

# PEARSONWIDRIG DANCETHEATER

Art for Life's Sake [www.pearsonwidrig.org](http://www.pearsonwidrig.org)

December 2007

Greetings Y'All •

Pack your bags, break out the champagne, and please join us for PWDT's "Coming of Age" season in 2008. Yes, we will be turning 21 this year, and thanks to your continued and deeply appreciated support, have been blessed with twenty years of the most meaningful creative collaborations imaginable. From Calcutta rickshaw drivers to Vermont hospice nurses, from Japanese Butoh dancers to Hollywood composers to Katrina survivors, we have been inspired, stimulated, challenged, and welcomed over and over again.

We are setting a goal of \$100,000 this year to support the creation of new works as well as our upcoming residency activities. Help us follow through with invitations to Chile, Japan, and Mexico by fabulous arts producers who are presenting visionary grassroots work on shoestring budgets.

Each of our three upcoming *Katrina, Katrina: Love Letters to New Orleans* residencies in Washington, DC, Atlanta, and New Orleans, requires an additional \$20,000 to support them in the ways they need. We are reaching out not only to displaced New Orleanians, but to people of all ages and persuasions who are hungry for this kind of transformative experience.

And please join us for our NYC performance season at the Thalia at Symphony Space April 10-12, which will feature some classics from our early days as well as a preview of our newest work *Sayonara, Martha*.

Our work continues to awaken body, mind and soul. As we say to each presenter, "you get them into the room, we'll do the rest." And so we say to each of you, as government and foundation support for the arts wanes with each breath we take, it's up to you to make this happen. Sponsor a residency and give kids, emerging artists, and people like yourselves the opportunity to be swept away in the irresistible atmosphere of our workshops and performances, where people discover their own creative voice, their own authority, their own compassion. We can't do it without your support - literally, figuratively, financially. Each one of these projects is vital, important, transformative. We need your support NOW to make them happen.

Thank You!

*Sara + Patrik*

## 07-08 Performance and Residency Calendar:

February 07 • *Skidmore College* • Saratoga Springs, NY

In a marvelous 3-week residency that reached the entire campus, a student cast joined PWDT in nightly rehearsals of *KK:LL2NO*, learning choreography and embodying the lines written by New Orleans evacuees. It just so happened that on the weekend of our performances, the town held a Mardi Gras as a fundraiser for their sister city of Waveland, MS, which had been right in the hurricane's path. We tracked down their guest of honor - Bryce Philips, who had just been honored at the White House for his role in keeping going the only radio station in the area during the storm, thus becoming instrumental in establishing critical communication. He came to the performance along with a dozen other people, including the mayor of Saratoga Springs, and participated onstage in our Q&A afterwards. An amazing experience for audience and performers alike.

June 07 • *Trinidad & Tobago* • Hunter College Dance Company

[www.hunter.cuny.edu/~dance](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/~dance)

Patrik accompanied the Hunter College Dance Company on a glorious week in Tobago, the "Capital of Paradise", where he taught a master class and mc-ed lecture-demonstrations in a truly awesome cross-cultural exchange.

July/August 07 • *Maine* • Bates Dance Festival

[www.batesdancefestival.org](http://www.batesdancefestival.org)

In addition to performing an excerpt of *KK:LL2NO* on the festival gala, we created *Paradise Pond*, our newest outdoor site performance project in, on, and around Lake Andrews. Commissioned to celebrate the BDF's 25th anniversary, PWDT invited 25 BDF students, 25 BDF Youth Arts Program students, 25 community performers, and 25 BDF guest artists and musicians to participate in this epic visual feast. Obie and Bessie awards winning composer **Robert Een** created the astonishing score for the evening-length production. We danced on water, swung from ropes, channelled 1950's Italian movie stars while balancing on pottery wheels, tossed hundreds of flowers and delightful insults from balconies, and transformed ourselves and the audience in an enchanted pine forest. Time suspended for an hour and a half and gave way to an awe-inspiring beauty, rich in humor and mystery, that transported body and spirit in a finale that caused local astronomers to call NASA and the UFO hotline!

### Audience Comments:

*"The most creative, transformative, visually beautiful and successful production we have ever mounted in our 25 year history."* Laura Faure, Director, Bates Dance Festival

*"If only life could always be like this. Every single person there was literally awe-struck."* Karin Levitas

*"Simply awesome. Very powerful. Ancient magic, raised to powers more than human."* Jonathan Skinner, Eco-Poet, Bates College

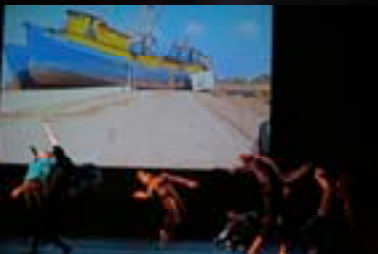
*"Oh! My! God! What a gift. A transformative production."* Susan Hayward, staff Bates College

*"We saw it twice - and you made us cry both times!"* Claudia Lavista & Omar Carrum, Art. Dir., DELFOS Company, Mexico

*"Magical. Without a doubt one of the top site pieces I've seen."* Aimée Petrin, Exec. Dir., PCA Great Performances, Portland/ME

*"Transforming, fabulous, inspiring, delightful."* Bebe Miller, choreographer





September 07 • **New York City** • **dancenOw/nyc @ DTW**

[www.dancenownyc.org](http://www.dancenownyc.org)

**Urban Hula**, Patrik's video dance shot in multiple locations throughout NYC, was shown in the DTW gallery (219 West 19th Street) throughout the festival. Sara performed once again in the revival of Murray Louis' 1974 **Porcelain Dialogues** with former MLDC company members on the 40up programs on September 4+8.

November/December 07 • **India**

Sara & Patrik were in residence at Meherabad in Maharashtra State, India, creating choreography, editing videos, giving informal performances, and continuing to work on Patrik's photography project of capturing the exquisite hand-painted truck art of India before it disappears.

December 07/January 08 • **New York City**

PWDT will be choreographing **Sayonara, Martha** and other works for their upcoming NYC performance season at Symphony Space's Thalia Theater in April. Many thanks to Hunter College Dance Program artistic director Jana Feinman for a most generous space grant.

S&P will also be teaching a composition workshop **January 7-11** as part of **Movement Research's MELT** series. For information and reservations contact: [www.movementresearch.org](http://www.movementresearch.org)

February 17-29, 08 • **Seattle, WA** • **Pacific Northwest Ballet**

[www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org)

Pacific Northwest Ballet artistic director Peter Boal has invited S&P to set an excerpt of **Ordinary Festivals** on the company, which will have its West Coast premiere in Seattle during their Comedy Festival in April. While in Seattle, S&P will also teach master classes at Cornish, Velocity, and Bothell College.

March 7-16, 08 • **Washington, DC** • **Dance Place**

[www.danceplace.org](http://www.danceplace.org)

Dance Place presents the next incarnation of **KK:LL2NO**. Performances are taking place Saturday + Sunday, **March 15+16**.

*Dear relocated New Orleanians and lovers of NOLA: please join us for a video shoot, workshops, and/or participation in the performing cast during the second week of March. Email us at [pearsonwidrig@earthlink.net](mailto:pearsonwidrig@earthlink.net)*

April 10-12, 08 • **New York City** • **Thalia Theater at Symphony Space** [www.symphonyspace.org](http://www.symphonyspace.org)

Symphony Space's Leonard Nimoy Thalia Theater presents PWDT in a retrospective of solos and duets from the past 21 years as well as a preview of the new work **Sayonara, Martha**.

April 15 - May 7, 08 • **Ithaca, NY** • **NYSCA-supported residency**

With PWDT dancer Lindsay Gilmour facilitating our sixth New York State Council on the Arts-supported upstate residency, we look forward to connecting with the Tibetan refugee community as well as creating new choreography and performing in Ithaca for the first time.

May 8-16, 08 • **Atlanta, GA** • **Rialto Center for the Arts at GSU**

**KK:LL2NO** company/community residency, produced by Sue Schroeder, artistic director of Several Dancers Core, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Southern Arts Federation.

Performance date: Thursday, May 15. Stay tuned for exact workshop dates and locations.

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[www.rialtocenter.org](http://www.rialtocenter.org) • [www.severaldancerscore.org](http://www.severaldancerscore.org)

May 25 - June 1, 08 • **New Orleans, LA** • **Contemporary Arts Center**

[www.cacno.org](http://www.cacno.org)

PWDT returns to NOLA to perform **The Return of Lot's Wife** and to premiere excerpts of their latest, ever-evolving **KK:LL2NO** at the fabulous Contemporary Arts Center. Produced by the CAC and supported by the National Performance Network, this will mark PWDT's third post-Katrina residency in a 2 1/2-year project initiated by Tulane University's Theater and Dance Department and the Center for Bioenvironmental Research, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National College Choreography Initiative.

September 08 • **Santiago, Chile** • **OTUX Dance Company**

[www.otux.cl](http://www.otux.cl)

Former PWDT company member and current artistic director of OTUX, Marcela Ortiz de Zarate Broughton has invited S&P to join her company's 20th anniversary celebration in Chile. Marcela last performed with PWDT in their Rockefeller funded Mexico-US collaboration **Do You Remember?** at DTW in January 1994.



We send you our best wishes for the coming year and look forward to seeing you live and online soon.

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Tom Brazil

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beautiful...”*

Metroland, Albany, NY

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