Lingo dancetheater

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Residential Arts, a program of the Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, presents an OFF Center series performance by Lingo dancetheater on October 2 and October 3 at 8pm at the Kendall Studio Theater, Mount Holyoke College. The celebrated Seattle group comes to the area for the first time with a piece that explores the constructs and confines of language.

Since its establishment in 1996, creator, artistic director, and choreographer KT Niehoff has guided Lingo dancetheater to become one of the Pacific Northwest’s premier interdisciplinary performance ensembles. Using her blend of extensive dance and classical acting training, she has honed the ability to erase boundaries and is, according to Seattle Weekly, “a choreographer [who] has it all: inventive movement sequence in unpredictable phrases of constantly varying weight and momentum.”

Featuring music by Seattle legend Reggie Watts, Lingo dancetheater’s latest work, Speak to Me, investigates the instinctual need for communication and asks the question “What it language?” Highlighting the inadequacies and strengths inherent in speech, Speak to Me creates a newborn language of more than 400 “movement words”. It is through this language and the “specific personalities...
and attributes that make each performer unique” that Niehoff developed this physical vocabulary into sentences, paragraphs, and, ultimately, essays that became the basis for this evening-length piece.

Niehoff’s varied experience, training, and ingenuity contribute to her role as Seattle’s “most promising choreographer” (Seattle Weekly). After earning a BFA in theater from New York University, Niehoff studied at the Stella Adler Conservatory of Acting and the Experimental Theater Wing. Currently the co-director of the Velocity Dance Center, she is considered a driving force in Seattle’s arts scene. Niehoff has also been awarded numerous grants and Speak to Me is presented with support from the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts.

In addition to their two performances, Lingo dancetheater is involved in a residency including a series of Master Classes for the Five College Dance Department. Niehoff will return to set choreography for the Five College dance performance at the Mt. Holyoke Faculty Dance Concert, November 13-15.

Tickets for this event are $5 for students and $12 for the general public. To order tickets, please call the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 1-800-999-UMAS or order online at www.resarts.com.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND PRINT-QUALITY IMAGES, PLEASE VISIT WWW.RESARTS.COM

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