



MAGGIE BERGERON & COMPANY



BIOGRAPHY

Maggie Bergeron graduated from Interlochen Arts Academy, where she received the prestigious Young Artist Award and the University of Minnesota with a BFA Summa cum Laude in Dance. Currently she is the Director of the Dance Program at the Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists, dances for Shapiro and Smith Dance, is an Affiliate Faculty member of the University of Minnesota Dance Program, as well as directs Maggie Bergeron & Company.

MB&Co has been seen at the Walker Art Center as a part of Choreographer's Evening in 2005 and 2008, Southern Theater as a part of the Best Feet Forward Festival in 2004 and Momentum: New Dance Works 2007, the Old Arizona Theater as a part of the Kinetic Kitchen Dance Series, the Red Eye Theater as a part of Isolated Acts and the Bryant Lake Bowl as a part of 9x22, The Rabbit Show and Drew Gordon LoveFest in Minneapolis, MN, Keshet Dance Company in Albuquerque, NM, Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, OH and Interlochen Center for the Arts, MI. Maggie Bergeron & Company has received commissions for new works from the Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists, the Walker Art Center and Southern Theater, The Red Eye Theater, Shapiro and Smith Dance, the North Dakota Ballet Company, Keshet Dance Company, Interlochen Arts Academy and Michigan Classic Ballet.





THEMES

MB&Co works with themes and subject matter that have an aspect of universality to them, with an ability to unite viewers and create a community. Past projects have tackled issues such as violence amongst youth, the idea of home and the way it defines us, and the harm we can do when we make people disappear.

The intent of Maggie's work is to unite a vision with an image, then take the image to a new place, explore its new surroundings and draw conclusions.

Maggie is also committed to create events around performances that introduce the dance's themes to different generations and audience members. "Maggie's Farm" was created as an event to support House/Home and included a barn dance and farmer's market designed to get people closer to where their food and art come from.

MB&Co is also passionately interested in dance and art education, and has completed a number of teaching and choreographic residencies at the North Dakota Ballet Company, Interlochen Arts Academy, Keshet Dance Company, Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and Geiger Ballet Academy.

Maggie is an active dance educator currently teaching at the University of Minnesota Dance Program and the Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists.

CURRENT WORK

Currently MB&Co is working on Leaver's Ball, a piece inspired by the high school prom as a rite of passage, including emotional and aspirational aspects of high school, the casual excesses of entitlement, and the social order of American culture as seen through the microcosm of prom night. Our intent is to combine critical examination of these issues with an unbridled celebration of the earnest, exuberant, and sweaty passions of youth and, in particular, awkward teenagers dressed up to represent their distorted views of adulthood and success.

Maggie Bergeron received a grant from the Jerome Travel and Study Program to travel to eight different proms across the country to gather information about the differences between rural, urban, public and private school prom experiences. She has completed a tour of proms in different regions of the United States in order to witness these events in person and examine the cultural phenomenon as it manifests itself across regions, economies and political affiliations. Leaver's Ball will premiere in Spring 2010.

MB&Co is also currently working in collaboration with double bassist Nicholas Gaudette, creating and performing a number of dance/music vignettes around themes of love, loss and the connection between the two.

Maggie and Nicholas have created and continue to create pieces that gracefully and intimately intertwine their bodies and the instrument, blurring the edges of musician and dancer. "Oasis," "I was hoping you would agree.," and "Harvest" have been performed at the Walker Art Center, Bryant Lake Bowl and Cedar Cultural Center in Minneapolis, MN.



PAST PROJECTS

2009

Harvest

Cedar Cultural Center
Bryant Lake Bowl

Oasis

Bryant Lake Bowl

2008

I Was Hoping You Would Agree

Walker Art Center

Accidentally Walking Through Nothing

Southern Theater

Quake

Empire Theater

Why I'm Not Where You Are

Fitzgerald Theater

Leaver's Ball (workshop sketch)
O'Shaughnessey Auditorium

2007

House/Home

Southern Theater

2006

A is for Amy Who Fell Down the Stairs

Red Eye Theater





PRESS QUOTES:

"During Momentum's first weekend, it's Maggie Bergeron & Company, premiering "House/Home," a work based on Bergeron's childhood on a remote farm in Minnesota. Not only is Bergeron capable of crafting enticing abstract movement, but her new work includes tiny building the dancers emerge from and deconstruct. Fascinating."

--Camille LeFevre, [Metro](#)

"In contrast, Bergeron's "House/Home" is all about flow, the circular process of leaving and returning, communicated through a choreography of swirl, sway, reach and curve. Bergeron's cadre of long, lovely dancers—Sarah Baumert, Hannah Kramer, Leslie O'Neill, Jamie Ryan, Liz Wawrzonek—infuses this choreography with a tentativeness, a sense of waiting, as each of them negotiates a relationship with one of the miniature building structures on stage.



The piece opens with each of these structures—maybe a house, a chicken coop, a barn—illuminated from within, revealing the dancers curled fetally inside, or with adolescent legs and arms growing out of the house. Throughout the piece, the women dismantle, punch through, or knock over their structures until the stage resembles a homestead torn up by a tornado.

But the dancers also keep returning to those disassembled buildings. They fold themselves back into the rubble, or they pick up bits and pieces to assemble into a new structure. Their dresses—which Baumert constructed from scraps and lengths of different fabrics—also communicate this sense of incorporating pieces of the past into something anew, as does Chris Thomson's lyrical score (which he performed live via laptop and saxophone), with its lyricism, plaintiveness and electronics. "



"...demonstrate the ongoing vitality of a dance community capable of producing, and supporting, such dance makers and their work."

--Camille LeFevre, [martists.org](#)



"House/Home" is that rare dance that works as both a story and as a metaphor. Five dancers wearing greens and browns snuggle, curl and finally break away from their four tiny on-stage homes. Throughout the work, they return to their homes, attempt repairs, crush them and start fresh, share them with a lover/friend, push away the lover/friend and begin again. The dance, a new work by up-and-coming choreographer Maggie Bergeron, shows our connection and disaffection with our surroundings (and our lives), expressed by a continual need to remake, remodel and reuse."

--Todd Melby, [10,000 arts](#)

"Where this Choreographer's Eve did live up to expectations, though, was in the dancing. In fact, this year's show might have been renamed "Dancers' Eve." I'm thinking of the extraordinary control and concentration of Maggie Bergeron (in her own work) . . .: both dance with such intention, so that each motion seems real, an instant of desire."

--Lightsey Darst, [martists.org](#)