

Laura Schandelmeier & Stephen Clapp

Dancenow Productions, Inc.

Dear Friends,

Happy Spring to you! We are writing to update you about our accomplishments over this past year and to let you know of excitement ahead...

First, our March tour of *Haunted* in New Orleans for the 2009 State of the Nation Festival went very well. We performed to a full house, received a wonderful response, reconnected with old friends, forged new connections, and rekindled our love affair with New Orleans (we just adore that town)! Next, we will perform an excerpt from *Haunted* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Edinburgh Scotland August 12-16 this summer! This festival is touted as the largest arts festival in the world and we are thrilled by the opportunity to showcase our work at this international venue. Our intent is to cultivate future European tours! (Holly is excited too as we are going to bring her with us - and get her back just in time to start high school!)

On September 26th, Laura will don her ballroom shoes once again for a reprise of *Their Then Now/Doin' the Shorty George* at the Grace Street Theater in Richmond, VA as part of a city-wide retrospective of the work of the late Richard Carlyon. Created in 2003, this solo is a re-imagining of a film that Dick made in which he edited, into a loop of fits and starts and repeats, a dance scene performed by Fred Astaire and Rita Hayworth in the film *You Were Never Lovelier*.

The Loving Project: E-Race



On October 24 & 25, 2009, we will premier a new full evening work, *The Loving Project: E-Race*, which explores interracial and non-traditional partnerships, at Dance Place in Washington, DC. We are very happy to be working with guest artists Peter DiMuro, Ilana Silverstien, and Ken Yamaguchi-Clark to weave together this tapestry of dance stories that will include: the case of Loving vs. Virginia, which in 1967 overturned the law against interracial

marriage in Virginia; the marriage between Russian Inventor Léon Theremin and dancer with the American Negro Ballet, Lavinia Williams; the case of Seretse Khama who, when he was King of Botswana, was exiled for his interracial marriage; and California's recent

Proposition #8 which overturned the previously legal right to same sex marriage.

Also this summer, Stephen will repeat his arts integration workshop that addresses teen pregnancy prevention through movement and theater at Dance Place. Laura will work with community youth at Joe's Movement Emporium and will continue her work with Wolf Trap's Early Learning Through the Arts program as a Master Teaching Artist and Trainer. Our ongoing goal is to catalyze community transformation through the arts.

We need your help!

Lastly, we are proud to announce that we have created Dancenow Productions, Inc. to support the creation and development of socially conscious performance works and to use the arts to inspire people, transform lives, and empower communities. With our 501(c) 3 application for tax-exempt status currently being prepared for submission, we are engaged in an ongoing process of organizational and program development that includes cultivating partnerships, facilitating workshops, and the development of performance works and arts-based education. On this exciting front... **HERE IS WHAT YOU CAN DO:**



Invest in Cultural Equity

Contribute to Dancenow Productions, Inc. by making a tax-deductible contribution to Joe's Movement Emporium, earmarked for Dancenow Productions, Inc. and send it to the address below. **Our goal is to raise \$10,000 by August 1.** Contributions of any amount are greatly appreciated and may be deducted from your taxes to the full extent of the law. Contributions will help to cover the costs of airfare and lodging for the UK trip to Edinburgh and to offset production costs such as lighting design and guest artist fees for the debut of *The Loving Project: E-Race*. We also have the potential to match contributed income with an artist fee grant from the Maryland State Arts Council and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

As you may know, we have been creating performance works together and engaging with our community through open studios, public workshops and residency performances since 2004. Through the development of *Rappaccini's Daughter* (2004), *The Dragons Project: Power Play* (2006), *Portals* (2007) and *Haunted* (2008), we have established a dynamic creative process that is dedicated to exploring the intersections of art and social justice. Thank you for all of your support in helping us to achieve these goals. You can create the change you want to see in the world.

Peace,

Laura & Stephen

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