

Hedwig Dances

DATE: OCTOBER 26, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: For tickets, pictures, and interviews:
Julie Volkmann, Contact@HedwigDances.com

HEDWIG DANCES ANNOUNCES The 2020-2021 Season

Chicago, IL - Hedwig Dances, the Chicago-based contemporary dance theater ensemble, known for its theatricality and originality, announces a fresh season of innovative works. The 20/21 season includes two world premieres of hybrid dance theater works melding virtual live dance with film; *Hedwignites* 2021, Hedwig's virtual gala; and, its *Art of Making Art* series.

The Company demonstrated its ability to manifest ambitious plans earlier in the fall with the impressive premiere production of **KAOS**, a virtual, live-streamed dance work, choreographed by company dancer Rigo Saura. **KAOS** included a compelling pre-recorded film of the dancers (by Saura) interspersed with live performances streamed from the dancers' respective locations, all to an edgy sound and music score by Netherlands-based composer Henry Labrada.

Hedwig continues to develop the virtual format with the March 7, 2021 world premiere of **HOME** choreographed by dance artist Ana Beatriz Perez from her base in Spain. **HOME** is a contemplative exploration of the human experience of home---shelter, sanctuary, nest, asylum. Working with Hedwig's Chicago based dancers, **HOME** continues Hedwig's multi-platformed choreographic practices. Spanish composer Maria Move's original music score enhances the dance.

Completing the season, Hedwig Dances sets its sights on the **Art of Making Art** salon series. This series consists of five virtual salons that gather dancemakers and their collaborators in thoughtful, behind-the-scenes discussions of their creative process. Each **Art of Making Art** salon contains two parts: **On Demand viewing** of a signature repertoire work by the company available for eight days; and, a **Sunday Salon** on the final day of viewing, capped with a live on-line conversation between Hedwig Dances artistic team and their collaborators. The notable exception to the company's Sunday salon structure is the February 7, 2021 salon, which will include a sneak preview of **HOME**, the work to be premiered in March. No advance viewing will be available for the **HOME** salon. Registration is free for each salon; however, donations are encouraged to help the company cover its artistic and operating costs.

Hedwig Dances' schedule for the remainder of the season is as follows:

- **Creating *ASCENDance*** – Registered attendees may choose when they view the work during the week of November 15-22, and then join the company on Sunday, November 22nd at 3 pm, for a live conversation co-led by choreographer Jan Bartoszek and sculptor Barbara Cooper and the other collaborators who brought this work to life: Petra Bachmeier of *Luftwerk*, video design; Ken Bowen, lights; Matthew Ferraro, music; Maray Gutierrez, dance; Vin Reed, costumes. *More details about the original work further on in this release.*

ASCENDance Live Stream On-Demand **November 15 - 22, 2020**

Creating ASCENDance Live Stream Sunday Salon **November 22, 2020 | 3 pm Central**

To register for this free event (donations gratefully accepted): bit.ly/ASCENDanceSalon.

- **Creating *Trade Winds/Aires de Cambio*** Registered attendees may choose when they view the work during the week of January 10-17, and then can join the company on Sunday, January 17, at 3 pm for a live conversation with Jan Bartoszek and others. *More details about the original work further on in this release.*
- *Trade Winds / Aires de Cambio Live Stream On-Demand* **January 10 - 17, 2021**

Creating Trade Winds / Aires de Cambio Live Stream Sunday Salon **January 17, 2021 | 3 pm Central**

To register for this free event (donations gratefully accepted): bit.ly/HD_TradeWinds

- **Creating *HOME*** – On February 7 at 3 pm, registered attendees will learn how this new work is progressing as the company prepares for its premiere in March. In a live-stream conversation on YouTube, Yolanda Cesta Cursach Montilla, Artistic Director of High Concept Labs, will be in conversation with choreographer Ana Beatriz Perez. Their talk will be followed by a Q+A session with registered participants.

Creating HOME Live Stream Sunday Salon **February 7, 2021 | 3 pm Central**

To register for this free event (donations gratefully accepted) at bit.ly/CreatingHOME

- ***HOME* World Premiere Choreographed by Ana Beatriz Perez**
An exploration and contemplation of the human experience of home.

HOME Live Stream **Sunday March 7, 2021 | 3 pm Central**

To purchase your tickets for this event: bit.ly/HD_HOME

- **Hedwignites 2021** continues the company's annual tradition of celebrating its artistic accomplishments while recognizing and honoring transformational leaders who create, illuminate and foster contemporary dance.

Live Stream **March 26, 2021 | 6 pm Central**

Please watch for more details on awards and how to purchase tickets.

- **Creating *ARCH OF REPOSE*** – Registered attendees may choose when they view the Emmy-nominated dance film during the week of April 5-11, and then can join the company on Sunday, April 11 at 3 pm, for a live conversation between director/choreographer Jan Bartoszek and dancer Maray Gutierrez along with collaborators, cinematographer Daniel Kullman and producer Nicolas DeGrazia of Bitter Jester Creative. *More details about the original work further on in this release.*

Live Stream On-Demand **April 5 - 11, 2021**

Live Stream Sunday Salon **April 11, 2021 | 3 pm Central**

To register for this free event (donations gratefully accepted) at bit.ly/CreatingARCHofREPOSE

“Though our first preference is live performance in a theater with all the production values of costumes, light, sound, and the close proximity of dancers with the one another and the audience, the limitations of Covid 19 has empowered Hedwig’s creative team to innovate ways to remain engaged in the art of making live dance, while also revisiting some of our most memorable dance works that continue to resonate in today’s world,” says Founder and Artistic Director Jan Bartoszek.

This small and resourceful dance company is using the public social media forum in the hopes of extending its reach and thereby gaining new friends and supporters. “By taking our company’s work to

the internet with its almost unlimited reach, we're hoping to leverage this accessible forum, with a backstage pass of sorts, to look at Hedwig's collaborative creativity. In so doing, we hope to gain an international presence for the company," says Bartoszek.

ABOUT THE WORKS

ASCENDance will be discussed Sunday, November 22, 2020 at 3 pm

ASCENDance is an interdisciplinary dance theater work exploring the themes of renewal and transformation in a chaotic world. This multi-media collaboration was such that each component — movement, sculpture, video, lighting, and music — influenced the direction of the created art, and was, in turn, affected by it. In the performance, the intricate, folded structural objects created by Barbara Cooper are manipulated by the dancers. Immersive light projections by Petra Bachmaier change and expand the spatial orientation of the structural objects and give mood and character to the performance. The music created by Matthew Ferraro, lighting by Ken Bowen, and costuming by Vin Reed complete the composition. The dancers use the structures to embody movements of ritual and its antithesis, expressing the dichotomy between personal sanctuary and the kaleidoscopic nature of the contemporary world. The dance movement expression is wrapped in an exquisite interplay of light and music.

Trade Winds/Aires de Cambio will be discussed January 17, 2021 at 3 pm

Trade Winds/Aires de Cambio is a multi-disciplinary collaboration between Hedwig Dances and pieces—*Trade Winds* by Hedwig Dances' artistic director Bartoszek and *Aires de Cambio (Air of Change)* by DanzAbierta's resident choreographer Susana Pous. The dance explores the relationship of cyclical time in two different cultures: north and south, temperate and tropical.

Trade Winds/Aires de Cambio unfolds in a series of intersecting episodes. Following the course of the seasons, beginning with fall and ending with summer, the episodic structure becomes a call and response between the two companies. The work employs video and music as unifying elements. Eme Alfonso, a Cuban composer and singer currently living in Spain, composed the original score, with a sound design by Erica Ricketts. Chicago and Havana are woven into the fabric of the dance, contextualizing the work with seasonal landscape portraits of the two cities and relating to the dance movement on stage. Daniel Kullman of Bitter Jester Creative and independent videographer Nadia Oussenko created the Chicago projections with Havana videos by Claudio Pairo of Puntilla Films.

HOME will be discussed Sunday, February 7, 2021 at 3 pm

HOME uses the house as a metaphor and reflects on the refuge, intimacy, and comfort it provides. In an alienating, changing and unpredictable world, four people with different lives spend their daily lives waiting. While everything changes outside, something begins to change within them. Like our experience of home which accompanies us from birth, we imbue it with meaning and it, in turn, provides us with meaning. The home is us. Spain-based choreographer Ana Beatriz Perez, working with Hedwig's Chicago based dancers, builds on Hedwig's multi-platformed choreographic practices. Spanish composer Maria Move's original music score enhances the dance.

In a live-stream YouTube conversation, Yolanda Cesta Cursach Montilla, Artistic Director of High Concept Labs, interviews choreographer Ana Beatriz Perez, followed by a live Q+A session with registered participants. Registered attendees will witness a discussion about the development of *HOME* as the company prepares for its March premiere.

[Arch of Repose will be discussed Sunday, April 11, 2021 at 3 pm](#)

Arch of Repose, a poetic, image-rich film choreographed, directed, and produced by Hedwig Dances' Artistic Director Jan Bartoszek, depicts a young woman's internal struggle as she ventures towards independence. The Emmy-nominated film unfolds in a series of scenes that reveal alliances and fissures among the six itinerant characters. The dream-like, timeless setting creates an alternate reality that contrasts a labyrinthine interior space with a lush, verdant landscape. In creating *Arch of Repose*, Jan Bartoszek collaborated with Daniel Kullman (Director of Photography and Editor) and Nicolas DeGrazia (Co-Producer) of the film production company Bitter Jester Creative (BJC); costume designer, performer and vocalist Carol Genetti; and Hedwig Dances' ensemble Victor Alexander, Justin Deschamps, Jessie Gutierrez, Maray Gutierrez Ramis and Michel Rodriguez. The addition of composer Richard Woodbury's vibrant, resonant music underscores the film's psychological and emotional detail. *Arch of Repose* was made possible by a Chicago Dancemakers Forum Lab Artist Award.

In 2016, *Arch of Repose* was nominated for an Emmy Award in the Arts/Entertainment Category.

ABOUT HEDWIG DANCES

Hedwig Dances is a contemporary dance theater ensemble celebrating 35 years under the artistic direction of its Founder, Jan Bartoszek. The Company is named in honor of Ms. Bartoszek's grandmother. In-Residence at The Ruth Page Center for the Arts, Hedwig Dances' bold, interdisciplinary collaborations combine poetic choreography, projected images and haunting original music. The critically acclaimed and award-winning dance ensemble has presented over 1,500 performances at prestigious national and international venues. The Company has twice performed in exclusive performances at Joyce SoHo (New York City). Additional engagements include Bauhaus Dessau (Dessau, Germany), Teatro Nacional De Cuba Sala Avellaneda (Havana, Cuba), Teatro Diana (Guadalajara, Mexico), Grace Street Theater (Richmond, Virginia), Margaret H'Douler Performance Space (Madison, Wisconsin), Lee Theater (Spring to Dance Festival, St. Louis, Missouri), among myriad other performances, residencies, and outreach programs over the past three decades. Hedwig Dances and its associated artists have been honored with two Ruth Page Awards and a Chicago Dance Award. For 20 years (1992 – 2011), Hedwig Dances served as the Dance Company-In-Residence at the Chicago Cultural Center under the visionary leadership and invitation of the late Lois Weisberg (Commissioner, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, 1989-2011).

HEDWIG DANCES FUNDERS

Hedwig Dances is funded in part by Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation through *USArtists International* in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; Arts Work Fund for Organizational Development, a donor advised fund of The Chicago Community Foundation; The MacArthur Funds for Culture, Equity, and the Arts at the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation ("MacArthur-Driehaus Funds"); The Chicago Community Foundation; National Performance Network (NPN Performance Residency Program, Creation Fund and Forth Fund); The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur International Connections Fund; Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) through the CityArts Program; the Morris and Dolores Kohl Kaplan Fund of The Dolores Kohl Education Foundation; 3Arts and 3 Arts Partners; Illinois Arts Council Agency; Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; The Albert Pick Jr. Fund; Bloomberg Philanthropies; Hyman and Shirley Hill Charitable Foundation; The Meyer J.

and Norma L. Ragir Foundation; and many generous individuals. Additional support has been provided by Chicago Dancemakers Forum and High Concept Labs. Hedwig Dances is an Artist In-Residence at the Ruth Page Center for the Art

-30-