

# 2010 Bates Dance Festival Company Biographies

## Monica Bill Barnes & Company

Over the last decade Monica Bill Barnes has created twelve evening-length dance works, ranging from a two woman vaudevillian style traveling show to an intergenerational dance extravaganza for fifteen performers. Originally built upon a repertoire of solos and duets, the company has grown to include evening-length works and large-scale site-specific performances that are an impressive combination of choreographic imagination, intellect and humor. Dances by Barnes have the brilliant ability to pull at your heartstrings in one moment and laugh out loud the next.

The company has performed in over twenty venues in New York City and has been presented in 30 cities throughout the United States and abroad. In addition, the company creates work through extended artistic residencies, college guest artist residencies and performance projects with local community members. Barnes is currently touring her latest work, *Another Parade*, which premiered in March 2009. Upcoming performances include New York City Center's Fall for Dance Festival, DanceNow[NYC] and her Joyce Theater debut in the summer of 2010.

## Doug Varone and Dancers

Since its' founding in 1986, Doug Varone and Dancers has commanded attention for its expansive vision, versatility, and technical prowess. On the concert stage, in opera, theater and on the screen, Varone's kinetically thrilling dances make essential connections and mine the complexity of the human spirit. From the smallest gesture to full-throttle bursts of movement, Varone's work can literally take your breath away.

At home in New York City, Doug Varone and Dancers is the resident company at the 92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Center. On tour, the company has performed in more than 100 cities in 45 states across the U.S. and in Europe, Asia, Canada, and South America. Stages include The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, San Francisco Performances, London's Queen Elizabeth Hall, Toronto's Harbourfront, Moscow's Stanislavsky Theater, the Venice Biennale, and the Tokyo, Bates, Jacob's Pillow and American Dance Festivals. In opera and theater, the company regularly collaborates on the many Varone-directed or choreographed productions that have been produced around the country during the last decade.

Doug Varone and Dancers are among the most sought after ambassadors and educators in the field. Annual summer intensive workshops at leading universities attract students and professionals from around the country. The company's multi-discipline residency programs on tour capture their concepts, imagery, and techniques across disciplines and for people of all ages and backgrounds, reaching out to audiences in ways that directly relate to their lives and interests.

Varone, his dancers and designers have been honored with 11 New York Dance and Performance Awards (Bessies).

## [Cynthia Oliver/COCo Dance Theatre](#)

Cynthia Oliver creates performance collages that move from dance to word to sound and back again toward a postmodern nouveau dance theatre. A Bronx born, Virgin Island reared performer, she incorporates the textures of Caribbean performance with African, and American, aesthetic sensibilities. A former dancer with numerous companies including the David Gordon Pick Up Co., Ronald Kevin Brown/Evidence, she currently dances with Bebe Miller Company. Ms. Oliver is a New York Dance and Performance Award (a Bessie) winning choreographer whose work has been presented nationally. Additional awards have included a Dance Theater Workshop/Bessie Schonberg First Light Commission, a prestigious Creative Capital grant, a Faculty Research Award and an Arnold O. Beckman award from the University of Illinois school of Fine and Applied Arts, and an Illinois Arts Council grant in Choreography. In 2008 Ms. Oliver won a Rockefeller Multi-Arts Production award as well as National Dance Project support for her latest endeavor entitled, *Rigidigidim De Bamba De: Ruptured Calypso*, a performance project on calypso and transnationalism. In addition to Ms. Oliver's performance work, she holds a Ph.D. in Performance Studies from New York University.

## [AXIS Dance Company](#)

AXIS Dance Company, one of the world's most acclaimed and innovative ensembles of performers with and without disabilities, will change the way you think about dance and the possibilities of the human body forever. Founded in 1987, AXIS has become a jewel of contemporary dance and disability culture. AXIS has paved the way for a powerful contemporary dance form - physically integrated dance- performing in over sixty cities nationwide, as well as in Europe and Siberia.

Under the Artistic Direction of Judith Smith, the Company's list of collaborators read like a Who's Who of contemporary dance-- Bill T. Jones, Stephen Petronio, Joe Goode, Joanna Haigood, Victoria Marks, Ann Carlson, Margaret Jenkins, Sonya Delwaide, Meredith Monk, Fred Frith and Joan Jeanrenaud. AXIS has received seven Isadora Duncan Dance Awards and an additional eight nominations. AXIS is also known for its unparalleled education/outreach program Dance Access and its youth component Dance Access/KIDS! that offer a kaleidoscope of events for adults and youth of all abilities locally and on tour.

Judith Smith, Artistic Director, has earned an international reputation in the field of physically integrated dance. Upon taking over artistic leadership of AXIS in 1997, AXIS began commissioning works by some of the nation's best choreographers, composers and designers and launched Dance Access Community Education and Outreach Program. Prior to becoming disabled in a car accident at age 17 Judith was a champion equestrian. She transferred her passion for riding to dance after discovering contact improvisation in 1983. Along with several other disabled and non-disabled dancers she founded AXIS in 1987. Judith has been featured in several award winning videos including Dancing from the Inside Out, WNET TV's nationally broadcast series People in Motion and John Killacky's Crip Shots. Judith received KQED's Local Hero award in 2005 and the Artship Foundation's Local Hero award in 1999.