



For Immediate Release

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***Gone West* Brings Together Western Artists in World Premiere Production**

*A world premiere creation by Wonderbound Artistic Director Garrett Ammon featuring new music by Denver musician Ian Cooke and original poetry by Lighthouse Writers Workshop Michael J. Henry, *Gone West* will take you on a true Western journey - April 4-13*

DENVER (February 24, 2014) - This April, Wonderbound invites audiences to experience a brand new creation that is best described as a cross between Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and a KOA campground. A collaborative work featuring the choreography of Garrett Ammon, music of Ian Cooke and poetry of Michael J. Henry, *Gone West* will close Wonderbound's 2013-2014 season.

"Each time I have worked with Michael J. Henry, he has pushed me to new and unexpected places. *Gone West* is no exception. Mike has brought a collection of beautifully flawed humans to life in these new poems," said Ammon. "Having Ian Cooke and his band join us on this adventure is adding an entirely new dimension. Ian's music is as layered as Mike's characters, creating a richness and depth that is utterly inspiring. It is a privilege to work with such dedicated and honest artists."

In 2008, Ammon and Lighthouse Writers Workshop Executive Director Michael J. Henry embarked on a creative relationship that has produced two celebrated works, *When the Power Goes Out* (2009) and *Intersection* (2009), that meld dance with the written word. This third full-length collaboration will feature 11 new poems by Henry.

"Poets don't usually collaborate or even consider their audiences," said Henry, "we just write something and hope that people read it. This production is more dynamic, fun and ambitious than anything else I have done to date. Garrett and the dancers are able take my writing and make it come alive, adding depth and nuances that I had never even thought of. Working with Garrett is truly the highlight of my career as a writer."

Gone West will feature Denver musician Ian Cooke and his band live, and Cooke has composed 10 new

songs for this production.

“My inspiration for *Gone West* comes from the relationships humans have with each other, and with the earth. I think periodical exposure to raw, unfiltered nature gives us clarity and helps us sort out our issues.” Cooke said, “Nature can be harsh, but even when it causes traumatic events, it helps us evolve. Developing this theme with Wonderbound and Michael J. Henry is a joyous process. I feel that telling this story together through dance, poetry, and music is one of the best, most human ways to do so.”

As always, the public is encouraged to experience the performers, not only at the official shows throughout the season, but in their rehearsal space in the heart of Denver. Visitors are asked to call to confirm rehearsal schedules.

Gone West will take place April 4-6 at the Performing Arts Complex at Pinnacle Charter School and April 12 and 13 at the Parker Arts, Culture and Events Center. Tickets are on sale now at wonderbound.com or by calling [303.292.4700](tel:303.292.4700). For those eager to see what comes next, holding to tradition, Wonderbound will announce their 2014-2015 season at the performances.

For **exclusive photo and interview opportunities** with Garrett Ammon, Ian Cooke or Michael J. Henry as well as an invitation to observe Wonderbound in rehearsal, contact Amber Blais at 303.292.4700 or ablais@wonderbound.com

Wonderbound Presents:

Gone West

with Ian Cooke and Michael J. Henry

Performance Information

Dates/Times	April 4 & 5, 7:30 pm & April 6, 2 pm
Location	Performing Arts Complex at Pinnacle Charter School 1001 W. 84th Ave. Denver, CO 80260
Tickets	303.805.6800
Dates/Times	April 12, 7:30 pm & April 13, 2 pm
Location	PACE Center Parker Arts, Culture & Events 20000 Pikes Peak Ave. Parker, CO 80138
Cost	\$22-\$47
Tickets	Online at http://wonderbound.com or by phone at 303.292.4700

Press for Wonderbound

"...they extend beyond dancers; they are flat out artists. They are incredible when performing a pas de deux in pairs, or as a company in perfect precision. They come in all shapes and sizes and there are no rankings amongst the dancers. They are disgustingly perfect and somehow both ethereal and absolutely raw."

-303 Magazine

Don't Miss a Moment of Wonderbound's 2013-2014 Season of Wonder
Season Information

Gone West

with Ian Cooke and Michael J. Henry

In 2008, Ammon and Lighthouse Writers Workshop Executive Director Michael J. Henry embarked on a creative relationship that has produced two celebrated works that meld dance with the written word. For their third project, they are teaming up with acclaimed Cellist/Songwriter Ian Cooke to create a new full-length, multimedia experience that explores the unique spirit of the west... Journey with us.

Performance Information

Five (5) Performances:

Fri, April 4, 7:30pm at PAC@PCS (Performing Arts Complex at Pinnacle Charter School, 1001 W. 84th Ave, Denver, CO)

Sat, April 5, 7:30pm at PAC@PCS

Sun, April 6, 2:00pm at PAC@PCS

Sat, April 12, 7:30pm at PACE (Parker Arts, Culture and Events Center, 20000 Pikes Peak Ave, Parker, CO)

Sun, April 13, 2:00pm at PACE

Ticket Information

Cost: \$22-\$47

Order Tickets: Season subscriptions and individual tickets are on sale now at wonderbound.com.

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About Wonderbound

The philosophy of the organization centers around three fundamental values - community, collaboration, creation. Under the artistic direction of Garrett Ammon and Dawn Fay, a radiant energy has grown around the eleven exemplary dancers that make up Wonderbound. Each dancer is valued for the unique personal perspective they bring to the studio process; building a whole greater than its parts. Free to “unzip their souls,” these artists are continually evolving as they explore their humanity through movement. From creating new works with Ammon to utilizing the talents of various musicians, poets and visual artists, Wonderbound’s dancers bring their considerable classical prowess to the table while simultaneously tapping into a vulnerability that strips away pretense.

For more information about Wonderbound, visit wonderbound.com

About Garrett Ammon

Garrett Ammon is an acclaimed choreographer who began his tenure as artistic director of Wonderbound (formerly Ballet Nouveau Colorado) in 2007. Ammon has been honored as a Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Livingston Fellow (2011); named one of Denver Westword’s “Ten People to Watch in 2013” and is the recipient of the 2013 Mayor’s Award for Excellence in the Arts.

A prolific dancemaker, serial collaborator and self-professed tech geek; Ammon has created [over 50 dance works](#) over the past fourteen years. He has conspired with artists across an array of disciplines and developed a trademark aesthetic that seamlessly blends tradition with adventurous new ideas. Ammon’s deep creative relationship with poet Michael J. Henry has produced *When the Power Goes Out* (2009) and the multimedia, evening length production *Intersection* (2009). In 2014, Ammon and Henry will work with musician Ian Cooke to create the all new full length piece *Gone West*.

In 2013, after the successful creation of *Vagabond Hill* (2011), Ammon and Denver Singer/Songwriter Jesse Manly again joined forces this time, with Illusionist Professor Phelyx, to create the full-length piece *A Gothic Folktale*. Other recent works include, *Odessa* with Ofer Ben-Amots and Colorado College; the Klezmer-fusion piece, *Memories and Well Grounded Hopes* with Hal Aqua and The Lost Tribe; and an international collaborative work with Israel’s Liat Dror Nir Ben Gal Dance Company along with the Mizel Arts & Culture Center.

Ammon lives in Denver, Colorado with his wife and muse Dawn Fay. They have worked alongside each other continuously since they first met in 1999.

More information on Garrett can be found on his website at garrettammon.com

About Ian Cooke

Ian Cooke has appeared in SPIN magazine, Finished #1 in the Denver Post Music Poll in 2009, and has been voted Best Avant-Pop for 3 years by Westword Magazine. He also plays cello on Crooked Fingers’ album *Forfeit/Fortune* and his two songs appeared alongside Billy Bragg, Owen Pallett, and M Ward on ‘Versions of Joanna’ – a Joanna Newsom covers-album.

He has toured in the US and Australia playing with: The Dresden Dolls, Crooked Fingers, Built to Spill, The Decemberists, The Flaming Lips (Monolith Festival), Blonde Redhead, Devotchka, Rasputina, Wovenhand,

Pedro the Lion and many more.

Cooke's 2009 album, 'The Fall I Fell,' has sold out of two pressings and has been re-pressed with a DVD with solo live versions of songs, videos, a 5.1 surround mix of the album, etc. His newest album 'Fortitude' was released in 2012 with national distribution with Sony/Red via Greater Than Collective.

About Michael J. Henry

Michael Henry is co-founder and Executive Director of Lighthouse Writers Workshop, an independent literary center located in downtown Denver. His poetry and nonfiction have appeared in places such as *5280 Magazine*, *Georgetown Review*, *Threepenny Review*, *Pleiades*, *Copper Nickel*, and *Rio Grande Review*. Over the years, he's received fellowships from the Colorado Council on the Arts and PlatteForum. He has an MFA in creative writing from Emerson College an undergraduate degree in English from University of Rochester, and currently teaches poetry and nonfiction writing at Lighthouse and University of Denver.

A collection of poetry, *No Stranger Than My Own*, was published by Conundrum Press in 2010, and a new book of poems, *Active Gods*, is due out in early 2014. Since 2008, Michael has developed a creative partnership with Garrett Ammon, award-winning choreographer and artistic director at Wonderbound, and together they've created two verse narrative ballets, *When the Power Goes Out* and *Intersection*.