



FÊTE DE DANSE
RETURNS TO
PLATTSBURGH | A7

Out & About

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GABE DICKENS/P-R PHOTO

Masumi Kishimoto (from left), Rachel Cohen, Julia Gleich, Michelle Buckley and Jason Andrew of Fête de Danse will be performing at the Strand Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Fête de Danse returns to Plattsburgh

Three dance companies present contemporary ballet, modern dance, performance art at Strand

BY ROBIN CAUDELL
Press-Republican

PLATTSBURGH — Jason Andrew, curator, and Julia K. Gleich, choreographer, founded Norte Maar for Collaborative Projects in Arts a decade ago.

They presented their first Fête de Danse in Rouses Point, and the signature event returns to the stage Friday and Saturday evening at the Strand Theatre in Plattsburgh.

This time around, Andrew and Gleich collaborated with the Strand Center for the Arts and share the stage with Racoco Productions and MADboots, both New York City-based companies.

"This is the return of Fête de Danse," Andrew said. "It's been absent from the North Country a couple of years. My husband, Norman, and I recently bought a place in Jay. We moved a lot of our summer projects up here. It's a beautiful house, a beautiful place and so we're back in the North Country."

"Our association with all these great performing artists, visual artists and literary artists, we wanted to reignite our connections with the North Country because the North Country is really the birthplace of Norte Maar. Ten years ago, yesterday, was the first performance of Fete de Danse in Rouses Point. This is like a huge reunion, a return to

that idea of bringing in some international and regional (artists)."

'A LITTLE TRANSCONTINENTAL'

Gleich, founder of the London/New York City based Gleich Dances Contemporary Ballet, is Norte Maar's resident choreographer.

"She helped us, with her name, bring in other companies into Rouses Point," Andrew said. "I'm working with her company here. Julia now lives and works in London. It becomes a little transcontinental quickly here."

This weekend, Gleich Dances performs three works: "Aperture," "Ghost" and "Foxy Commuter."

"We're revising a work from 1996, a long time ago, that I made for a solo for myself, and I've now reset it on Michelle Buckley, who I work with in London," Gleich said.

"When I'm in London, Michelle and I work together. We brought her out here to do this. She's an expat like me. It's a really nice piece for up here because it kind of has these sculptures. I always talk about it like you're wandering through a cornfield where the corn is taller than you are. It's kind of this game of hide and seek and discovery. That's the first solo."

"Foxy Commuter" is Gleich's fledgling collaboration with Trash Money, a London rock-punk band.

"They've produced a new album,

and they want me to choreograph the album. We're doing one song from it."

'WE'RE OLD PEOPLE NOW'

"Ghost" is a Gleich-Andrew duet presented at the inaugural Fête de Danse.

"I really like to preface with this by saying we haven't danced together in several years," Gleich said.

"We haven't taken class. We're old people now, and we're going to attempt to revive this duet, which is a lot about memory and is really fitting for the 10-year anniversary. But we're trying to do it now not pretending that we're young."

The first half of the program concludes with "Blue" presented with MADboots, which was co-founded by Jonathan Campbell and Austin Diaz.

HOMECOMING

After intermission, "Paper Chase" will be performed by Masumi Kishimoto and Rachel Cohen, artistic director of Racoco Productions.

"It's collaboration with a composer (Lynn Wright) and a visual

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Fête de Danse presented by the Strand Center for the Arts and Norte Maar. The program features Racoco Productions, Gleich Dances Contemporary Ballet and MADboots.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

WHERE: Strand Theatre, Brinkerhoff Street.

ADMISSION: Tickets are \$25 general and \$20 members.

PHONE: 563-1604.

RELATED EVENTS: Rachel Cohen of Racoco Productions offers a master class to dancers at 11 a.m. Friday at the Strand Theatre. The cost is \$20 general and \$15 for members. Julia Gleich of Gleich Dances Contemporary Ballet offers a master class to dancers at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Strand Theatre. The cost is \$20 general and \$15 for members.

artist (Stephanie Beck) and one of the dancers in our company," said Cohen, who was born and raised in Plattsburgh.

"We're working with paper. Usually, we like to work with different materials, and so this time we've decided to work with paper. We got these big rolls of seamless backdrop paper that's usually used for photography. But we're actually, instead of a backdrop, we're using it as the foreground in the set. The movement, and there's sort of a nominal story, changes the paper and changes the set and background as part of the piece and creates images. I will be performing in it, too."

It's a special homecoming for Cohen, who lived her first 12 years in the world at 96 Brinkerhoff St. and watched her first movies at the Strand.

"I saw the 'The Toy' with Richard Pryor here ages ago," Cohen said.

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