



**SECOND ANNUAL MARYLAND PRESENTERS
NETWORKING MEETING
November 23, 2009, 10:00 AM—3:00 PM
The Music Center at Strathmore**

Block Booking Discussion Notes

The Pennsylvania Presenters held an annual, two- day booking meeting this past fall. This included a four hour pitch session, where presenters were given 10 minutes to pitch a project to block book around PA. The presentations included audio-visual materials. The meeting was adjourned by a dinner, allowing people to continue their discussions. The next morning they went through the data base of artists. PA presenters have access to the database. The meeting is a great opportunity to start on an Arts Connect grant. Krista Bradley (Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation) attends to help with the project ideas. There is representation from Maryland, West Virginia, Delaware and Pennsylvania, so there are currently great ideas on the table.

What is the Booking Database? The Booking Database of Artists allows someone to search for an artist and provides photo and media files and contact info of the agents. It also shows whether other presenters are interested in presenting the same artist. People enter artists they're interested in as they begin to think about their season. It also has fee ranges available. Even though you may not be able to present all artists of interest, it's still good to get it out there. Access to the database has saved thousands of dollars for presenters.

A spring conference is set for June in Gettysburg. The cost is \$180 for three days. It's focused on networking, not block booking. It's for all members of staff, so everyone from tech staff to box office to the executive director is welcome. Most organizations can afford to send people to it. PennPat showcases and you can apply for travel assistance to see an artist. You can also call the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation for subsidy. The subsidies are limited to folks who don't get to go to conferences on a regular basis, it's their first conference, or haven't been in a while. PA Presenters serves very small presenters so they strive to keep costs down, such as the price of lodging, etc. To become a member of PA Presenters go to: www.PApresenters.org.

Artist Database Information by Genre:

DANCE

Doug Elkins Dance Company: The company is self-represented. Their touring repertoire includes "Fräulein Maria," which is a tongue and cheek, yet serious dance. One mood is not at the expense of the other. The piece has received unbelievable reviews. It will tour in 10/11. Lehigh University and Juniata are interested. Dance Affiliates states it's the best show he's presented, which means something, since he's been presenting since 1970.

Larry Keigwin and Company: Represented by Zia Artists. Keigwin is a New York-based choreographer considered one of the top emerging artists in dance. He is known for making dance accessible to all audiences. Dance Affiliates and Lafayette are interested in presenting. Keigwin Kaberet (a fusion of modern dance, vaudeville, and burlesque acts) will be presented January 23 at Juniata for those interested in seeing some of the company's work.

Jim Woland: He is a Pennsylvania legend, who recently retired from program director at PCA. Jim still negotiates fees with various dance companies and their agents. Jim has also made incredible T-shirts and trinkets for all three dance companies. For example, he made an image of a dancer on the bottom of a skateboard. Such merchandise is a good way to connect people to dance otherwise unfamiliar and get the word out about the companies. He works with the following three companies:

- 1) **Ben Munisteri Dance Projects:** Ben Munisteri spent two years at Juniata building a piece, presented last year to community. The company is New York-based. He received accolades about his Lincoln Center debut in August. His work known to be physical, hard-moving and beautiful, and also includes the use of technology/media, especially video. Available for touring for \$6,500.
- 2) **Riout:** The Company will be presented across Pennsylvania and into MD at Frostburg. They have a wide variety of repertoire. Pascal Riout is a former Martha Graham dancer, so his movement reflects this training. He is a very musical choreographer. He has created a Rivel evening and made several pieces with Stravinsky. The "Firebird" piece is suitable for a family program. "Small Steps, Tiny Revolutions" is another great family programming piece. This piece entails a little boy who wants to dance, and is not encouraged to pursue that desire. He therefore creates an imaginary world full of color. The work utilizes twelve local children for that performance. The company has a ton of repertoire from family appropriate to serious, passionate and elegant repertoire for programming. \$12k, Jim Woland negotiated price. \$12k also includes excellent marketing materials. Mid Atlantic ArtsCONNECT is in the making.
- 3) **Corbin Dances:** Started by Patrick Corbin, a former Paul Taylor principal dancer, whose influence is reflected in his work. He creates very accessible dance. Corbin is known for working with children on the autistic spectrum. Corbin Dances fee is \$6,000 and they are self represented.
- 4) **Paul Taylor Dance Company:** In 2011-12 the Taylor Company is willing to tour for same cost of Pennsylvania 2007-08 Tour. Taylor 1 at \$16k and Taylor 2 for \$6k. This fee includes marketing materials and full access to "Dancemaker," a film done on the company.

Ballet Maribor: The National Dance Company of Slovenia. Their repertoire includes a contemporary version of Romeo Juliet set to music of Radiohead, called "Radio and Juliet." This piece is good for colleges and young people.

Elizabeth Streb: Streb is a NY based company known for their extreme dance and movement, including enormous feats of daredevil work, which is more like flight than dance. She has a studio in New York where she often holds workshops for kids. This is a fabulous program for families. She was commissioned for the "100 Years of Flight," celebrating the Wright brothers. They also do great physics workshops, which are all about flying and gravity. Strathmore is interested in booking this company. They are trying to figure out all of the logistics with their Concert Hall space.

NY State Presenters did a listening tour and brought Taylor 2. If you have a smaller space, Taylor 2 is good for that, as well as "Incidents on the Strip" by Attack Theatre, PennPat roster artists. A singer/song writer, Kay Costelo, accompanies them. Streb was on the Mid Atlantic roster last year.

Clarice Smith—what other PA presenters are interested in Ben Munisteri? Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Butler County Community College. NJ presenter.

Any MD presenters interested in a Mid Atlantic tour? There's interest in Ailey 2, being presented by George Mason in VA. Lar Lubovitch has two dance companies available. One person in PA interested in Ailey 2.

MUSIC

Calder Quartet: a string quartet from LA, awarded the 2009 ASCAP Adventurous Programming Award in recognition of its exciting programming and collaborations. They have unique collaborations with artists ranging from Terry Riley to party rocker Andrew W.K.. They go to different locales. Lafayette and Juniata, two presenters in Pennsylvania, are interested in presenting them. The quartet is represented by David Milton at Alliance.

Livingston Taylor: James Taylor's brother with similar sound to James Taylor. Bloomsberg and Slippery Rock in Penn are interested, so they should be able to zoom down to Maryland as well. WV and Upstate NY are interested in the Arts Connect grant. The booking fee is not available, but he is usually under 10k.

Jami Tyzik: sings with the Rochester Philharmonic and part of SMG artists. She has a new piece called "Fem Fatale," an evening of bad women in opera. Larry Kosson at SMG has new material on this show.

Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain: 11 players. They play un-traditional ukulele music, which is fun and dry wit. Ben saw them in a pub in the UK, which was great. Arts Connect in PA and DE. If there are any Maryland presenters interested in joining us that would be great. Mercyherst College, Juniata and the grand are interested. The fee is around \$8k. Strathmore did a ukulele festival and had a huge audience of about 3,000.

Clarice Smith did steel hammer, similar to Bang on the Can. Penn State is presenting Trio Medieval, which is a group of three women from Norway with rich and multi textured vocals.

Strathmore is doing a big guitar series, starting with historical guitars to modern guitars. Kutztown University is interested in Los Angeles guitar quartet, which is a California guitar trio stopping at our place next year.

Moscow Chamber Orchestra—18 people. Late fall/early spring going to be in the States.

Any Jazz or folk? Avery Schaffer Trio (Jazz) (Richard Zandler) played with McCoy Tyner. Cedar Walton is another artist at Montpelier Arts Center. Presenters in NY State are interested in Cedar. Marcus Roberts is a great Jazz artist who used to play with Winton Marsalis. He is willing to go in the schools. He comes to play solo or brings an accompanist, such as a trumpet.

Wienberg Center for the Arts is interested in the Avid Brothers. In terms of folk music, Phil Wiggins should be promoted. Montpelier Arts Center is booking Phil Wiggins in the spring. He's on the Maryland Touring Roster. Mainstay in RockHall, MD is presenting Wiggins on April 16. Corey Harris will be a big step up.

THEATER

NWC "the Race Show": represented by David Leiberman. They opened huge doors at the University of Utah and have been back there for two years since. David and Allen Moon have materials. The three actors are college professors, which is a great educational component. They don't want to do a run-out or

one-nighter, but rather they want to stay in the community and get the community into their show. The fee is roughly \$7500 if we build a block; otherwise, probably more like \$15k. Juniata and Stewart Seal is looking for a week.

Laramie Project: a nationwide coming together with amazing social network components. They have a huge twitter following, where the company takes five questions over Twitter and posts back answers. Penn State is presenting them for a week, which may also work for Stewart.

Circa: an Australian Cirque show. Their style is different than French cirque in that they are less flashy. The costumes and props are more minimal and simpler. The show is good for all ages. The Australian government is interested in getting Australian companies working in the US.

TPO: an Italian Theater company coming to US with NEA support. The audience participates in the entire show. It is a cirque feel, with high intensity and a beautiful atmosphere, including many projections. The projections serve to create an immersive environment, which is great for certain spaces. They have a new show available for a proscenium space, with audiences up to 750.

Baltimore Theatre Project: **"Fools Proof Theater"** from located in Liverpool, which is a three member company, composed of an American, German and English women who are young, energetic and inexpensive. "The Eagle has Landed" was named by City Paper as the best touring show in Baltimore. Presenting in the Fall of 2010.

Glass Menagerie: PennPat artist, who are produced by the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia, PA. Can apply for PennPat funds and Mid Atlantic Funds. Most of Mid Atlantic funds are already committed, but PennPat can commit on the back end. They are represented through Baylin Artists.

KMA (KMA.co.uk): a British company that does projection work from above. Artistic director is called Kit. He's very good at speaking about the vision of the company and the technology behind it. "Dancing in the Streets" is a Swan Lake performance by a ballet company, which is projected down on the town square or quad. People can dance around the projected dancers. Due to sensors, you can change the way the projected dancer is dancing based on your movement. Another piece is more soccer based. People can play against each other. They are building a new piece for the Olympics that is commissioned by Nike. If any colleges/universities are sponsored by Nike, this might be a good opportunity. Strathmore is interested in late September to partner with Juniata. Outdoor, environmental things are great for Strathmore from the publicity point of view. Weinberg may be interested as well. The biggest cost is bringing the equipment over.