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CounterPulse and Dancers' Group present

Dance Discourse Project #20: ALL THE PRACTICE: What we're really making...

WHO: CounterPulse and Dancers' Group

WHERE: Z Space, 450 Florida St, SF 94110

WHEN: Tuesday, November 11, 2014, at 7:30 pm

HOW MUCH: FREE

INFORMATION: 415 626 2060, <http://www.counterpulse.org>; www.dancersgroup.org

October, 2014, San Francisco – CounterPulse and Dancers' Group are proud to present Dance Discourse Project #20: ALL THE PRACTICE: What we're really making..., featuring guest moderators Jesse Hewit and Larry Arrington, hosted at Z Space. DDP #20 will address, question and unpack the notions of practice and making in relation to dance. Hewit and Arrington will be joined by panelists Dia Dear, Nina Haft, Margaret Jenkins, Brontez Purnell, and Sara Shelton Mann—together with the audience—to engage deeply in this conversation.

Hewit and Arrington invite the public to “join us as we come together to grapple with questions like: How do we address a dominant system of values about art, in which the worth of our artistry is measured by our ability to produce a string of sellable art-objects/deliverables? How do we insist on the value of our practices; the actions that exist long before and after our "pieces" are done, our funding is dry, and our careers have likely been made socio-economically impossible? Shouldn't we be dismantling the notion that artists are people who produce things, inside of capitalism, for other people to experience or have, and instead be expanding the reality that artists are actually people whose personal and creative practices are rigorous locations for imagining change? Shouldn't creative practice be an expanded concept that more people can identify themselves in? Let's rally around *practice*, look at it closely, let it compose our reality, honor it obsessively, and allow it to give us connectivity, catharsis, and criticality.”

Guest moderators **Jesse Hewit** and **Larry Arrington** include this DDP in their weeklong engagement with Z Space (Nov 11-16), ALL THE PRACTICE. The week includes at least five evenings of participatory action, conversation, performance and practice sharing, all invested in rallying around the value of *practice*. Hewit and Arrington are both artists working at various intersections of dance and social discourse, and ALL THE PRACTICE is presented by the two artists in partnership with Z Space.

Dia Dear's performance art combines gay club aesthetics of appearance, movement, and attitude to create emotionally visceral and visually fascinating images through live performance. Dia began performing in February 2011, coming to art making through participation in gay nightlife, and their art education and practice is informed by this lineage.

Nina Haft directs Nina Haft & Company, a Bay Area-based ensemble known since 2000 for works of gender and cultural commentary, and site-specific performance. Nina also teaches at Cal State University East Bay and at Shawl-Anderson Dance Center.

Margaret Jenkins is a choreographer as well as a designer of unique community-based dance projects like Choreographers in Mentorship Exchange (CHIME). Since 1976, when she founded her company, the Margaret Jenkins Dance Company has been a part of the cultural fabric of

San Francisco, dedicated to the making and touring of new work, international exchange, and programs that support choreographic mentorship.

Since 2010, the **Brontez Purnell** Dance Company has been presenting experimental dance and movement theatre works with a radically open understanding of the forms, bodies, and idioms of dance. Brontez Purnell—author of the cult zine *Fag School* and frontman for his band The Younger Lovers—along with founding company member Sophia Wang, build works that combine punk rock subversion, free jazz improvisation, and a company comprised of movers and artists of all disciplines.

Sara Shelton Mann has been a choreographer, performer, and teacher since 1967. In 1979 she started the company Contraband as a performance group and research ground combining the principles of contact, systems of the body and spiritual practice into a unified system of research. Her Movement Alchemy training is an ongoing teaching project that is influenced by certifications and studies in the metaphysical and healing traditions, and is a platform for collaboration and research in consciousness.

This DDP is being hosted at **Z Space**, a regional theater and performing arts company located in San Francisco. Z Space commissions and develops its own works; it also presents works created by other organizations.

The Dance Discourse Project is a far reaching, far ranging, ambitious project that aims to articulate in a cohesive and coherent way, from the participants themselves, what is happening in dance in the Bay Area and beyond. Topics of discussion have included site-specific dance, performance and technology, dance criticism, post-multiculturalism, and dancing politics, among others. Begun in 2007, The Dance Discourse Project is an on-going series that takes place roughly three times a year.

About the organizers

The Dance Discourse Project is organized by Mary Armentrout and Julie Phelps and Michelle Lynch Reynolds, and co-produced by Dancers' Group and CounterPulse.

Founded in 1982, **Dancers' Group** assists and supports the San Francisco Bay Area dance community by creating a nexus of resources, expertise, and knowledge. Working to advocate for dance in the Bay Area and beyond, they assist in the creation and production of engaging, original dance. Dancers' Group serves artists at multiple stages in their careers, and supports dancers, choreographers, teachers, funders, dance companies, students, writers, critics, and audiences in the passionate pursuit and enjoyment of art. www.dancersgroup.org

CounterPulse provides space and resources for emerging artists and cultural innovators, serving as an incubator for the creation of socially relevant, community-based art and culture. CounterPulse acts as a catalyst for art and action; creating a forum for the open exchange of art and ideas, catalyzing transformation in our communities and our society. Programs include an Artist in Residence program, a series of free performance salons and community discussions, and presentations of contemporary dance and performance. www.counterpulse.org

The Dance Discourse Project is supported in part by Grants for the Arts and the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation.

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