



OrffBeet

natasha carlitz dance ensemble

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dancers

deanna beattie-gallant

blair brown

jen costillo

heba fayed de bellis

hillary hoffman

jetta martin

megan mccormack

erica pinigis

allison rockwell

annie thatcher-stephens

in Orff Beet

natasha carlitz

choreographer

director

producer

karen mcwilliams

costume designer

rob anderson

lighting designer

april 1 & 2, 2011 | odc theater

Xylophonia | 2010

- music Carl Orff, selections from *Schulwerk* music for children
musical ensemble directed by Carl Orff & Herman Regner
- dancers Jen Costillo, Heba Fayed De Bellis, Jetta Martin,
Megan McCormack, Allison Rockwell

Eclipse

*"Suns may set and rise again, but for us, when our brief light has set,
there's the dark of perpetual night." — Catullus*

Prelude: Luna | 2005

- music Carl Orff, "In Trutina" from *Carmina Burana*
Celestina Casapietra, soprano
- dancer Erica Pinigis

Catulli Carmina | 1998 & 2009

- music Carl Orff, *Catulli Carmina*
Leipzig Orchestra & Chorus conducted by Herbert Kegel
Ute Mai, soprano; Eberhard Büchner, tenor
- dancers Deanna Beattie-Gallant, Blair Brown, Jen Costillo, Hillary Hoffman,
Jetta Martin, Megan McCormack, Erica Pinigis, Allison Rockwell,
Annie Thatcher-Stephens

Coda: Amor | 2008

- music Carl Orff, "Stetit Puella" & "Siqua Sine Socio" from *Carmina Burana*
Judith Blegen, soprano
- dancer Heba Fayed De Bellis

Farthingale Quartet | 2010

- music Carl Orff, selections from *Schulwerk* music for children
musical ensemble directed by Carl Orff & Herman Regner
- dancers Jen Costillo, Heba Fayed De Bellis, Erica Pinigis, Allison Rockwell

The farthingale, a style of hoop skirt fashionable in the late fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, originated in the Spanish court.

Beet

for my father

Plurality | 2002

music Ludwig van Beethoven, Symphony No. 9 in D Minor, Op. 125
II: *Molto vivace; Presto*

Philadelphia Orchestra conducted by Eugene Ormandy

dancers Deanna Beattie-Gallant, Blair Brown, Jetta Martin,
Megan McCormack, Annie Thatcher-Stephens

Figment | 2008

music Ludwig van Beethoven, Bagatelles for Piano, Op. 126
I: *Andante con moto*

Alfred Brendel, piano

dancers Heba Fayed De Bellis & Annie Thatcher-Stephens

Fragment (Choreogenesis) | 2011

music Ludwig van Beethoven, Bagatelles for Piano, Op. 126
IV: *Presto*

Alfred Brendel, piano

dancer Jetta Martin

... Pause

Tempus Fugit | 2008

: du temps perdu

: movement in present tense

music Ludwig van Beethoven, Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 61
II: *Larghetto*

III: *Rondo - Allegro*

Orchestre Nationale de la Radiodiffusion Française
conducted by André Cluytens; David Oistrakh, violin

props Steve Bennett, Natasha Carlitz, Vince Gabrielsen

dancers Deanna Beattie-Gallant, Blair Brown, Natasha Carlitz, Jen Costillo,
Heba Fayed De Bellis, Hillary Hoffman, Jetta Martin, Erica Pinigis,
Allison Rockwell, Annie Thatcher-Stephens

about the company

Natasha Carlitz founded the **Dance Ensemble** in 2005 to bring her innovative movement to diverse audiences. The company performs powerful choreography based on themes ranging from abstract mathematical concepts to the physical puzzles posed by unusual spaces. In November 2006, the ensemble presented its first full-length concert at the Cowell Theater in collaboration with the world-renowned California Guitar Trio. Further seasons at the Cowell followed in 2009 and 2010.

"Orff Beet" is NCDE's first major performance since the company's return from Cairo and Alexandria, where the dancers represented the United States at the 2010 Egyptian International Modern Dance Festival (and had numerous adventures along the way). The concerts in Egypt, which included some of the pieces featured tonight, met with an enthusiastic reception from audiences and critics alike. Writing for Cairo's *Al-Ahram Weekly*, Rania Khallaf described a "breathtaking show... with a spirit of enthusiasm, romance and joy... [which] resonated with a sense of ecstasy and challenge."



Deanna Beattie-Gallant began studying dance at an early age and continued throughout college where she choreographed and performed many styles of dance. After college, she pursued a career in the fine wine industry while continuing to study, choreograph, and perform dance in the Boston area. She recently moved to the Bay Area and works in the food and wine industry while studying and performing dance.



Blair Brown was born and raised in Sacramento, California. She studied at Loyola Marymount University where she received her B.A. in Dance, Cum Laude. In the summer of 2008, Blair went on a summer study-abroad trip with James Madison University, studying dance and theater in the many studios in London as well as studying with faculty members from the Laban Conservatory of Dance. In fall 2009, Blair returned to spend a semester at the Laban Conservatory in London, where she was chosen to be part of a piece choreographed by Gary Lambert. She attended Bates Dance Festival in 2010. Blair has done a lot of work with dance media, and for her thesis completed a choreographic dance film entitled "Entre Nous," which was recently part of a dance concert, "Art," with the Colorado-based company 7Dancers, and will be a part of the San Francisco Dance Film Festival 2011 as well. Blair is currently a dance instructor in the Bay Area, teaching ballet, modern, and creative movement to both children and adults. She is a certified yoga instructor; she received her training in 2009 from Srivatsa Ramaswami in Vinyasa Krama yoga. Blair has been dancing with NCDE since September 2010 and is also a new member of Philein/ZiRu Productions. She is so excited to be performing for the first time in the Bay Area with this amazing group of women!

about the company

Natasha Carlitz began her dance training thirty-five years ago with Grace Butler, a former Nikolais dancer, and danced as a child and young adult with CHORD (Children's Original Repertory Dance) and SMDC (the Saturday Morning Dance Company), with whom she performed in California and in London. Her movement style draws on a range of influences, including workshops with Pilobolus founder Jonathan Wolken and a stint at Amsterdam's School for New Dance Development. For two decades Natasha has performed around the Bay Area with various local choreographers. From 1998 through 2005 she danced with and choreographed for the collective High Release Dance, producing several major works for company performances. Her work has been seen in dozens of theaters, studios, and festivals throughout the Bay Area and in Egypt. In 2003, Natasha received a commission for the opening of an exhibit of original art, and in 2005, shortly before forming the Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble, she was named one of "ten Bay Area choreographers to watch" by sjDanceCo. Natasha has produced concerts of her work in 2002 (San Jose), 2005 (Palo Alto), 2006 (San Francisco), 2009 (San Francisco), and 2010 (San Francisco, Cairo, and Alexandria).



Growing up, **Jen Costillo** consistently played an evil villain in all dance productions. It was not until her return to dance after a nine-year break that she finally performed as a nice sweet flower in Santa Clara Ballet's "Nutmcracker." Her rediscovery of dance led to exploring modern dance with Jeannine Vogt, Raissa Simpson, and Monica Mark, as well as contemporary ballet. She currently trains under Alexi Zubiria and Kim Gardener. She is a member of the collective High Release Dance, where her choreography explores topics relating to technology and social change. Using her B.S. in Computer Engineering and her MBA, Jen has served on the board of directors for Push Dance Company in San Francisco as well as working with local technology firms. She also designs electronics for use in dance and music collaborations.

Heba Fayed De Bellis began taking private ballet lessons when she was four years old from a graduate of the world-renowned Kirov Academy in Russia. At age eight, Heba joined the Academy of Arts Ballet Institute in Cairo, Egypt. Upon graduation from the Academy at age seventeen, with a final mark of "Excellent," she became a member of the Corps de Ballet in the Cairo Opera Ballet Company. Heba changed the direction of her dance career when she became a principal dancer with the Cairo Opera Dance Company, a contemporary dance company that performed in Europe, Asia, and the U.S.; while with the company, Heba began to choreograph at age twenty-one. She has participated in many choreography workshops abroad by well-known dancers and choreographers, including Maurice Bejart, Kwami Ross, Wim Wan Dekapus, Bud Blumenthal, and Tony Rizzi. Heba began teaching children and adults in 2004 and has taught in Egypt, Italy, and California. In 2008 she immigrated to the United States, where she now teaches ballet, modern dance, jazz, contemporary, and belly dance to all ages, and in 2010 opened her own dance studio, Peninsula Dance Academy in Foster City. Heba joined NCDE in 2009 and was with the company in 2010 when it toured in Egypt's International Modern Dance Festival.



about the company



Hillary Hoffman, originally from Arizona, graduated from Goucher College with a B.A. in dance. She has had the privilege of performing works by Sean Curran, Roger C. Jeffrey, Heidi Hendersen, Gabriel Masson, Jenni Bregman, Heather McArdle, Marianela Boan, Deborah Brockus, and Julia Sasso. In addition, Hillary has attended many intensives including the American Dance Festival, Bates Dance Festival, MELT at Movement Research, Nancy Stark Smith's January Intensive at Earthdance, and the Summer School of Toronto Dance Theatre.

Her choreography has been presented in Washington DC, Philadelphia, Manhattan, Baltimore, Durham, and also at the American College Dance Festival at Hollins College. When she is not dancing, Hillary teaches Jewish education and yoga.



Jetta Martin, a Bay Area performer and choreographer, began her dance training with Grace Doty at Berkeley City Ballet. Merit scholarships at Dance Theater of Harlem, The Rock School, The School at Jacob's Pillow, and American Ballet Theater furthered her dance education. Summer intensives with Ailey, Limon, Lines, and ODC also inform her dance practice. After graduating from Harvard, Jetta started her professional career dancing in Ronn Guidi's "Nutcracker."

She performed with Jacinta Vlach's Liberation Dance Theater in their summer 2009 Jacob's Pillow debut. Also in 2009, she originated the role of Josephine Baker in James Brooks' "Celestial Celebration." Last summer Jetta performed with Push Dance Company at the Joyce Soho in NY and with NCDE in Egypt. Most recently she performed for a second year in sold-out performances of Mark Foehringer's "Nutcracker" at the Zeum, for Black Choreographers' Festival 2011, and with David Herrera's Performance Company. Jetta has presented her choreography at Shawl Anderson, The Ballet Studio, Berkeley's Earth Day, Dancing in the Park, and Counterpulse. Her choreography has been commissioned by Black Choreographers, the Museum of African Diaspora, and Dance Mission Theater. Her home season will premiere at Dance Mission with Michael Velez September 9th and 10th, 2011. Jetta is beginning her fourth season with the Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble.



Megan McCormack started dancing at an early age. She pursued her studies at Radford University and earned a B.F.A in Contemporary Dance. While at RU, she performed in various concerts, participated at the American College Dance Festival, studied abroad, and performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. Megan also attended Summer Stages and studied with many artists including David Parker and the Bang Group and David Dorfman. For two years, she danced with d a n a h b e l l a DanceWorks, a modern dance company in

Southwest Virginia. After moving out West, she performed with Loose Change and Denia Dance. In addition, Megan works for Les Mills who create life-changing fitness experiences, every time, everywhere. She is thrilled to be dancing with the Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble.

about the company

Erica Pinigis began her dance training at the Kanopy School for Contemporary Dance and Choreography in Madison, Wisconsin. She went on to receive her BFA in Dance from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Erica spent two years after graduation producing and choreographing her own work in the Twin Cities and spent a month as Artist in Residence at the Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Arts before moving out to the Bay Area. In addition to performing with the Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble, Erica is currently a member of Facing East Dance & Music and Paco Gomes & Dancers and teaches Graham-based modern dance at Shoebox Studio in San Francisco.



Allison Rockwell began her training with Rosemary Valaire at Westside School of Ballet, in Santa Monica, CA. She went on to study Modern techniques including Graham at UC Berkeley, Dunham and Horton at Alvin Ailey, Limon at San Jose State, and Cunningham at Stanford University. She has a Masters in Dance Education from Stanford University. Before having her two sons, Allison taught Dance and Photography at Gunn High School, in Palo Alto. Allison has danced with Butoh Dance Company's "Harupin-ha" and Carl Flink's "Black Label Movement," and has performed emerging choreographers' work as a part of the ODC Pilot series. Most recently she performed Rodolphe Cassand's "Awakenings" and "Aurora." Allison is very happy to be dancing with the Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble.



Annie Thatcher-Stephens has been living and performing in the Bay Area since graduating from The Hartt School, Hartford, CT, in 2005 (B.F.A. in Dance Performance). She has had the opportunity to work on a number of projects including a performance with David Dorfman Dance's *The Underground* and a tour to Poland with The Ruth Botchan Dance Company, as well as spending summers at the Limon Institute and Martha Graham Center for Contemporary Dance in NYC. Annie grew up in Southern California, training at Long Beach Ballet Arts Center and Le Studio in Pasadena. While in high school, she attended numerous prestigious summer programs including Joffrey Ballet School, Milwaukee Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, and School of the Hartford Ballet, as well as performing with Los Angeles Classical Ballet. In college, she augmented her professional ballet training with various styles of modern dance, performing the works of Martha Graham, Jean Grand-Maitre, Peggy Lyman, and Katie Stevinson-Nollet, as well as dancing in Kirk Peterson's "Nutcracker" for Dance Connecticut/ABT II. Outside of dance, Annie is a certified personal trainer who enjoys anything outdoors, eating, and practicing the Alexander Technique.



technical staff & production crew

director & producer	Natasha Carlitz
lighting designer	Rob Anderson
master electrician	Jack Buettler
sound engineer	Roberta O'Blake
videographer	Stephen Lee
photographers	Elazar Harel, Yaron Kidron
graphic & web designer	Natasha Carlitz
wardrobe mistress	Karen McWilliams
odc theater director	Rob Bailis
theater administrator	Cori Crowley
theater manager	Christy Bolingbroke
production manager	Nicole Mitchell
stage managers	Deanna Beattie-Gallant, Hillary Hoffman
house managers	Elizabeth DuVall, Tara Fagan, Christi Welter
box office manager	Dan Rivard
box office staff	Susan Oak, Abby Reiss
reception coordinator	Barbara Carlitz
ushers	Matthew De Bellis, Catherine Macklin, Nicholas Vasilakes, Corey Wade

acknowledgements

Many thanks to the circle of friends and family who have kept me (more or less) sane throughout this endeavour: the loyal and versatile Vince Gabrielsen, Felicia Fong, "Z" for Zorzella, Mike Coffin, Sasha Vladimirov, Barbara Carlitz, Paul Colley & Paula Kingsley, Rhabyt & Heather McDougal, Ruby & Celeste McDougal, Bob & Ruthie Carlitz. Thank you to our crew and volunteers, to Karen McWilliams who makes time out of thin air, and to Helena Birecki for her pre-Egypt help. Thanks again to the indefatigable prop movers: Steve Bennett, Vince Gabrielsen, and Rein Gabrielsen, who rashly volunteered three years ago and aren't off the hook yet. Thanks to Pauline Soffa, Henry Berg, and the staff of The Ballet Studio, our primary rehearsal space. Thank you as always to Grace Butler, "choreogenesis" incarnate. A posthumous thank you to Carl Orff and Ludwig van Beethoven for writing inspiring music and having pun-worthy names. And most of all, my thanks to the dancers, for their energy, input, and faith, and for all too literally giving their blood, sweat, and tears to this project. This year more than ever before, in Egypt and at home, the NCDE dancers have demonstrated their ability to collaborate as we build a show.

upcoming performances

Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble celebrates National Dance Week:

~ April 23, 2:00 pm, "Figment" at Western Ballet, Mountain View

~ April 30, "Farthingale Quartet" at "Dancing in the Park," Golden Gate Park, SF

And watch for NCDE's 2012 season next spring!

See www.carlitzdance.org for ongoing performance announcements and info.



photos by elazar harel