

For Immediate Release Please

A NEW DANCE EVERY WORKDAY LUNCH HOUR?

UNDERCURRENTS & EXCHANGE

Created for Arts World Financial Center by Zach Morris & Tom Pearson

February 2 thru 27, Monday-Friday at 1:00pm

All Free, All Fun, All Heated in the World Financial Center Winter Garden

NEW YORK - Every February workday at 1:00pm: a new dance, five-to-ten-minutes long, performed free in the World Financial Center Winter Garden, 220 Vesey Street.

That's right, a new five-to-ten-minute-long world premiere dance piece presented every Monday through Friday, February 2 through 27, at 1:00pm. The theme? To unearth the hidden, interpersonal undercurrents of our daily routines that take place in a very public place, in this case, the Winter Garden.

Undercurrents & Exchange is the name of the site-specific work and it is created for Arts World Financial Center by **Zach Morris** and **Tom Pearson** of **Third Rail Projects**. It also features choreography by Marissa Nielsen-Pincus and Tara O'Con, and will be performed by the choreographers along with Donna Ahmadi, Kris Bauman, Elizabeth Carena, Mayuna Shimizu, and other surprise guests.

Each short dance of *Undercurrents & Exchange* will be a world unto itself but also accumulate meaning over the course of the month as the performances reveal the often veiled but perpetually possible connections within the transitional spaces of the Winter Garden. Coupled with the performances are three art installations located throughout the World Financial Center designed to further explore hidden and improbable pairings.



Undercurrents & Exchange

Marissa Nielsen-Pincus is in the foreground.

Most of the dances will be duets and all will feature one repeating character, a businessman played by Zach Morris.

"Folks who only catch one or two of the dances or see one or two of the displays will still get a unique experience of *Undercurrents & Exchange*," said Mr. Pearson. "Though not the total effect. One day the businessman may have an inter-office exchange with a coworker and the next day dance with a mermaid." The daily dances will also link up periodically with the scenarios in the displays, but people will be free to either make or miss those connections depending on their level of engagement."

"The great experiment of it all is the way in which the mundane and fantastical collide and how we can find ways throughout this month-long offering to finesse each successive dance and make it more accessible, intuitive, or challenging based on what we learn each day from people's responses," Mr. Pearson said.

And just maybe there will be a flash mob with as many as a hundred business folk suddenly dancing with each other amid the Winter Garden's palm trees.

A detailed schedule of dances along with blog entries, video clips and photos from each performance will be updated daily on Third Rail Projects' website beginning February 2 at www.thirdrailprojects.com.

Third Rail Projects, led by Zach Morris, Tom Pearson, and Jennine Willett, is dedicated to bringing art to the public through an array of media. Its mission is to provide a central organizational hub that enables its artistic directors and affiliated artists to develop accessible projects and integrate them into the broader public sphere; engage local, national, and international communities; utilize art as a vehicle for positive social change; further the forms in which they work; and provide education through performance and residency programs.

Collectively, Third Rail artists have been granted commissions, support, and residencies from presenters, organizations, and foundations including: Danspace Project, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, the Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation, the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, Swarthmore College, Epiphany Theater Company, Dance Theater Workshop, Topaz Arts, La Mama ETC, 92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Center, The American Music Center, The Lucky Star Foundation, Materials for the Arts, New York

City Department of Cultural Affairs, and the New York City Department of Sanitation, among many others. Third Rail artists have also received numerous awards including two 2008 New York Dance and Performance (Bessie) Awards for Vanishing Point, a 2001 New York International Fringe Festival Award for Choreography from the Present Company, and others.

Undercurrents & Exchange has been made possible, in part, by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council with the generous support of The September 11th Fund and by Third Rail Projects with support from individual and institutional donors.

"For over two decades, we've presented exceptional music, art, theater and film in the World Financial Center Winter Garden, making it the center of the downtown arts scene," said Debra Simon, Artistic Director of Arts World Financial Center.

Arts World Financial Center is sponsored by American Express, Battery Park City Authority, Brookfield Properties and Merrill Lynch.

Admission is free for all events. For information, call (212) 945-0505 or click www.worldfinancialcenter.com.