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Photos available on request

Wesleyan University Center for the Arts Announces its 2008/2009 Season

**PERFORMANCES BY DAVID KRAKAUER, COMPAGNIE MARIE CHOUINARD AND A
TALK BY PLAYWRIGHT TONY KUSHNER HIGHLIGHT SEASON**

Middletown Conn., August 2, 2007—Wesleyan University's Center for the Arts (CFA), under the direction of Pamela Tatge, announces its 2008-2009 Season. The Breaking Ground Dance Series opens with the US premiere of Compagnie Marie Chouinard's *Orpheus and Eurydice*. The center's Crowell Concert Series continues with performances by clarinet virtuoso David Krakauer, alt-bluegrass stars Crooked Still, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and much more.

In September, the Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery presents *Framing and Being Framed: The Uses of Documentary Photography*, a semester-long exhibition that examines how visual artists use documentary photography in their work. The exhibition will feature work by, among others, Susan Meiselas, Alfredo Jaar and Walid Raad.

In October, the Navaratri Festival of offers several nights of Indian music and dance culminating in one jam-packed weekend. A recent work by the legendary Peter Brook makes its only New England stop to open the Outside the Box theater series, followed soon after by a talk by Tony Kushner, one of the most engaging and provocative playwrights of our time.

BREAKING GROUND DANCE SERIES

Compagnie Marie Chouinard

Friday & Saturday, September 19 & 20, 8pm

Marie Chouinard tours internationally and is one of Canada's most lauded, avant-garde choreographers. She explores the astonishing potential of the human body in its most intimate and excessive manifestations. With a vocabulary that is at once erotic and deeply spiritual, Chouinard creates highly-charged evening-length spectacles with a company of dancers noted for their wildly unbridled commitment to her movement vocabulary. Wesleyan hosts the U.S. premiere of her newest work, *Orpheus and Eurydice*, based on the legend of Orpheus.
<http://www.mariechouinard.com>

Tere O'Connor

Friday & Saturday, November 21 & 22, 7 & 9:30pm

Filtered through a rigorously personal and philosophical lens, Tere O'Connor's radical reinvention of the formal conceits of concert dance distinguish him as a truly original presence in the dance world. He returns to Wesleyan with *Rammed Earth*, which explores architecture as a fundamental, subliminal force in the choreographic form as well as in the human experience.
<http://www.tereconnordance.org/>

Rubberbandance Group: *Phase II*

Friday & Saturday, April 24 & 25, 8pm

This season, Breaking Ground will feature another exceptional Canadian company, Rubberbandance Group, a collective of world-class dancers from contemporary and break-dance backgrounds that investigate human relationships through an inventive hybrid choreography of hip hop dynamics and contemporary ballet. <http://www.rubberbandancegroup.com/>

CROWELL CONCERT SERIES

David Krakauer

Saturday, September 27, 8pm

Internationally acclaimed clarinetist David Krakauer redefines the notion of a concert artist. Known for his mastery of a myriad of styles including classical chamber music, Eastern European Jewish klezmer music and avant-garde improvisation, he brings these worlds together for a dynamic concert program entitled *Beyond Crossover*. <http://www.davidkrakauer.com/>

Crooked Still

Friday, October 17, 8pm

“What if the 1920s Appalachian musicians could’ve heard the music we hear now?” asks Rushad Eggleston, cellist for Crooked Still, the hot young alternative bluegrass group on a mission to bend the boundaries of traditional music. The unlikely combination of banjo, cello and double bass drives this low lonesome band, whose captivating vocals and high-wire solos have enraptured audiences all over North America and Ireland since 2001.

<http://www.crookedstill.com/>

Trio Globo

Saturday, November 15, 8pm

Trio Globo has crafted a totally original voice in contemporary acoustic music with combustible spontaneity, rhythmic influences derived from six continents and diverse musical roots that span jazz, classical and sacred traditions. Eugene Friesen (Paul Winter Consort), Howard Levy (Bela Fleck and the Flecktones, Paquito d’Rivera) and Glen Velez (Paul Winter Consort, Steve Reich) bring three unique musical visions together to create original work that is instantly recognizable as their own. <http://www.classactsontour.com/artists/trioglobo/trioglobo.htm>

**Henry Threadgill
and Ensemble Zooid**

Friday, February 6, 8pm

At the forefront of music for the past quarter of a century, Henry Threadgill incorporates his experiences with jazz, gospel, blues and marching bands freely in a mix with various world musics. He views these folios as evolutionary and uses ideas from the past as an ingredient, rather than a basis, for his music.

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

Saturday, February 28, 8pm

As the nation’s premiere repertory company for chamber music, The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center (CMS) is committed to bringing audiences the finest performances of an extraordinary body of repertoire, dating as far back as the Renaissance and continuing through the centuries to the finest works of our time. Led by Artistic Directors David Finckel and Wu Han, the artistic core of CMS is a multi-generational, dynamic repertory company of expert chamber musicians who form an evolving musical community. <http://www.chambermusicsociety.org/>

Toumani Diabaté and the Symmetric Orchestra

Saturday, May 2, 8pm

Winner of the 2005 Grammy Award for Best Traditional World Music Album, Diabaté is at the vanguard of a new generation of Malian *griots* (bards) who are constantly looking for ways of modernizing while still honoring their traditional music.
<http://www.myspace.com/toumanidiabate>

DANCEMASTERS WEEKEND

Master Classes on Saturday & Sunday, March 7 & 8
Showcase Performance on Saturday, March 7

DanceMasters Weekend, now in its tenth year, is one of the most anticipated dance events in the Northeast. The combination of dance master classes and performances by premier companies provides an essential retreat for students and professionals interested in the latest techniques, as well as a showcase for dance enthusiasts who want to sample the work of leading choreographers.

EZRA & CECILE ZILKHA GALLERY

Framing and Being Framed: The Uses of Documentary Photography

Saturday, September 13 through Sunday, December 7

Opening reception: Friday, September 12, 5–7pm

Zilkha Gallery will present a major, semester-long exhibition that examines how visual artists use documentary photography in their work. Artists often employ more than one system of representation in order to reinforce, subvert or go beyond the meaning offered by the images themselves. Some also use photographs to critique the documentary medium itself. The exhibition will feature work by, among others, Wendy Ewald, Andrea Geyer, Jim Goldberg, Eric Gottesman, Emily Jacir, An-My Le, Susan Meiselas, Ann Messner, Walid Raad, Martha Rosler and Krzysztof Wodiczko.

NAVARATRI FESTIVAL

Wednesday, October 1 through Sunday, October 5

The Navaratri Festival, a longstanding tradition at Wesleyan, celebrates Indian culture with music, dance, a religious service and the annual *bhojanam* (feast). This year's festival features performances by acclaimed dancer Anita Ratnam as well as a musical performance by South Indian violinists Mysore M. Nagaraj and Mysore M. Manjunath.

OUTSIDE THE BOX THEATER SERIES

The Grand Inquisitor

From *The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Directed by Peter Brook

Friday & Saturday, October 10 & 11, 8pm

The work of legendary director Peter Brook returns to the U.S. with *The Grand Inquisitor*. In its exclusive Connecticut engagement, this stunning example of Brook's latest work takes place in Seville during the Inquisition. <http://www.peterbrook.net/>

Conversation with Tony Kushner

Thursday, October 30, 8pm

Memorial Chapel

Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tony Kushner, hailed as "the most highly acclaimed playwright of his generation" by *Salon.com*, participates in a conversation about his wide-ranging and controversial body of work. Kushner is best known for his two-part epic, *Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes*. He also wrote the screenplays for Mike Nichols' film of *Angels In America* and Steven Spielberg's *Munich*. <http://www.barclayagency.com/kushner.html>

Awaji Puppet Theater Company
Saturday and Sunday, February 21 & 22, 8pm

The Awaji Puppet Theater, based on Awaji Island southwest of Kobe, comes to Wesleyan as a stop on its North American tour sponsored by the Japan Society. They are the foremost practitioners of the Awaji puppetry tradition, which dates back to the 16th century and is often referred to as the origin of Bunraku puppetry.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Off the Beaten Path: A Jazz & Tap Odyssey
Friday, September 5, 8pm

Off the Beaten Path: A Jazz & Tap Odyssey explores the American art forms of jazz and tap and their unique cultural influences. The full-evening performance was created under the direction of award-winning New England dancer/choreographer Drika Overton and musician, composer and educator Paul Arslanian, in collaboration with renowned tap dancers Brenda Bufalino and Josh Hilberman. A jazz quartet consisting of piano, bass, drums and woodwinds will perform on stage with the company of six dancers.

The Center for the Arts (www.wesleyan.edu/CFA) is an 11-building complex on the Wesleyan campus that houses the departments of art and art history, music, theater and dance. It serves as a cultural center for the region, the state and New England. The CFA includes the 400-seat Theater, the 260-seat Cinema, the World Music Hall (a non-Western performance space), the 414-seat Crowell Concert Hall and the Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery.

Ticket Information

Ticket prices for CFA events vary, many events are free. The CFA box office is located on the first floor of the Usdan Center (45 Wyllys Ave., Middletown). For more information about the 2008/2009 Season, call (860) 685-3355, or visit our web site at www.wesleyan.edu/cfa.

Box Office Phone: (860) 685-3355

Box Office Fax: (860) 685-3935

E-mail: boxoffice@wesleyan.edu

Address: Wesleyan University Box Office, 45 Wyllys Avenue, Middletown, CT 06459-0001

*Performers and schedule are subject to change.

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