

LEAD ARTISTS

Elliot Caplan

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Emmy award winning producer Elliot Caplan served as filmmaker in residence at the Cunningham Dance Foundation from 1983 until January 1998, collaborating with Merce Cunningham and John Cage in the production of films and videos. Together, their work has aired nationally on PBS, Bravo, Arts & Entertainment, and internationally to thirty-five countries. *Beach Birds For Camera*, a 35mm wide-screen film was first shown at L'Opera de Paris Garnier. *Cage/Cunningham*, a feature-length documentary on the life-long collaboration of Merce Cunningham and John Cage, was released theatrically by October Films, translated into six languages for international distribution, and distributed on home video by Kultur Video. *Points In Space*, commissioned by BBC-Television was distributed to more than 400 libraries in the United States through a grant from the MacArthur Foundation. *Changing Steps*, filmed at the Sundance Institute with an introduction by Robert Redford was produced in association with La Sept and distributed by Éditions a Voir.

From 1996-2000, Caplan served as segment producer for PBS's national series on art in America, "EGG," and received an Emmy Award and Cine Golden Eagle for "Outstanding Cultural Programming." His work includes segments on **Richard Serra** and **The Whitney Biennial 2000**. As producer for **City Arts, WNET/THIRTEEN**, Caplan's work included, the making of *Carmen Backstage* at **The Metropolitan Opera** with James Levine, Plácido Domingo, Waltraud Meier and Franco Zeffirelli; *Jackson Pollack @ MoMA*; the restoration of the Rose Reading Room at The New York Public Library, *Reading Room Restored*; and a segment profiling architect/sculptor, **Maya Lin**.

Caplan's other work includes theater design and direction. In collaboration with Tony award winning performer **Bill Irwin**, Caplan designed an evening of theater and video, which was presented at The Roundabout Theatre in New York, June 1999. Caplan designed pieces that were performed by the Cunningham Company at the **Next Wave Festival, Brooklyn Academy of Music**, October 1997 and in Paris at the **Opera Garnier**, January 1998. Together with composer Michael Gordon and the orchestra ENSEMBLE RESONANZ, Caplan produced the twenty-six screen video opera *Weather*, sponsored by the Siemens Foundation Kultur Program and Oper Bonn, which toured five cities in Europe through 2001. In 1991, Caplan and Gordon made *Van Gogh Video Opera*, first performed at the Bang On A Can Festival and then at the Akademie der Bildenden Kunst, Vienna. With German choreographer Sasha Waltz, Caplan designed a sixteen-

screen multi-monitor projection for live performance. *Alle der Kosmonauten* has been the recipient of numerous awards including, "Berliner Theatertreffen", 1996 and the National Theater Festival selection 1997, Seoul, Korea. Caplan produced the film, *One To Four* with British choreographer, Robert Poole which features Poole as performer. Additional film collaborations include works with Bruce Baillie, Richard Foreman, Yvonne Rainer and Susan Seidelman.

Caplan's work has received numerous awards, including: 1999-2000 **Emmy Award** for Outstanding Cultural Programming, National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences; 2000 **Cine Golden Eagle Award**, Outstanding Cultural Series; 1996 **Gold Award, Dance On Camera Festival** at Lincoln Center, **Best Documentary**; 1995 **Bessie Award** for Best New Video Work; "Grand Prix International Video Danse 1994", and the "Categorie Captation de Spectacle Prix Academie des Beaux Arts", Stockholm, Sweden; 1993 **Grand Prize, New York Dance on Camera Festival**; 1993 **IMZ Dance Screen Award Grand Prix**; 1992 **IMZ Dance Screen Award for Best Documentary** for *Cage/Cunningham. Points In Space*, commissioned by BBC-Television was awarded the "Golden Prague" at the 25th International Television Festival, Czech Republic. *Changing Steps* received **The New York Times Critics Choice**, 1990 **Gold Award Dance On Camera Festival**, and the **2nd Grand Prix International Video-Danse Festival**, France. Caplan's documentary art film on painter, *Robert S. Zakanitch* won the **Chicago International Film Festival** and the **International Art Film Biennale** at Centre George Pompidou, Paris.

Film and video retrospectives have been presented in Portugal, Holland, Japan and the United States. Video installations were exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art, Buenos Aires (1999); Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York; The Jewish Museum, Vienna (1997); Whitney Museum of American Art, Philip Morris Gallery, New York (1995); and the Cartier Foundation, Paris (1996). Caplan's work is included in the following permanent collections: The Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Musee National d'Art Moderne, Centre George Pompidou and Cinematheque Francais, Paris, the National Institute of the Arts, Taiwan; Tanzfilm Institute, Cologne and the Munich Filmmuseum, Germany, the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Israel, the Instituto Itaú Cultural, Brazil, and The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

He has taught courses, lectured and been in residence at colleges and universities in the United States and abroad including co-direction with Michael Kidd of the Dance/Film/Video Workshop at the Sundance Institute. Caplan has served as a panel member and juror for the National Endowment for the Arts, Mellon Foundation, Jacob's Pillow, IMZ Dance Screen, British Arts Council, Fulbright Fellowships, and the Sundance Film Festival. In 2004, Caplan was appointed professor, Department of Media Study and artistic director, Center for the Moving Image at the University at Buffalo, The State University of New York. New initiatives under the Center include a national dance commissioning and preservation project and a film festival for the City of Buffalo.

In 1998, Elliot Caplan founded Picture Start Films to produce artistic and commercial media projects. Current projects include, *Hidden Things: A Children's Story*, a feature documentary film funded in part by the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture and selected by NYFA for 2004-6 Special Projects, *UTANGO*, a performance film currently screening throughout the U.S. and Europe, and *Steel Work*, an experimental visual symphony on DVD with music by Philip Glass, David Bowie and Brian Eno. New projects include video/music works, Sa'arah, and BlackfireWhitefire (working titles) for the next two segments of the Isherwood project.

Susan Sgorbati

Susan Sgorbati has been seriously investigating improvisation as a method for teaching and performance for twenty years. For the last five years in collaboration with scientists, she has been exploring the relationship between dance and music improvisation and complex systems. Her work has led her to three residencies at The Neurosciences Institute in La Jolla, California under the tutelage of Dr. Gerald Edelman and dialogues with Dr. Stuart Kauffman, who was in residence at Bennington College in the fall of 2004.

This past year, Susan Sgorbati was on tour with The Emergent Improvisation Project, directing an ensemble of dancers and musicians in new forms incorporating structuring principles of emergent complexity. This research was initially supported by The Jerome Robbins Foundation, and the tour was supported by The Creation Fund of The National Performance Network, The Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, The Neurosciences Institute, The International Conference on Complex Systems, The Bumper Foundation and Bennington College.

Susan Sgorbati is on the Dance Faculty at Bennington College, where she was the former Dean of Faculty, and has been teaching since 1983. She created the improvisational ensemble "Materia Prima", which has performed at The Improvisation Festival in New York City, Improvised and Otherwise in Brooklyn, New York, and other venues nationally. She has done a series of residency workshops with the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts for the last several years, and she is indebted to them for their support of her new work. She is also a professional mediator, who mediates cases for the Vermont Attorney General's Office and the Vermont Human Rights Commission. She holds The Barbara and Lewis Jones Chair for Social Activism at Bennington College. In 1999, she created Quantum Leap, a program that reconnects at-risk youth to their education. She was recently awarded The 1st Annual David G. Rahr Community Service Award from The Vermont Community Foundation.

Jake Meginsky

Jake Meginsky (percussion, composition, dance accompaniment) was born in Springfield, MA in 1976. He currently lives in Bennington, Vt where he is engaged in explorations involving compositional structures, music for movement, biological sound, and the performance of improvisation. He has studied with Archie Shepp, Joe Platz and Milford Graves. His work in sound design and dance accompaniment is fueled by a keen interest in the relationship between sound and movement and in the notion that music lives inside the body. He was recently in residence with the Emergent Improvisation Ensemble at the Neurosciences Institute in La Jolla, CA . and acted as musical director and percussionist for the ensemble's national tour in 2005-2006. Jake has performed in a wide variety of venues all over the northeast including The Issue Project Room, NYC; The Flynn Center for the Arts, Burlington, Free 103 Brooklyn; The Stone, NYC; The Hook, Brooklyn; La Tea, NYC; The Flea, NYC; Bennington Summer of the Dance; The Flywheel, Easthampton; Mystery Train Records, Amherst; Qville, Queens; and The Bread and Puppet Theatre in Boxer, Vt. He frequently collaborates with Brooklyn based percussionist John Truscinski in the Slaughterhouse Percussion Duo and guitarist Bill Nace in the trio x.0.4. Their recordings can be found on Open Mouth Records,(Northampton); Hells Half Halo (Washington) Ecstatic Peace (Northampton) and Wooden Finger Records (Belgium).

PERFORMERS

Carson Efir

Carson was born and raised in the Carolinas. After graduating from Bennington College in June 2005, she moved to Raleigh, NC. Carson currently teaches Yoga and works as a collaborative artist in the realms of dance, theater and design. Her choreography has been presented at the D.U.M.B.O Festival (Brooklyn), Danspace's Afterschool Series (NYC), and ACDFAs 2004 Gala (Smith College, MA). Carson has had the pleasure of working with Susan Sgorbati, Dana Reitz, Keith Thompson, Ann Carlson, and Jean Randich.

Jaamil Olawale Kosoko

Jaamil Olawale Kosoko is a Philadelphia-based movement and literary artist currently creating interdisciplinary work that merges language, movement and video. He holds a BA from Bennington College with a concentration in dance, literature, and visual art. There, he studied under the prominent instruction of Terry Creach, Pooh Kaye, Dana Reitz, Keith Thompson, and Susan Sgorbati. He has performed in the choreographic works of various artists including Ann Carlson, Yoshiko Chuma, Lisa Kraus, and Richard Seigal. Kosoko has shown his own dances and dance-films at Bennington College, Dance Theater Workshop, American Dance Festival, and Danspace at St. Mark's Church. Currently, he creates programming for inner-city youth as the North South Area Teen Outreach Specialist for the Free Library of Philadelphia. He spends his summers at the American Dance Festival working as an arts administrator.

Katie Martin

Katie Martin is a movement artist based in Vermont, working within the spheres of choreography, performance, and education. She's had the pleasure of being a guest artist-in-residence at Bennington College, teaching dance and yoga, and continues to teach widely throughout New England and New York City.

Katie received her B.A. from Bennington College with a concentration in dance and complexity studies, studying under the auspices of Terry Creach, Dana Reitz, Susan Sgorbati, Peggy Florin, Keith Thompson, Eva Karczag, Pooh Kaye, and Felice Wolfzahn. She has danced in the works of such artists as Mark Dendy, Ann Carlson, Keith Thompson, Dana Reitz, Susan Rethorst, and Meg Wolfe. Her own work has been presented at various venues, including the 2003 d.u.m.b.o. Dance Festival (Brooklyn), as a finalist in the 2004 American College

Dance Festival Gala Concert (Smith College, MA), Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church (NYC), the 2005 Improvised and Otherwise Festival (Brooklyn) with percussionist, Jake Meginsky, and at the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts (Burlington, VT).

Alongside Sgorbati, Katie is currently engaged in research that investigates time-based art within the framework of natural, complex systems, out of which surfaced *The Emergent Improvisation Project*, a platform for research, teaching, and performance. Most recently, Katie performed at The Neurosciences Institute (La Jolla, CA), where she has been in residence the past two winters.

Sean Mattio

Sean Mattio is a Philadelphia-based drummer and bassist. His most recent projects included playing drums with The Sun Ra Arkestra and providing live beats for Rrandom, a Philadelphia-based hip-hop artist. In October, Sean began working with opera composer, Troy Herion, creating sounds both improvised and composed for video.

Cori Olinghouse

Cori Olinghouse is originally from San Diego, California. She received a B.A. from Bennington College with a concentration in dance, film, and writing. A member of the Trisha Brown Dance Company since 2002, she performs and teaches with the company internationally. Recently, she assisted in the restaging of *Set and Reset/Reset* for the eDGE Dance Company at the London Contemporary Dance School and worked with Trisha Brown on the making of *O Zlozony / O Composite* for the Paris Opera Ballet. Olinghouse's approach to dance is influenced by her study of the Alexander Technique and by her investigation of improvisational forms. Olinghouse has had an ongoing duet history in

improvisation with Susan Sgorbati, and currently performs their duet, *Binaries: Triumphs of Two*, in New York City and New England. Olinghouse is also a film and video archivist for choreographer Cathy Weis and curator Jon Gartenberg of Gartenberg Media Enterprises, Inc.

Nicole Pope

Nicole received her B.A. from Bennington College in 2003. She now lives in New York City, where she is working on her own choreography and writing dance reviews for the Brooklyn Rail.

Lionel Popkin

Lionel Popkin is an independent choreographer and dancer. He has performed his own work in numerous US cities, as well as in Europe. In New York City, his choreography has been presented at such places as Danspace at St. Mark's Church and Dance Theater Workshop. Other cities where his work has been seen include Budapest, London, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, San Diego, Seattle, and the Jacob's Pillow Festival's Inside/Out Series. He has danced in a number of companies, including those of Trisha Brown (2000-2003), Terry Creach (1996-2000), and Stephanie Skura (1992-1996). He continues to perform the role he originated in *Winterreise* as a guest with the Trisha Brown Company. He has served on the Faculty of Bates College, the Laban Centre, Sarah Lawrence College, Temple University, and UCLA and has taught master classes at numerous festivals and universities. He is currently on the faculty at the University of Maryland at College Park as a Visiting Artist.

Amelia Powell

Amelia Johnston Powell is a garment designer from San Juan Island off the coast of Washington state. Her parents, both artists, instilled in her the desire to find beauty in all things. During her childhood, she was active in local community theater, acting in and designing costumes. Ms. Powell combined her last two years of high school into one, after which, she traveled to Europe to broaden her perspective of the visual world and begin learning French. In 2001, she enrolled at Bennington College, where she received a B.A. in Design and French in 2005. Recently Ms. Powell spent a month in Kenya living in a Maasai village, teaching at a school for homeless girls and studying the mixture of traditional dress and modern ready-to-wear apparel.

Ms. Powell has created solo collections of tutu designs, presented in a theatrical runway setting, but has found her interest to be in collaboration. She has designed for dance, theater and film with this in mind. She has recently completed her senior show, an evening-length collaboration with five other artists. Currently she resides in Raleigh, NC, where she works as a freelance designer.

Zornitsa Stoyanova

Zornitsa Stoyanova was born and raised in Bulgaria. She started dancing at the age of fifteen and soon decided to pursue a degree in dance. This led her to Bennington College, where she discovered movement improvisation, among other styles of dance. Zornitsa has performed improvisation work in Hungary, Bulgaria, and the United States. In April 2005, her choreographic work was shown at Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church (NYC). She is currently a senior, expecting to graduate with a concentration in dance and sound design.

Keith Thompson

Keith Thompson, born in Mississippi, began his performing arts training at the late age of 19 at Ohio State University. Mr. Thompson was a founding member of the modern and jazz repertory company Zenon Dance Company in Minneapolis. During his 8 years with Zenon, he created original roles with Bebe Miller, Doug Varone, Danny Buraczeski, Mark Dendy, Lynn Simonson, Victoria Marks, and Stephanie Skura, to name a few. Also during this time, Mr.

Thompson served as both Scholarship Director and Rehearsal Director for Zenon, teaching all levels of modern and jazz classes within the Zenon School. Thompson was also a member of JAZZDANCE by Danny Buraczeski the last three years in Minneapolis before moving to New York City.

In 1991, Mr. Thompson moved to New York where he branched out by working with Dan Wagoner & Dancers, Jacob's Pillow Men Dancers, and Creach/Koester Company. He danced internationally for Trisha Brown Company from 1992-2001, served as Trisha's Rehearsal Assistant from 1998-2001, and continues to represent TBC in the sharing of Technique and Repertory both at the Trisha Brown Studio in New York City, as well as festivals, schools, and workshops around the world. In early 2005, Mr. Thompson served as choreographic assistant to Dianne McIntyre on the choreodrama, 'Open the Door, Virginia', a Theater of the First Amendment production in Virginia.

Keith has continued to perform nationally and internationally as a dancer for Creach/Company; directed and choreographed Heiner Muller's *Hamletmachine*; teaches beginning through professional master classes in Contemporary Technique for the International Dance Festival in Kyoto, Japan; was on faculty at the 2003 Florida Dance Festival; held workshops of technique and repertory at the Tanzwerkstatt Europa Festival in Munich; is on the summer faculty for the American Dance Festival; and is immersing himself in the creation of his own

work globally. Mr. Thompson completed his MFA Research Fellowship in Dance from Bennington College in 2003. Keith has served on faculty at the Conservatory of Shenandoah University in Virginia and George Mason University in Virginia. Keith latest work was presented and selected for the 2005 American College Dance Festival Mid Atlantic Regions Gala performance. He currently serves as MFA faculty at Temple University in Philadelphia.

John Truscinski

John Truscinski is a Brooklyn, NYC based percussionist and sound engineer. A 1998 graduate of Emerson College in Media Arts, John has spent much of his time working as a sound engineer at Slaughterhouse Recording Studios in Hadley, MA. In recent years he has recorded and performed extensively with Slaughterhouse Percussion Duo and x04, an improvised trio using prepared guitar and percussion instruments.