

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For Press Information and Reservations, Contact:
Rennica Johnson (212) 674-8112; rennica@danspaceproject.org

Danspace Project Presents

TOM PEARSON AND ZACH MORRIS

Vanishing Point (Premiere)

June 26-28, 2008 [Thu*-Sat] at 8:30PM

Location: Danspace Project, St. Mark's Church, 131 East 10th Street, NYC
(6 to Astor Place; N/R to 8th Street/NYU; L to 3rd Ave.)

General Admission: \$15.00 (Danspace Members \$10.00)

Reservations: Call 212-674-8194 or visit www.danspaceproject.org

As part of the *City/Dans* series, Danspace Project presents the premiere of **Tom Pearson** and **Zach Morris'** latest evening-length contemporary dance work. Wickedly funny and suddenly somber, *Vanishing Point* fuses aggressive, exhaustive movement, meditative nuance, and live music by the alt-bluegrass ensemble **The Dang-it Bobbys**, led by composer **Kris Bauman**. The work will be presented in a three night engagement that runs Thursday, June 26th through Saturday, June 28th, 2008. Performances begin at 8:30PM.

“Wickedly clever”

The New York Times

“...movement that shimmers with unusual psychic static.”

The New Yorker

Vanishing Point engages St. Mark's Church both as a sanctuary and an architectural structure evocative of the columns and porticos of the rural south. Fully self-aware and handled with equal measures of sincerity and irreverence, the performance unfolds as a fictional funeral (replete with inappropriate eulogies and talk about sex in church). Ricocheting backward and forward through time in a non-linear, photo album fashion, *Vanishing Point* shotguns from elusive impression to indelible imprint, skips decades, unearths fragments of a hidden past, and obsessively replays events in an attempt to articulate meaning out of fractured moments.

Culled from the artists' collective stories, *Vanishing Point* is an exploration of family legacies that have been shrouded in secrets, blurred by liquor, or -- in some cases -- composed of outright lies. A confluence of slipping memories, improbable tales, and faulty recollections, the work lives in the blurry spaces between truth and fabrication.

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DANSPACE PROJECT

131 East 10th Street, New York, NY 10003
ph: 212-674-8112 fax: 212-529-2318
www.danspaceproject.org

Composer Kris Bauman brings his experience as an accomplished jazz performer to bear on the score, merging elements of the blues, folk, and alt-country into a frequently raucous and sometimes moody soundscape. From knee-slappin' drinking songs to stark, brooding deconstructions of bluegrass forms, the music slides, tumbles, and thrashes, evoking summertime porches, barroom waltzes, and better times.

Collaborative artists and performers include **Donna Ahmadi**, Zach Morris, **Marissa Nielsen-Pincus**, Tom Pearson, **Tara O'Con**, and **Jennine Willet**. Costumes designed by **Karen Young** and lighting by **Carol Mullins** complement the work.

* The Thursday, June 26th performance will be followed by a Rap Up, a casual discussion between the artists and members of the audience, moderated by Brian McCormick.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Tom Pearson and **Zach Morris** (Third Rail Projects) work in a variety of media that includes contemporary dance, site-specific performance, film, visual art, and large-scale installations. Each work introduces its own movement and/or visual vocabulary, defined by the parameters of the subject, site, and performance environment. Through the lens of contemporary movement, unabashed theatricality and striking, dream-like images, Pearson and Morris create dense, evocative worlds that illuminate the transient and the transformational, using movement abstracted from and coupled with everyday action.

Tom Pearson and Zach Morris have been commissioned to create original site-specific works as part of Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's *SiteLines* series, the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, and the Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation. Additionally, their work has been presented in New York by Dance Theater Workshop, Danspace Project, La Mama E.T.C., Theater for the New City, and Williamsburg Art NeXus, among others.
www.thirdrailprojects.com

Kris Bauman is a multi-instrumentalist, who has performed extensively throughout Europe and in and around New York City since 1996. His performances can be heard on several rock, jazz, and R&B albums. He was featured with bassist Alexis Cuadrado on NPR's Studio 360. Bauman's band, The Dang-it Bobbys, was formed in 2004 and borrows from classic country music, newer acoustic/electric sounds, and the intricate songwriting of jazz standards of the 30's, 40's, and 50's.

ABOUT DANSPACE PROJECT

Danspace Project was founded by artists in 1974 to provide a venue for independent experimental choreographers. It combines a rich history with an unstinting commitment to that which is contemporary, creative, and cutting-edge. Three defining characteristics have secured its position as a leading advocate for contemporary dance: Commissioning and presenting new dance work from New York, the U.S., and abroad; nurturing independent experimental choreographers at all stages of their careers; and professionally producing dance in uniquely flexible and communal settings like St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery and other remarkable venues throughout New York City.

MORE...

Danspace Project's mission is to stimulate, promote, and present challenging new work in dance from a broad range of artistic voices within a distinguished and nurturing environment. Danspace Project encourages choreographers to take risks and is committed to assisting artists in realizing their creative visions within a professional setting. Danspace welcomes the public to engage in and be transformed by the work of artists. **www.danspaceproject.org**

FUNDING CREDITS

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