



STANFORD  
UNIVERSITY

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**STANFORD DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA AND DANCE DIVISION PRESENTS  
*RED ROVER*, AN OUTDOOR TRAVELING PERFORMANCE ON MAY 28**

**Co-sponsored by SiCa and Stanford Lively Arts, free event features five  
newly commissioned works by Stanford alumni and Bay Area choreographers**

Stanford, CA, May 6, 2008—Stanford University’s Department of Drama and Dance Division present *Red Rover*, a traveling performance of five site-specific dances created for and performed at five outdoor sites on the Stanford campus on Wednesday, May 28 at 7:00 p.m. Bay Area choreographers **Brittany Brown Ceres, Janice Garrett, Brenton Cheng, Hope Mohr, and Bliss Kohlmeyer-Dowman** have created new works inspired by evocative and sometimes hidden Stanford spaces—a serene bamboo grove, an intriguing fountain, an imposing pathway, a futuristic atrium, and a tranquil pond—that the audience will traverse throughout the evening to its final location. Co-sponsored by the **Stanford Institute for Creativity and the Arts (SiCa)** and **Stanford Lively Arts**, this free event begins at Roble Gym and will culminate at approximately 9:00 p.m. with an informal, celebratory picnic where audience members can share food and thoughts with the artists.

*Red Rover* is linked to a new course, “Figure/Ground: Site-Specific Dance Performance in Alternative Environments,” taught by Stanford University lecturer **Diane Frank**. The course explores the history of site-specific work, the use of alternative spaces for performance, and various processes for creating performance art in response and relation to the environment. Additionally, four of the choreographers—Garrett, Cheng, Mohr, and Ceres—are Stanford alumni, and Kohlmeyer-Dowman danced in Stanford Artist-in-Residence Robert Moses’ Kin dance company.

“By having site-specific performances that are not tied to traditional performing spaces, the project will welcome multiple audiences to the work, including those who might see a ticketed event at a standard performance space as a barrier to entry to the arts,” says Ms. Frank. “The project will also forge stronger connections for the university between both the greater Bay Area dance community and, importantly for the Stanford Arts Initiative, to alumni who are interested in the performing arts.”

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Each artist has been asked to incorporate the idea of “red”—however abstractly—into his or her work, a play on the children’s game that inspired the title of the evening’s performances. Students in the dance division will lead the audience, “roving” from site to site for each 10-minute performance. Tour guides will be provided and each participant will also be given a map and program on the performance night.

### **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

**Janice Garrett** is the artistic director of Janice Garrett & Dancers, which she formed after more than 20 years as a dance artist and independent choreographer throughout the U.S. and Europe. Garrett and her company have received five nominations for Isadora Duncan Dance Awards as well as the 2004 honor bestowed by *Dance Magazine*. Garrett makes work about people creating an extraordinary sense of kinship and connection. The company is committed to a vision of dance as an expressive, unspoken form of communication that fosters understanding and a sense of community among people. The company was honored in 2004 as one of *Dance Magazine*’s “Twenty Five to Watch.”

**Brenton Cheng** is a teacher, director, and performer of improvised and choreographed work based in the Bay Area. In addition to directing his own work, he has performed with internationally-acclaimed Contraband, Zaccho Dance Theater, Angus Balbernie, Kim Epifano, Jo Kreiter & Flyaway Productions, and many others, at such places as Jacob’s Pillow, Bates Dance Festival, and the Festival d’Avignon, France. He teaches ongoing classes locally and gives workshops each year in various regions of France, as well as throughout Europe, Russia, and Taiwan.

**Hope Mohr** was classically trained at the San Francisco Ballet School and was first exposed to modern dance at Stanford. She moved to New York in 1997, where she danced on scholarship at the Merce Cunningham Dance Studio and the Trisha Brown Studio. While based in New York, Ms. Mohr performed nationally and internationally as a member of the Trisha Brown Dance Company and the Lucinda Childs Dance Company. She teaches modern dance technique and creative movement to a wide variety of people—from professional dancers to cancer patients. As an emerging choreographer, she has presented work in both New York and the Bay Area. In 2006, she was the first artist-in-residence with the Interdisciplinary Laboratory for Art, Nature and Dance in New York City.

**Brittany Brown Ceres** is the director of the Summerfest/dance, the Manager of ODC Theater, and the choreographer/director of Dance Ceres. She received an MFA in Choreography from SUNY, Purchase College, and an MA in Dance Education from Stanford, where she serves as a substitute for full-time faculty. Ms. Ceres’ choreography has been produced in the Bay Area at Summerfest/dance, Jon Sims Center for the Arts, Noh Space Theater, ODC Theater, The Thumbnail Festival, Dancers' Group's Local Series, Venue 9 Series, and at the American College Dance Festival.

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**Bliss Kolmyer-Dowman** has danced and toured with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, The Sean Curran Company, and Alex Beller. In San Francisco, she has danced with Janice Garrett & Dancers, Robert Moses' Kin, and the San Francisco Opera. Currently on faculty at the ODC School and a lecturer at UC Berkeley, she has taught at the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, The University of Nevada at Reno, UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz, Arizona State University, San Francisco State University, Cal Poly University, Stanford University, and the San Francisco Dance Center.

**Diane Frank** taught dance technique at the Merce Cunningham Dance Studio from 1979-87. She was a dancer with Douglas Dunn and Dancers, 1976-87, and assisted Mr. Dunn in the staging of works in the U.S. and abroad. She taught in residencies for the Merce Cunningham Dance Studio at the American Center in Paris, as well as at the Paris Opera. She also received seven Choreographic Fellowships from the National Endowment of the Arts, as well as commissions for choreographic work from The Jerome Foundation, Dance Theatre Workshop, Dance Bay Area, and Meet the Composer. She currently teaches advanced modern technique and mentors choreography projects at Stanford University and is also on the Steering Committee for Stanford's Institute for Diversity in the Arts.

### **TICKETS**

Admission to *Red Rover* is free. For updates and more information visit [livelyarts.stanford.edu](http://livelyarts.stanford.edu).

### **VENUE INFORMATION**

*Red Rover* begins in front of Roble Gym (351 Santa Teresa Street) where audience will assemble at 7:00 p.m. The five performance locations, which will be within a five- to seven-minute walk from one another, include Terman slope and pond (dance by Brittany Brown Ceres), the Clark Center interior circular courtyard and circular balconies (dance by Janice Garrett), Lokey Labs/Mudd Bldg. Bamboo Grove (dance by Brenton Cheng), Canfield Courtyard walkways and grass (dance by Hope Mohr) and Shumway Fountain at Koret Park (dance by Bliss Kohlmeier-Dowman). A searchable map of the Stanford campus can be accessed at <http://ucomm.stanford.edu/cgi-bin/map>.

### **ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA AND STANFORD DANCE DIVISION**

Stanford's Department of Drama has been a leader in theater studies and performance since its separation from Department of English in the 1930s. As a combination of inter-related undergraduate and Ph.D. curricula, the Department integrates theory, criticism and performance. Working under the belief that scholarship is strengthened by people directly involved in performance, and that performance is enhanced by practitioners whose analytic skills had been honed in scholarship, the Department produces more than a dozen productions each academic school year, including canonical plays, commissioned dance works, experimental projects, and the work of visiting artists. Visit <http://drama.stanford.edu>

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The Dance Division's goal is to develop a cultivated mind, a trained body and passionate engagement through movement experience. Dance offers a range of classes that examine the historical, sociological, and cultural implications of dance, as well as classes focusing on a wide variety of techniques and styles. Faculty and lecturers are performers and artists in their own fields. Visit <http://dance.stanford.edu>.

### **ABOUT SICA**

The Stanford Institute for Creativity and the Arts (SiCa), established in 2006, acts as the Stanford Arts Initiative's nerve center, leading the development of new undergraduate arts programs; hosting artists in residence; administering new multidisciplinary graduate degree programs; awarding grants for multidisciplinary arts research and teaching; incubating collaborative performances and exhibitions with campus partners and other institutions; and providing centralized communication for Stanford arts events and programs. Visit <http://sica.stanford.edu>.

### **ABOUT STANFORD LIVELY ARTS**

Stanford Lively Arts is the premier arts presenter and producer in Silicon Valley. Now entering its 39th year at Stanford University, Lively Arts reaches a diverse audience through performances of music, theater, dance, spoken word, and multimedia works and is a destination for artists developing new work. Lively Arts offers audiences a window into the creative process as well as a forum for exploration and discussion. As a key stakeholder in the arts at Stanford, Lively Arts plays a leading, collaborative role as Stanford moves to integrate the arts throughout academic disciplines and the community. Visit [livelyarts.stanford.edu](http://livelyarts.stanford.edu).

### **CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

<b>What:</b>	<b><i>RED ROVER</i></b>
<b>Program:</b>	Five site-specific, outdoor dance performances by choreographers Brittany Brown Ceres, Janice Barrett, Brenton Chen, Hope Mohr, and Bliss Kohlmeyer Dowman
<b>Where:</b>	Starting at Roble Gym, Stanford University
<b>When:</b>	Wednesday, May 28 from 7–9:00 p.m.
<b>Tickets:</b>	Free
<b>Presented by:</b>	Stanford Department of Drama/Dance Division; co-sponsored by Stanford Institute for Creativity and the Arts (SiCa) and Stanford Lively Arts
<b>Description:</b>	<i>Red Rover</i> is an evening of five commissioned, site-specific dance/performance works are created for and performed in a series of outdoor sites selected by the choreographers. Audience will travel from site to site to the final destination, a shared picnic and lively discussion under the stars for all the performers and audience members.

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