

RI²PN
Rhode Island Independent Performers Network
PO BOX 372 – East Greenwich, RI - 02818

June, 3 2010
Mary Langlois 401 451 5781
producer4@ridancealliance.org
http://www.ridancealliance.org/frazier_festival.html

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RI²PN's Summer Series: *Seventh Annual Frazier Festival: Elemental*

Outdoors at the Frazier Terrace on Benefit St, and new this year, a second performance at Burnside Park across from Kennedy Plaza, in Downtown Providence RI.

Saturday, July 17th first showing at Frazier Terrace 3:30PM. Second showing at Burnside Park at 6:30PM.
Free and open to the public

Local and regional artists to present a program of theatre and multiple dance forms, including aerial dance, Polynesian dance, tap/rhythmic dance and ballroom dance in beautiful public spaces. The first installation begins at Frazier Terrace, located on the campus of RI School of Design at 3:30PM and the second at Burnside Park across from Kennedy Plaza at 6:30 PM in Providence, RI. This event is FREE and open to the public. The installation at Burnside Park will be repeated on July 31 as part of the Indie Arts Fest Programming. For more information, or to interview the RI²PN producers about the development of this unique festival of performance art since 2003, call RI²PN at 401-451-5781 or e-mail producer4@ridancealliance.org.

Frazier Festival is a collaborative and site specific project that brings audience and artists together to experience a familiar space that is often overlooked in its complexity and beauty. Frazier Festival '10 is curated by Kellie Lynch from Wire Monkey Dance Company, Slippery Fish and Elm City Dance Company. The First Performance features works created specifically for the space at Frazier Terrace by Nikki Carrara, Allie Smith, Tim Rubel, Manuela Birner, Wanda Strukus, Michelle Castaneda, Carol Anne Buckley, and Linda Succi. The Second Performance at Burnside Park will include works by Mary Langlois, Leslie Vazquez, Kerri Flynn, Carolyn Castro, and Tovah Bodner Muro. These works will be performed by local performing artists, musicians, and dancers.

The Frazier Festival 2010: Elemental is exciting and bigger than ever with a second site specific performance at Burnside Park. The theme of the Festival is Elemental. Creators of individual vignettes are exploring the Elements: Water, Fire, Earth, and Air, and their roles in these public spaces. As the Landscape of Frazier Terrace ascends so do the creativity and human aspirations, and the Beautiful foliage and fountain of Burnside Park lends inspiration for works of genius.

Among the sixteen featured works commissioned for Frazier Festival are:

Michelle Castaneda was a performer in Frazier Festival 09: In Through With Around. This year she is creating a piece of performance art inspired by water. She is creating a work that will challenge, choreographically, our assumption of individual subjectivity by recognizing the power of external forces to make life unpredictable. Her piece will be performed at Frazier Terrace at 3:30PM. Michelle explains more about the ideas behind her choreography: "I am also interested in thinking about the elements, taken together, as constituting an evolutionary timeframe. Exploring what happens when we situate the movers in a historic frame. Their struggles become mankind's struggles. They satisfy each other's need for, intimacy, for independence, for aggression, in a cyclical way as if they are playing the same game over and over."

Napua O Polynesia is a Providence based Dance Company that was founded in 1988. For over twenty years they have been performing Hula dance and other Polynesian dances. Not only are the dances beautiful they are also educational. This year's Frazier Festival they will be performing a piece called "Aloha Hawii and Drums of Polynesia. "We will briefly take our audiences to the Polynesian Islands of Hawii, Tahiti and Philippines in song and dance."

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Wanda Strukus is from Massachusetts and has been involved with many outdoor and collaborative arts projects, which includes two projects for the Revolving Museum's Artventures program in Lowell. In 2004 Wanda was the assistant to Daniel McCusker for "Open for Dancing" project at Sod Maze at Chateau-sur-Mer in Newport. This summer Wanda will be creating a dance piece for Frazier Terrace. "Air or breath as something shared, exchanged, held or with held, that is sometimes audible, something visible, and through which we made (or do not make) connection,". Using air as a means of motivation, the use of breathing and the sounds of breath will be explored.

Kerri Flynn is a graduate from Rhode Island College with a degree in dance. Kerri has been involved with Frazier Festivals over the years, an experience she tells us and continues to contribute to her own artistic growth. Frazier Festival '10 will be all about water for her. "I envision a dance that through fluid and flexible, yet grounded movement uses the idea that people need to go back to a place that gives love, and life, to push through the earth to make new and better paths....the question of how rivers interact with the landscape? Pushing away anything in its path to create new and better paths." The work will be performed on the pre-existing pathways that carve through the lawn at Burnside Park in the same way a river carves through the earth.

Nikki Carrara brings a fun bit of tap dancing and rhythmic mischief to the Frazier Terrace on July 17th. Inspired by the giant iron staircase that runs through the park between Benefit and Waterman St, she says, "I've been involved in Frazier Festival every year since 2004. I am always amazed at how the same space is used over and over again, and every time, something completely different happens. These stairs are always a big inspiration to the artists, and this year they were just begging me to run Slinkies down them! The dancers and I are creating a series of great rhythms, sounds, and sequences using the Slinkies, the staircase, the water in the fountain, even the rocks and benches in the park. We are having a blast making this piece!"

Rhode Island Independent Performers Network, through Dance Alliance of Rhode Island, is a grassroots organization of local performing artists dedicated to creating new works and developing long range strategies for sustaining life in the arts in Rhode Island. This organization creates and provides unique opportunities for RI artists to continue the creation of new and exciting works. Frazier Festival, in particular, encourages collaboration and a team spirit among artists and the audiences who come to experience it. RI²PN serves artists in the disciplines of dance, theatre, music, text, performance art, and film /video. Visit our website at http://www.ridancealliance.org/frazier_festival.html

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Bella Curva (above) RI Independents Performers Network Performance at Indie arts festival 2008

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Mary Langlois (above) at Frazier Terrace

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Napua O' Polynesia (above) Providence, RI

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Kerri Flynn (above) Frazier Festival 2009

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Nathan Andary (above) Frazier Festival 2009

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