggs, her most recent work, *Moment Marigold*, premieres at Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) October 2014.



# W A L

**GREG WALETSKI** grew up in Chanhassen and is a 1987 graduate of St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN. Inspiration for a dancing life began there with his first teacher, Toni Sostek. He was a member of the modern and jazz repertory company, Zenon Dance Company, for 22 years. As such he worked with a wide range of choreographers, toured to many interesting places, and introduced the creative possibilities of dance to thousands of kids through Zenon's school outreach program. He has also performed in the companies of several Twin Cities' based choreographers including Megan Mayer, Wynn Fricke, Cathy Young, and Matthew Janczewski. In 2000 he was awarded a McKnight Fellowship for Dance and was the recipient of a 2011 Sage Award for Outstanding Performer. For many years he has worked as a commercial salmon fisherman in Alaska's Bristol Bay. He is also an avid record collector and DJ at the monthly funk and soul dance night, Hipshaker. Waletski is currently enrolled in the Sign Language Interpreter/Transliterater AAS degree program at St. Paul College and is looking forward to a future in the interpreting field.

## **GUT RENOVATIONS WITH GREG WALETSKI**

Choreography by Karen Sherman

Sound by Karen Sherman

Costume by Greg Waletski and Karen Sherman

**KAREN SHERMAN** makes dances, writes, and builds things. Her work has been presented by P.S. 122, Walker Art Center, PICA/TBA Festival, Fusebox Festival, The Chocolate Factory Theater, Studio 303, The Southern Theater, Movement Research, and many others. She has received numerous awards for her work as a choreographer, performer, and designer, including a 2007 Bessie Award for her performance in Morgan Thorson's *Faker*, McKnight Foundation Fellowships in Choreography (2013, 2006) and Dance (2009), a Bush Foundation Artist Fellowship (2009), MacDowell Colony Fellowships (2010, 2003), and a Bogliasco Foundation Fellowship in Liguria, Italy (2010). She is also a scenic/sound designer, stage electrician, renegade carpenter, and fifth-generation lasso spinner. Her next evening-length project will premiere at the Walker Art Center in 2016.



GREG WALETSKI



# M O S E L

**KARI MOSEL** hails from Eau Claire, Wisconsin where she grew up riding horses, climbing trees, and tripping over her own feet. She received her B.F.A. in Dance from the University of Minnesota in 2004. In 2002 Mosel began her professional career with an apprenticeship for Shapiro & Smith Dance. She became a full company member in 2006, while serving as tour manager and understudy for *ANYTOWN*, a nationally toured work. Mosel also serves as Shapiro & Smith's administrative assistant and board treasurer. She is entering her 12th year with the company. In 2005 she became a principal company member and teaching artist with Stuart Pimsler Dance & Theater, performing with them nationally and internationally for the past 9 years. Mosel has assisted SPDT in workshops and residencies that range throughout the education and healthcare fields. She currently serves as their video editor and archivist. Throughout her career Mosel has had the pleasure to dance with many phenomenal Twin Cities artists and companies. Mosel was nominated for a SAGE Dance Award for Outstanding Performer in 2012. In addition to performing she choreographs her own work, and has been regularly commissioned by The University of River Falls Dance Program. She also works as freelance photographer and videographer throughout the Twin Cities and is in her third season as a performance coach for the Hudson High School Gymnastics Team. She would like to especially thank her parents Tim and Sandra for their lifetime of love and endless support, without which none of this could have been possible.

Special thanks to Poet Laureate of Kansas, Wyatt Townley, whose poem "Striptease" was the inspiration for this choreographic work. "Striptease" appears in *The Afterlives of Trees* by Wyatt Townley.

**LANE GIFFORD** is artistic director of LaneCoArts, a New York based multi-arts company that examines the intriguing relationship between dance, theater and the visual arts. The mission of the company is to create a rich and dynamic dialogue that fuses a distinctive movement aesthetic, deep emotional exploration, and stimulating visual and dramatic narrative components. LaneCoArts focuses on the generative process that can emerge from the interfacing of dance with different creative languages through exchange and collaboration with other artists. Her work has been performed at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, the New York International Fringe Festival, Dixon Place, Baruch Performing Arts Center, the 92nd St. Y, New York Theater Workshop and Judson Church while recent engagements include a Boston Center for the Arts / Mills Gallery performance, Dance New Amsterdam/RAW Directions, and Women in Dance Project/Ailey Citigroup Theater. Residencies include Ballet Nouveau Colorado and RedLine Gallery/2011 and Southern Utah University/2012 & 13. Gifford is the recipient of a 2011 Manhattan Community Arts Fund grant, 2011 BUILD grant, Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant 2012 and an Arts Foundation of Cape Cod Grant 2014. Upcoming events: a Choreographic Fellowship at the University of Kansas/Department of Dance 2014, Your Move Festival New Jersey 2014, Boston Center for the Arts/Dance Resident Artist 2015, and Triskelion Arts/New York Performance 2015.



**KARI  
MOSEL**

**STRIPTease**  
Choreography by Lane Gifford  
Music selections from John Crowe,  
Sean Grissom, Franz Kirmann and Shuttle358  
Costume design by Carol Salmon

# McKNIGHT ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS

For Dancers and Choreographers

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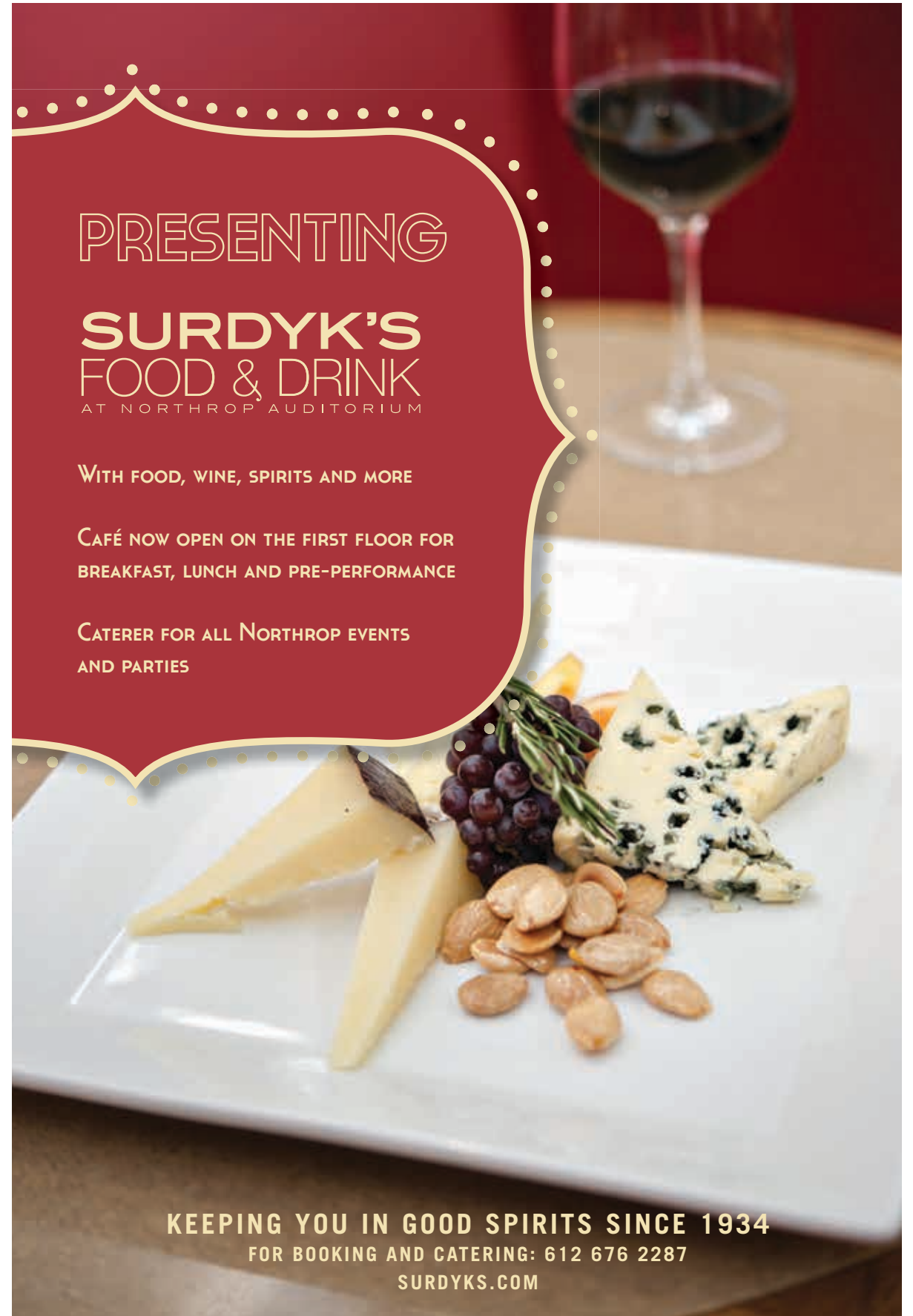
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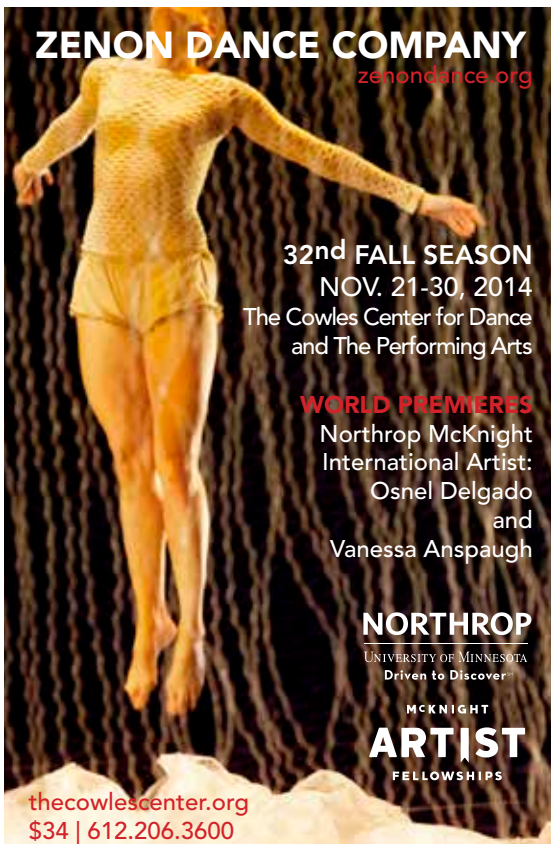
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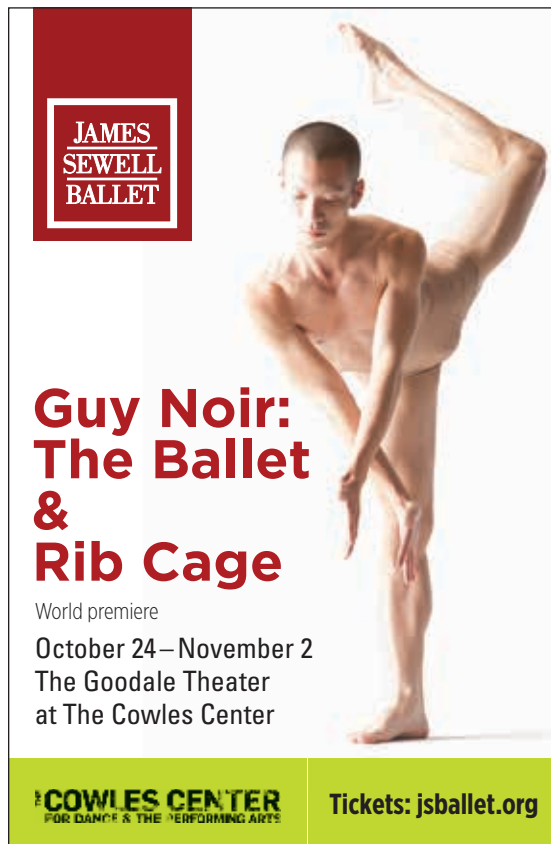
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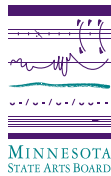
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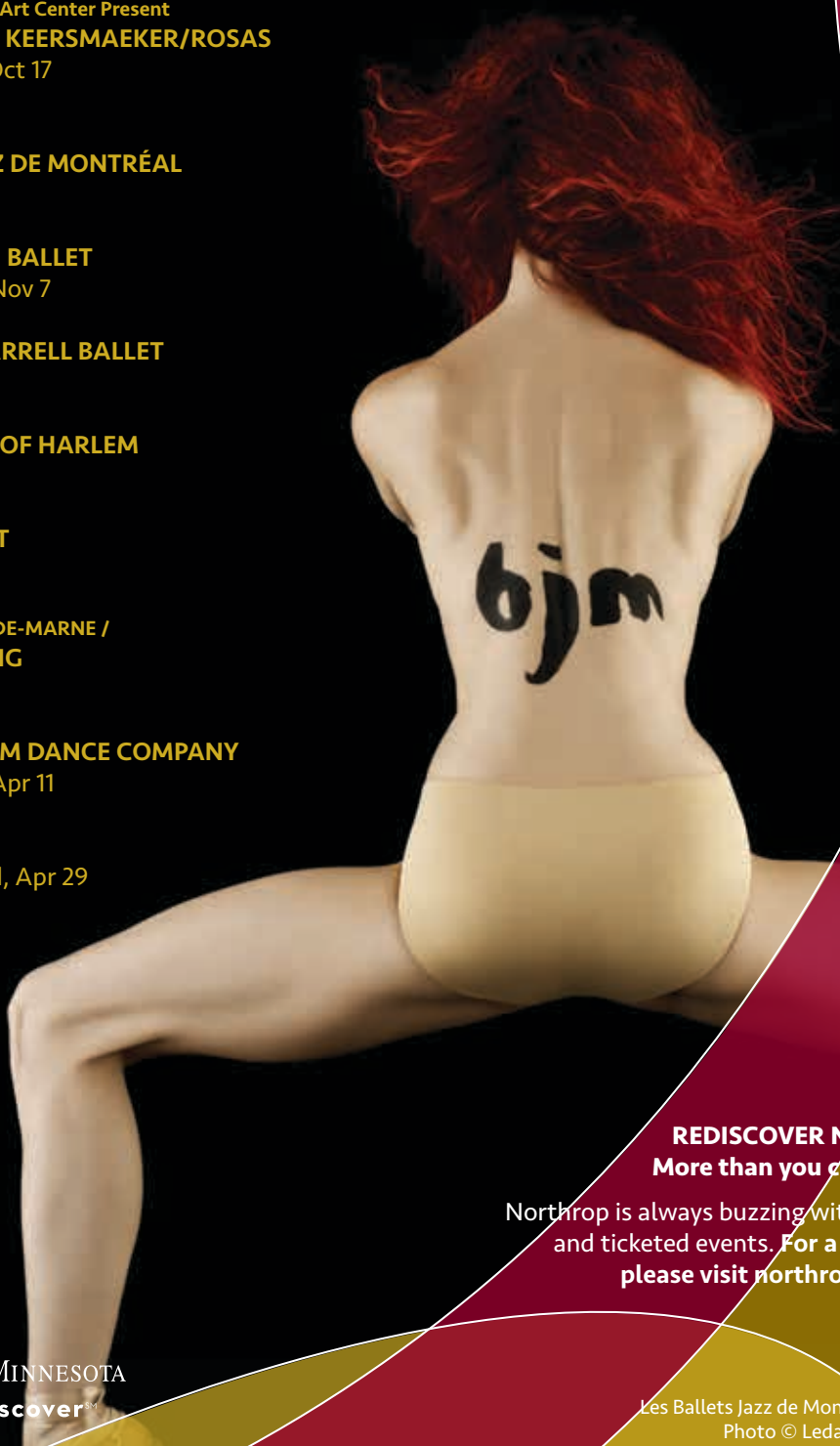
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