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Whitney Museum of American Art

PRESS RELEASE

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Whitney Museum of American Art

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Strange Pilgrims: A Festival of Live Performance
Performance on 42nd Spring 2004 Series
at Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria

From **May 5 through June 9, 2004**, *Performance on 42nd* will present "**Strange Pilgrims: A Festival of Live Performance**," a four-part series of site-specific performance works by four eclectic contemporary artists. The featured participants of Strange Pilgrims are the Obie Award-winning experimental performance team **Lisa D'Amour and Katie Pearl (May 5)**; Bessie Award-winning choreographer **RoseAnne Spradlin (May 19)**, performing two short pieces; celebrated composer, conductor and violinist **Todd Reynolds (May 26)**, with a concert-theater installation; and Bessie Award-winning Israeli-American choreographer **Yasmeen Godder (June 9)**, with a U.S. premiere. Performance on 42nd is produced by Boo Froebel. **All events are free and begin at 8pm.** Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

The spring series will begin on **Wednesday, May 5 at 8pm** with **Lisa D'Amour and Katie Pearl** performing their new work *Limo*. Set in an intimate and communal, yet strange story-world, *Limo* looks at the extension of the self into the universe using text, movement, and limousines. Performers stationed throughout the Sculpture Court weave hyper-precise gestures together with intimate storytelling to reveal a landscape both imagined and concrete, as their shared riddles and miniature dances become coordinates on a secret map. D'Amour and Pearl were awarded a 2003 OBIE Award for *Nita and Zita*, and most recently presented *Anna Bella Eema*, a ghost story with songs. *Limo* is written and directed by Lisa D'Amour, performed by Katie Pearl with Elyas Kahn, George Hannah, David Pressman, John Holyoke and Steve Carlino, and features sound design by Sxip, and object design by Krista Walsh.

"The collaborative team of playwright Lisa D'Amour and director Katie Pearl make beguiling, innovative theater pieces." (American Theatre)

On **Wednesday, May 19 at 8pm**, the series will continue with **RoseAnne Spradlin's** dance company performing their work-in-progress, *Future Past*, along with *Rearrangement (or a Spell for Mortals)*. Infused with a disturbing and beautiful rawness, RoseAnne Spradlin's choreography challenges the audience to enter into her gritty, strangely luminous visions. Spradlin's new work, *Future Past*, explores the body's intuition of former lives and how this information shapes our futures. *Future Past* takes its movement vocabulary from Spradlin's study of the eight "extraordinary" meridians of Chinese medicine. In the duet *Rearrangement (or a Spell for Mortals)* – part elegy, part scientific investigation – Spradlin delves into the impermanence of the temporal world while using the structure of the DNA molecule to inspire movement and sequencing patterns. Spradlin was awarded a 2003 Bessie Award (New York Dance and Performance Award) for her piece *Underworld*. Her core ensemble of Walter Dundervill, Athena Malloy and Tasha Taylor, was awarded a shared Bessie for *Underworld* as well. The work is choreographed by RoseAnne Spradlin, with sound design for *Rearrangement* by Kenneth Atchley and sound design for *Future Past* by John Bischoff. *Rearrangement* will be performed by Spradlin's core

company of Athena Malloy, Walter Dundervill, and Tasha Taylor, who are joined in Future Past by Neil Greenberg, Jennifer Kjos and Sanghi Choi.

“It’s hard to know exactly what Spradlin’s dancers crave – sex, peace of mind, attention, understanding, but their need for it is unswerving and terrible.” (The Village Voice),

The series continues on **Wednesday, May 26 at 8pm**, as downtown’s preeminent improvisational violinist/composer/conductor **Todd Reynolds** (Ethel, Tan Dun, Steve Reich Ensemble, Bang On A Can) returns to the Whitney at Altria with his own concert-theater installation *Still Life With Microphone v 7.0: Stop. Time.* With Reynolds on “fiddle” – a conglomeration of hardware and software expansions to his already amplified violin – *Still Life With Microphone* will weave together events and people across disciplines. Composed and improvised music, theater, video, and movement all come together through Sound Painting (Walter Thompson’s conducting system of hand and body gestures) while hidden matrices and grids create a walk-through performance piece in the Sculpture Court. Featured Performers are Reynolds, violin, voice and electronics; Theo Bleckmann, voice and electronics; Katie Geissinger, voice; Evan Ziporyn, clarinet and bass clarinet; David Cossin, percussion and electronics; Michael Lowenstein, clarinet and bass clarinet; and Alexandra Montano, voice. Sound design by Jody Elff. Todd Reynolds is “New York’s leading classical/jazz violinist.” (The New Yorker)

Strange Pilgrims will conclude on Wednesday, June 9 at 8pm with Israeli-American choreographer Yasmeen Godder presenting the U.S. premiere of *Two Playful Pink*. Godder, a Bessie-award winner, explores the state of being examined, and living up to the expectation of the body operating as a social tool. Last represented in New York by her pieces *Hall and I* and *I feel funny today*, Godder’s interest in exhibitionism and the use of role-playing leads her to examine the body’s internal impulses and its social physicality. Inspired by surreal imagery and Pop art energy, the three sections of *Two Playful Pink* present different aspects of the female body and being, ultimately exposing a refreshing language that is both mysterious and humorous. *Two Playful Pink* is choreographed by Yasmeen Godder and performed by Godder and Iris Erez. Artistic Consultant, Itzik Giuli; costumes, Ilanit Shamia; video, Yoram Ron; animation, Ruti Ron.

“A fist in the stomach, thought provocative, detailed, original, and direct...a powerful experience, a tour de force.” (Hair)

Performance on 42nd is the performing arts program of the Whitney Museum at Altria offering free music, dance, and theater events to the public.

The Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria is funded by Altria Group, Inc..