




SACRAMENT

A Dance Theater
Performance Experience

By Natalie Metzger
2011 Emerging Choreographer
HARC Award Recipient

Friday, March 30, 2012 at 8:30 PM
Saturday, March 31, 2012 at 8:30 PM

Highways Performance Space
1651 18th Street
Santa Monica, CA 90404



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Photo by Robert Allaire

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Highways Performance Space is Southern California's boldest center for new performance. In its 23rd year, Highways continues to be an important alternative cultural center in Los Angeles that encourages fierce new artists from diverse communities to develop and present innovative works.

Highways promotes the development of contemporary socially involved artists and art forms. Our mission is implemented through four programs (the performance space, workshop/university program and two galleries). Annually, we co-present approximately 250 performances by solo dramatic artists, small theater groups, dance companies and spoken word artists; we curate and exhibit approximately 12 contemporary visual art exhibits per year with work that explores the boundaries between performing and visual art forms; we commission and premiere new work by outstanding performing artists; organize special events, curate festival, offer residency and educational programs that engage community members in the arts while providing access to professionally-directed instruction.

Artistic Director, Leo Garcia says: "I'm aligned with Highways' commitment to diversity, to the development of new works, to the exploration of new forms of performance, and to our First Amendment Right of free expression. At Highways we contribute to culture and society by affecting progressive change through performance. I will continue to facilitate artistic expression in a supportive, non-elitist, non-dogmatic way. – There's no place I'd rather be."

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Highways Performance Space, Artistic Director, Leo Garcia Presents



Help Artists & Rehabilitate Children

The HARC Foundation
Presents

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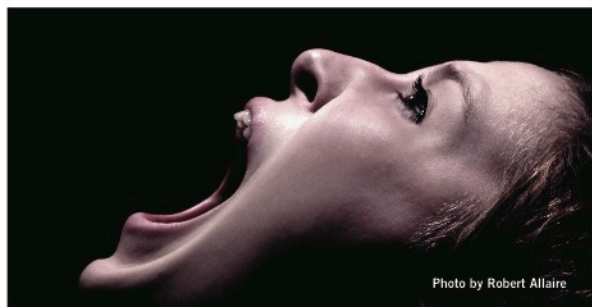
P r o g r a m

SACRAMENT

By Natalie Metzger

SYNOPSIS

Natalie Metzger's Dance Theatre Work, Sacrament, is a performance experience that examines cult mentality, the evolution of god and the human attraction to destruction. The abstract narrative occurs amidst a futuristic landscape of decay that centers around an enigmatic "deity" that hangs from the ceiling and fills the performance space. This immersive descent into a world of cult mentality, violence and destruction has been described as "the Rite of Spring meets Alien in Night of the Living Dead." Fusing together movement, sound, video, text and image, award-winning choreographer Metzger and composer Robert Allaire create a hybrid performance experience that takes you inside a sacred space where worshippers enter into a ritual whose vague boundary blurs the distinction between audience and participant.



There Will Be No Intermission

P r o g r a m

CREDITS

Director/Choreographer: Natalie Metzger

Co-Creator/Composer: Robert Allaire

Performers

Erica Carpenter	Lindsey Lollie
Gregory Dorado	Nicole Pfeiffer
Cameron Evans	Michelle Sagarminaga
Lexi Gibbons	Jordon Waters
Tiara Jackson	Stephanie Zaletel

Production Team

Scenic Design: Grant Gorrell

Lighting Design: Ellie Rabinowitz

Costume Design: Asta Bennie Hostetter

Video Design: Masha Tatarintseva

Stage Manager: Rebecca L. Trotter

Production Assistant/Understudy: Amanda Castro

Construction Coordinators: Jaymes Wheeler & Matt Schumacher

Costume Assistant: Jac Adair

Special Thanks

Susan M. Marchese and The HARC Foundation; Leo Garcia and Highways Performance Space; Kristyn Archibald, Nathan Broberg, Cecilia Cano, Alex Gaines, Jade Johnston, Hector Machado and Kegan McGurk for their help in the creation of this work; Stephan Koplowitz, Elizabeth Van Vleck, and the CalArts dance faculty for their guidance

Special Note

Sacrament is being adapted into a film. If you are interested in being involved in or supporting this project, please email natalie@metzart.org.



NATALIE METZGER (Director/Choreographer) is an award-winning choreographer/filmmaker based in Los Angeles who uses the body and technology to create abstract narratives in highly aestheticized environments. Her stage and multimedia work can be characterized by its flung momentum, awkward beauty, and unconventional use of the audience. Metzger recent multimedia work *Luminis Sphaera*, created in collaboration with four other artists, premiered at PACT Zollverein in Essen, Germany as part of the Ruhrtriennale festival. Her concert dance has also been selected for the SB - Adapt Festival, New Choreography Spotlight, the MixMatch Dance Festival, and the Fresh Squeezed Juice Festival.

Her film work has received international attention for being “visually rich and thoughtful.” Her film *For Water* was awarded a Certificate of Distinction at the American Dance Festival’s International Screendance Festival, a medal for Musical Excellence at the Park City Film Music Festival, and Official Selections from more than 13 festivals including the Festival International de Vidéo Danse de Bourgogne in France, the Loikka Dance Film Festival in Finland, and the Female Eye Film Festival in Canada. Her film *Surgeon General’s Warning* was commissioned by Dances Made To Order and has been an Official Selection of several festivals including the L-DUB Film Festival in Lake Worth, FL and the Festival of the Moving Body at Stony Brook University. Her most recent film *Barely* is a collaboration with Canadian choreographer Colin Connor.

Metzger holds a Master of Fine Arts in Dance and Integrated Media from California Institute of the Arts and a Bachelor of Arts from Emory University, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Summa Cum Laude. At Emory, Metzger received the Sudler Award in the Arts, the Pioneer Award, and Highest Honors for her work *Mindscape of the Pre-Dead*. She lives in Burbank, California with her artistic partner, composer Robert Allaire. When not creating work, Metzger geeks out on science fiction and frozen yogurt.



ROBERT ALLAIRE (Co-Creator/Composer) is a Los Angeles-based composer of acoustic and electronic music for the concert hall, film, and interactive media. His film scores have garnered accolades from LA Weekly, the New York Times, and Animation Magazine. His recent scores include *And the Night Illuminated the Night* (2011) by experimental filmmaker Betzy Bromberg, the documentary *Where We Live* (2010) by award-winning Iraqi film director Fady Hadid, and numerous film and stage works with his partner and frequent collaborator, Natalie Metzger, whose 2011 short, *For Water*, earned a medal for musical excellence at the 2011 Park City Film Music Festival.

Outside the film world, Robert has explored unique ways of experiencing music. In 2009 he teamed up with developer Improbable Sciences to realize his concept for an interactive composition and musical memory game, which was released on the Apple app store as *8 Track Mind* and was nominated for Best Music Game by the Best App Ever Awards. In his concert work he has explored ideas about interactive musical forms, the inclusion of theatre and dance elements into musical works, and immersive musical experiences. Robert’s music has been performed in Los Angeles, New York, Boston, London, Stockholm, São Paulo, and Mexico City at venues and events that include Mill’s College, the California Institute of the Arts, Stanford University, the Faculty of Fine Arts Gallery at Concordia University, the International Computer Music Conference, and the Center for Advanced Musical Studies at Chosen Vale by groups such as the New Century Players, the California E.A.R. Unit, the CalArts Chamber Orchestra, the Formalist Quartet, and as part of Vox Novus’s 60x60 Series.

Also an enthusiastic accordionist and pianist, Robert has performed at REDCAT with the California E.A.R. Unit and after hours can be found rocking the keytar as half of NES-fueled, chiptune dance party duo Beta to the Max, who released their most recent EP, *From Tomorrow, With Love*, in November of 2011.

B i o g r a p h i e s

ERICA CARPENTER (Performer), a Los Angeles native, is currently completing her last semester at California Institute of the Arts for her Bachelors of Fine Arts in dance. Erica has choreographed two works while at California Institute of the Arts for the BFA II Solo Concert and the Last Dance Concert. Furthermore, she will be premiering a physical theater piece in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2012 and is currently working with Laurence Blake. Erica is so grateful to have performed in two other original works by Natalie Metzger, including the dance film *Surgeon General's Warning* and the multimedia work *Consume*.

GREGORY DORADO (Performer) is currently a full-time student in his second year at The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at California Institute of the Arts. His previous experience includes three seasons as a performer with Sacramento-based Dangerous Lorraine's Dance Theatre, singing and performance with Artistic Differences, and directing/choreographing several original dance theater works in and around the Sacramento area.

CAMERON EVANS (Performer) trained at Bronx Dance Academy, Professional Performing Arts High School/The Ailey School, and Earl Mosley's Institute of the Arts before graduating with a BFA in dance from California Institute of the Arts. He has danced with ARC Dance Company (Seattle), with David Gordon's "Trying Times (Remembered)" (DTW 2008), and with Colin Connor, Rosanna Gamson, Christal Brown, Earl Mosley, and Barak Marshall. He recently performed and choreographed work at Pact Zollverein in Germany as part of the Ruhrtrienalle Festival. Cameron currently lives in New York and dances with Opus Dance Theater. He is represented by MSA and has done work on NBC's *The Parenthood* and Jennifer Lopez' "Papi" music video.

LEXI GIBBONS (Performer) knew movement was her key to happiness at 3. She studied many genres of dance until studying at LINES Ballet narrowed her focus, matured her technique, and broadened her awareness. Her first interdisciplinary work in Los Angeles revealed her primal urge to choreograph: a relentless curiosity and a need to relate. She accepted the Presidential Arts Scholarship from GWU, later transferring to CalArts to earn a BFA in Dance. She has studied in eight countries, danced for Natalie Metzger, Rosanna Gamson, and Darren Moultreie, choreographed ten staged works, and danced with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre.

GRANT GORRELL (Scenic Design) earned his BFA in Theatre Performance from Denison University in Granville, Ohio. He has worked professionally with the Merry-Go-Round Playhouse in New York, the Glendale Centre Theatre, the Pasadena Playhouse, the Alex Theatre and has served as the Resident Scenic Designer for the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. In 2004, he was appointed Technical Director for the Performing Arts at Harvard-Westlake School and in 2010 joined CalArts, where he currently serves as Associate Technical Director for the Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance. Grant also volunteers as Technical Director for The New Comedy and as a production consultant for *Shakespeareience*, California's finest educational field trip.

ASTA BENNIE HOSTETTER (Costume Design) is proud to remount her original design for *Sacrament*. She was born in New York City and worked there in experimental theater before coming to CalArts where she will receive her MFA in Theater Design this spring. Work at school includes: *The Firebugs*, *Cherry Jam* (Costumes), and *The Life of the Bee* (Set). She is an Associated Artist with Target Margin Theater for whom she designed 10 Blocks on the Camino Real and The Argument and The Dinner Party. Past work includes collaborations with Julia Jarcho, Half Straddle, Jake Hooker and The Little Lord Fauntleroy's.

MICHELLE STEPHANIE SAGARMINAGA (Performer) was born and raised in Southern California. She trained at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts (LACHSA) and continued her studies when accepted into and awarded a scholarship for dance at the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts). During her time at CalArts, she has performed in various works by Stephanie Nugent, Rachel Boyajian, Natalie Metzger, Anne Moore, and Ohad Naharin. Michelle is now completing her fourth and final year at CalArts and wishes to thank her family and friends for their endless love and support.

B i o g r a p h i e s

TIARA JACKSON (Performer) was born in Slovenia but raised in Texas, where she studied dance and choreography at the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. Since the beginning of her studies at CalArts in 2009, Tiara has choreographed five solo works that transcribe physiological sensations into movement. She has created *Unspoken Word* (2009), *Forgotten Bones* (2010), *Of The Flesh* (2011), *And Then My Cat Died* (2011), which was presented at The American College Dance Festival Association at CSU Dominguez Hills, and *FALL RISK* (2012).

LINDSEY LOLLIE (Performer) has had the privilege of performing in many dance works at CalArts. This past winter, she performed in Ohad Naharin's "Humus" and "Echad Mi Yodea" under the direction of Danielle Agami, a former dancer of Batsheva. She also performed in the restaging of Trisha Brown's *Set and Reset/Reset* in 2010. Over the past four years, Lindsey has had over seven of her choreographic works produced at CalArts, as well as a solo at this years' ACDFA. She will also be premiering a new work as a part of the Next Dance Company this May.

NICOLE PFEIFFER (Performer) is originally from Santa Barbara, CA and has trained in various styles of dance. For the last 5 years, she has worked with the Santa Barbara Dance Arts and has received awards by the Santa Barbara Dance Alliance and the city of Santa Barbara for her accomplishments in dance. Nicole recently performed two pieces by Israeli choreographer, Ohad Naharin, entitled "Echad Mi Yodea," and "Humus." She has performed in work by Natalie Metzger, Robin Bisio, Colin Connor, and Glen Eddy. Nicole is currently attending CalArts as a dance major.

ELLIE RABINOWITZ (Lighting Design) Dance: Dušan Týnek Dance Theater, Andrea Haenggi, Deborah Lohse, Ariana Daub and Lindsey Lollie. Theater: *House of Bernarda Alba*, *Crocodile Eyes* (Columbia University/Premio DAMS, Bologna, Italy), *Close Up Space*, (Chautauqua), *What Do I Know About War?* (Theater for the New City), *Camino Real* (Boston Court/CalArts), *Cattywampus* (Redcat, Ontological), *Zoophilic Follies* (Redcat), *Adam & Eve*, *One Eye Gone* (CalArts), *The Dawn of Quixote*, (Edinburgh Fringe) *Burial at Thebes* (Mighty Theater Company), *Antigone*, *Machinal*, *A View from the Bridge* (Tribeca PAC). Opera: *Loving* (CalArts).

MATT SCHUMACHER (Construction Coordinator) is a lighting designer and scenery/mechanical fabricator focusing in concert dance, theater productions, and events. He graduated from Idyllwild Arts Academy after four years of study and received the most outstanding interdisciplinary artist award. He is continuing his studies at the California Institute of the Arts where he is in his third year and honing his artistic eye and technical skills.

REBECCA L. TROTTER (Stage Manager) is happy to be working with Natalie again. She previously worked with Natalie on the experimental opera *Dice Thrown* at CalArts. She has also stage managed the 2011 Winter Dance Concert and the 2011 Next Dance Company at both REDCAT and CalArts. Rebecca will receive her MFA in Stage Management and Production Management this May from CalArts.

JORDON WATERS (Performer) is an interdisciplinary performing artist. He is currently in his third year of his BFA in Dance at California Institute of the Arts (CalArts). Jordon has danced in the work of Israeli choreographers Barak Marshall (Winter Dance 2010) and Ohad Naharin (Winter Dance 2011) at CalArts Modular Theater and REDCAT. He was last featured in CalArts' 2011 Student Choice Dance Concert and Anne Moore's *Never Odd or Even*. He is currently working with Daniel Charon for CalArts' Last Dance Concert 2012. Jordon would like to thank the Cast and Crew for everything and wishes the best of luck to Natalie and her amazing journey through this crazy art!

STEPHANIE ZALETEL (Performer), born and bred in Las Vegas, NV is currently completing her BFA in Dance Performance and Choreography with a Minor in Humanities at the California Institute of the Arts. In these four years, Stephanie has had the privilege of performing in works choreographed by Daniel Charon, Ohad Naharin, Stephanie Nugent, Colin Connor, and Barak Marshall. She has also danced for upcoming choreographers Natalie Metzger, Lisa Long, Rachel Boyajian, and Cherise Richards. Currently she lives in the Los Angeles area choreographing her eighth original work in collaboration with composer Louis Lopez with eager intentions to become immersed and engaged within new artistic communities.

Congratulations to Natalie Metzger,
the 2011 Emerging Choreographer HARC Award Recipient,
whose body of work has already made a difference in the
quality and evolution of our culture and humanity.

Artists are the breath and soul of the nation –

Forever giving new expression to life.

*Every day their gifts empower humanity aesthetically,
therapeutically and economically.*

Thank you, Natalie.

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We are pleased to be a part of the efforts
bringing this thought-provoking
performance to the public.

Congratulations Natalie!



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We extend our deepest appreciation
to Natalie and all the creative artists
for their dedication to the performing
arts and bringing this inspired
performance to us.



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A c k n o w l e d g e m e n t s

The HARC Foundation extends their deepest thanks to the following individuals, organizations and corporations who made the Presentations of "Sacrament" possible.

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Natalie Metzger, Robert Allaire;
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Lindsey Lollie, Nichole Pfeiffer, Michelle Sagarminaga, Jordon Waters, Staphanie Zaletel;
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The HARC Foundation

Mission Statement

The HARC Foundation's Greater Mission is to preserve and promote the value and importance of Creative Arts and Creative Artists in America – culturally, aesthetically, economically and therapeutically – as a fundamental requirement in fostering and maintaining a healthy society. HARC's Core Mission is to help qualified emerging American Creative Artists by identifying their needs and providing solutions through Foundation programs that will benefit their livelihood and encourage achievement of their artistic potential.

Dual Purpose

HARC's primary purpose is to discover, recognize, nurture, promote and support emerging American Creative Artists in order to protect current artistic work in progress; to ensure the continuation of artistic creation; and, to provide the potential for future creative works. Creative Artists who are selected from all art disciplines, including fine arts, visual arts, literary arts, music and dance, receive cash HARC Awards, promotional benefits and opportunities for public presentation of their works.

HARC (Help Artists and Rehabilitate Children) maintains a secondary purpose to use the Creative Arts as a therapeutic science in the rehabilitation of abused, neglected and traumatized children. Since art, music and dance, for example, are used in therapy, not as therapy, the Creative Arts Therapy (CAT) programs must be administered by trained, licensed CAT Therapists. Selected Creative Artists receive cash awards to attend accredited Graduate Schools with degreed programs necessary for licensure. Upon completion and receipt of their credentials, CAT Award recipients (Clinical Art Therapists, Music Therapists and Dance Therapists) are required to work with abused and neglected children.



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