

Friday, March 29, 2019

Nimbus @ SOPAC (South Orange Performing Arts Center)

Company: Nimbus Dance
Venue: SOPAC
Location: South Orange, NJ

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Megan Maloy

Named among "Best Dance Performances of 2016" by The Huffington Post and called "gorgeous [and] exquisite" by Broadway World, Nimbus brings its unique brand of exquisitely rendered, highly physical, and emotionally accessible dance to SOPAC. The program includes a much-anticipated world premiere collaboration between Nimbus Artistic Director Samuel Pott and Grammy-nominated Timothy Eriksen (Cold Mountain, Academy Awards) who was called "one of the best singers in music" by T-Bone Burnett. Eriksen's distinctive sound is grounded in the roots tradition of sacred harp singing and early Appalachian Folk – earthy, incessant, and guttural. Eriksen's hypnotic sound underscores Pott's virtuosic and high-energy choreography, which rides on top of as if propelled by the meditative vibrations of Eriksen's vocal vibration. Nimbus also performs two returning pieces from its repertoire: Pott's *The Glare* from *These Horizons* and Darshan Singh Bhuller's *Dew Point 68*.

Additionally, together with students from Columbia High School (Maplewood, New Jersey), Nimbus revisits Mr. Pott's captivating *Bloodlines 1944* (2002). Talented student dancers create lines of connection to the year 1944, investigating their personal connections to individuals alive during that epochal era.

Nimbus focuses its work on the intersection between high-level dance and innovative ways of involving communities and audiences. In addition to work by Artistic Director Samuel Pott, the company commissions dances by leading international dancemakers including Pedro Ruiz (Cuba/USA), Huang Yi (Taiwan), Korhan Basaran (Turkey), and Xiao-Xiong Zhang (Australia/Taiwan).

The company has received acclaim for its program *Lynchtown/Thistown* in which it presents significant, historic, socio-political modern dance works including Pearl Primus' *Strange Fruit* (1942) and Charles Weidman's *Lynchtown* (1936) and leads community members in the creation of dance that responds to socio-political subjects in their community.

Based in Jersey City, Nimbus weaves together artistic excellence and community impact through company performances, programs for youth and seniors, partnerships with institutions such as the Jersey City Board of Education, and collaborations with notable composers and visual artists.

Nimbus' programs impact more than 16,000 people each year, and its educational programs serve over 3,000 annually in the Jersey City public schools. The School of Nimbus offers training in Ballet and Modern Dance for over 130 youth ages 2 and above, including a pre-professional program. Nimbus presents semi-annual seasons in Jersey City, annual New York City seasons, and tours nationally at many of the most prestigious venues including the Brooklyn Academy of Music, NJPAC, and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival.

Dance performances at SOPAC are supported in part by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

Nimbus Dance
One SOPAC Way
South Orange, NJ, 07079
(973) 313-2787
<https://www.sopacnow.org/events/nimbus/>

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