

## wexner center for the arts

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### **BEBE MILLER COMPANY PERFORMS NEW DANCE WORK DEVELOPED AT WEXNER CENTER AND OHIO STATE TECHNOLOGY LAB**

*Columbus*—In the culmination of two creative residencies at the Wexner Center as well as extensive access to The Ohio State University's Advanced Computing Center for the Arts and Design (ACCAD), Ohio State dance professor and choreographer **Bebe Miller** and her New York company perform *Landing/Place* at Thurber Theatre, Drake Center, **September 30 and**

**October 1 at 8 pm.** This new piece combines Miller's rich, sensuous choreography with layers of projected imagery derived from motion-capture technology and computer animation—using the resources at ACCAD—as well as spoken word and live music by composer Albert Mathias. Inspired by a trip to Eritrea (in North Africa), *Landing/Place* explores cultural dislocation, our feelings about being home and away, and our sense of place in a global human landscape. The Columbus performances are part of an extensive U.S. tour; Bebe Miller Company is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary season this year.



Photo by Lois Greenfield

Tickets are \$16 for the general public, \$13 for Wexner Center members, and \$10 for students (\$5 High 5 tickets offered for teens), available to the public beginning August 14 at the Wexner Center's Mershon box office (614 292-3535) and Ticketmaster (614 431-3600). The Wexner Center will host a **reception** following the Friday show. Bebe Miller and her collaborators will participate in post-show **discussions** both nights.

#### **HARNESSING RESOURCES AT A RESEARCH UNIVERSITY**

As part of the creative development of this piece, Miller's company worked with Ohio State dance students and used state-of-the-art digital technology at ACCAD's Motion Capture Lab. Motion capture technology can record every movement of a subject—images that are, in this case, transformed through animation and projected onto screens simultaneously with the live performance.

Notes Charles Helm, Director of Performing Arts at the Wexner Center, "*Landing/Place* is shaping up to be one of Bebe Miller's finest productions, and it will be a great show to launch our new season. As a project, it serves as a unique case study of how

universities have special capacities to provide artists with sophisticated tools and access to resources to reach their creative aims. This is a way, through the arts, to fulfill OSU's research mission and sponsor a model project that will contribute to the national dialogue about the evolving role of the arts on campuses."

Maria Palazzi, director of ACCAD, says, "As researchers, we learn a great deal from working with Bebe and her company. They pushed our motion capture system's capabilities to its limits with the number of dancers being captured at one time. The animation sequences created for projection are innovative and visually rich, and function as a complement to the choreography."

Along with Miller as artistic director, the creative team includes: her five company dancers Kathleen Fisher, Angie Hauser, Kathleen Hermesdorf, Darrell Jones, and David Thomson; dramaturg Talvin Wilks; composer Albert Mathias; ACCAD animator Vita Berezina-Blackburn; digital consultant Scott deLahunta; and video artist Maya Ciarrocchi. Excerpts from *Landing/Place* as a work-in-progress were presented at the Wexner Center in the fall of 2004.

### **ABOUT BEBE MILLER**

Award-winning choreographer Bebe Miller has been a professor in Ohio State's top-rated Department of Dance since 2000. Born in Brooklyn, she earned a master's degree from Ohio State's Department of Dance in 1975 and formed the Bebe Miller Company in 1985. She and her company have performed at the Wexner Center four times previously, including during its second season (1990-'91); as a residency artist in 1993 for *Nothing Can Only Happen Once*; for the co-commissioned work *Going to the Wall* and *The Hendrix Project* in 1999; and to perform 2001's Bessie Award-winning *Verge*. Writes the *Washington Post*, "Bebe Miller is a cartographer of human emotions, mapping the landscape of the passions of her dance."



Bebe Miller / photo by Lois Greenfield

**CALENDAR INFORMATION: Bebe Miller Company: *Landing/Place***

**Description:** Columbus-based choreographer Bebe Miller presents new work *Landing/Place*.

**Dates and times:** Friday, September 30, and Saturday, October 1 at 8 pm. Post-show discussion both nights; reception following Friday night show.

**Location:** Thurber Theatre at Drake Center, 1849 Cannon Drive, OSU (across from stadium)

**Tickets:** \$16 general public, \$13 members, \$10 students. \$5 High 5 tickets for teens (ages 13–18) available at the Wexner Center ticket office up to a day before the show.

**Ticket outlets:** Mershon Auditorium box office, 614 292-3535 and Ticketmaster outlets, 614 431-3600. Tickets on sale to the public beginning August 14.

**Public information:** 614 292-3535 and [www.wexarts.org](http://www.wexarts.org)

**Digital images for the media available upon request. Call Erik Pepple at 614 688-3261.**

**EVENT SUPPORT**

*Landing/Place* was developed with support from the creative residency program of the Wexner Center for the Arts, as well as support from the Advanced Computing Center for the Arts and Design (ACCAD) and the College of the Arts at The Ohio State University. The creation of the work is supported through commissioning funds from Danspace Project's 2003-2004 Commissioning Initiative and the Bates Dance Festival.

The development of *Landing/Place* is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art; the Doris Duke Fund for Dance of the National Dance Project, a program administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and Altria Group, Inc.; the Bossack-Heilbron Foundation; the Robison Foundation; the Battelle Endowment for Technology and Human Affairs (BETHA) Program and the Department of Dance at The Ohio State University.

The Ohio Arts Council helped fund *Landing/Place* with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. *Landing/Place* is made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State agency.

Equipment Sponsor is Apple, Inc.

Major support for the Wexner Center's 2005–06 performing arts season is provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

The Wexner Center's 2005–06 dance season is presented by Huntington.

Additional season support is provided by the Ohio Arts Council and the Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation.

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