

ON THE BOARDS PRESENTS

Morgan Thorson | Low Heaven

APR 1 - 4 , 2010

running time 65 minutes

Choreography and Direction.....Morgan Thorson
Lighting Design.....Lenore Doxsee
Costume Design/Construction.....Emmett Ramstad
Visual Design.....Lenore Doxsee, Emmett Ramstad,
Morgan Thorson
Sound.....Low (Alan Sparhawk and Mimi Parker)
Performers.....Jessica Cressey, Hannah Kramer,
Elliott Durko Lynch, Mimi Parker,
Chris Schlichting, Karen Sherman,
Alan Sparhawk, Max Wirsing,
Tristan Koepke
Research Consultation.....Elliott Durko Lynch, Karen Sherman
Rehearsal Assistants.....Joanna Furnans, Renee Copeland,
Emily King

Special thanks to:

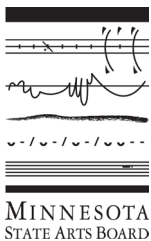
All of the dancers for their generosity and creativity, Lenore Doxsee, Alan and Mimi, Emmett Ramstad, Justin Jones, Kevin Obsatz, Eleanor Savage, Arwen Wilder, Sixto Wagan, Vallejo Gantner, Michele Steinwald, Philip Bither, the OtB staff and crew, Lane Czaplinski. Mark Meuter and Sarah Wilke, Lindsay Meeks, Chris and Ross in Tallahassee, Jennifer Calienes, Barbara Bryan; Emily King, Chris and Taryn; Sara, Penny and Petr Thorson; Joanna Furnans, Megan Mayer, Hannah Kramer, Alex Erklantz, Jon Thorson, Andy Pugh & Kaitlin Hallet, Kelly Brazil, Flo, Justin Leaf and of course my beloved Karen Sherman.

Heaven was developed in part at Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography at Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida.

Heaven is a National Performance Network (NPN) Creation Fund Project co-commissioned by PS 122 in partnership with DiverseWorks and NPN. The Creation Fund is supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Ford Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency). *Heaven* is also co-commissioned by Walker Art Center with support provided by the William and Nadine McGuire Commissioning Fund, the Andrew W Mellon Foundation, and Producer's Council members Nor Hall and Roger Hale.

Heaven is made possible in part by a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Heaven is funded in part by the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Additional funding provided by the Ford Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Community Connections Fund of the MetLife Foundation.



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BIOS

Dance-maker **Morgan Thorson** grew up in Connecticut. She is a 2009-2010 McKnight Foundation Fellow in choreography as well as a 2009 Fellow at the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography. Home is in Minneapolis where she teaches dance at the University of Minnesota. She has been making evening-length dances since 2000, which include the award-winning pieces *Faker* (2006) and *Docudrama* (2009).

Lenore Doxsee's recent lighting designs include Miguel Gutierrez' *Last Meadow*, Deganit Shemy's *Arena*, and *Ten Blocks on the Camino Real* (set & lighting design) for Target Margin Theater. She received a 2006 Bessie Award for Miguel Gutierrez' *Retrospective Exhibitionist/Difficult Bodies*. Other favorite designs: Karen Sherman's *Copperhead*, *Cunning Little Vixen* at Houston Grand Opera and *Faustus*, *The Last Night* at Spoleto USA.

Emmett Ramstad's visual artwork has shown throughout the United States and in Turkey with solo shows *Drains* and *Becoming* and group shows such as *Deviant Bodies*, *Queer Craft*, *Makul* (Reasonable) and *Threaded*. He received a BA in art education from Oberlin College and an MFA from Minneapolis College of Art and Design and has lectured on his work in the US and Canada. Ramstad has sewn in a variety of materials since a young age, starting with curtains for dollhouses, moving onto translucent papers for suspended sculptures and now a slew of ruffles, cozies, and quilted materials for *Heaven*. Ramstad also collaborates with The Body Cartography Project, look for them during SCUBA this spring at the Southern Theater. Working on *Heaven* has profoundly changed and deepened his ideas about the afterlife and spirituality in general. emmettramstad.com

Low, a band from Duluth, Minnesota, formed in 1993. Featuring Alan Sparhawk on vocals and guitar and Mimi Parker on vocals and drums. Sparhawk and Parker are married with two children; they first met in fourth grade in rural Minnesota. Low released its first album, *I Could Live in Hope*, in 1994. Low continued to work with varied

producers and released a constant stream of critically acclaimed albums (e.g., *Long Division*, *Curtain Hits the Cast*, *Things We Lost in the Fire*). chairkickers.com

Jessica Cressey has performed in Minneapolis with Morgan Thorson, Chris Schlichting, Emily Johnson, and HIJACK. She has created work under the monikers: The Greater Twin Cities Tableau Society, Steve Naive, and Pamela.

Tristan Koepke grew up in central Wisconsin, and since moving to Minneapolis in 2007 has performed works of Trisha Brown, Jose Limon, Louis Falco, Morgan Thorson, Karen Sherman, Colleen Thomas, and Carl Flink. His own work has been shown in Minneapolis at such venues as Patrick's Cabaret and in Bryant Lake Bowl's 9 x 22 series. He is currently the Dance Programming Intern at the Southern Theater, and will graduate from the University of Minnesota with a BA in Dance in May 2010 before flying around the world to discover what's next.

Hannah Kramer is a Midwest native. Since graduating from the University of Minnesota in 2004, she has been fortunate to perform in the works of Karen Sherman, Chris Schlichting, Morgan Thorson, HIJACK, Maggie Bergeron, The Body Cartography Project and La Femme extraordinaire, Monica West, among others. She also appears as Pamela with Emily Johnson and Jessica Cressey and collaborates with Eva Mohn and Sarah Baumert on the SHE Collective. Hannah recently assisted Judith Brin Ingber in preparation for her upcoming book on Jewish and Israeli Dance, to be published by Wayne State University Press. She can also be found serving memorable wine and local home cooking at Lucia's Restaurant and Wine Bar in Minneapolis.

Elliott Durko Lynch is a performance maker, theater technician at the Bryant Lake Bowl, and sound and media artist. Recent work includes co-creations with choreographer Justin Jones; *RadioBrain* presented at the Southern Theater and performance video *Overture (New Material)* presented at the Neal Medlyn/Catch Series "WWYLMBG" Kanye West Show at PS122. Lynch has been lucky

to perform for many in Minneapolis including Body Cartography Project and Anna Marie Shogren. Most of his work has been electronic music and sound designs for a diverse range of live performance. He can be reached at elliottdurkolynch@gmail.com and is a real person.

Chris Schlichting is a choreographer and performer living in Northeast Minneapolis. His work has been seen in Minneapolis at Bryant Lake Bowl, the Walker Art Center, Patrick's Cabaret, Intermedia Arts, the Southern Theater; in New York at Starr Street, Danspace Project at St. Marks; in Seattle at Velocity Center for Dance; and in San Francisco at ODC. Chris has performed in work by David Gordon, HIJACK, and Justin Jones. Chris bikes to the College of Design at the University of Minnesota Monday through Friday where he advises undergraduate students of Architecture and Environmental Design.

Karen Sherman moved to Minneapolis from NYC in 2004. She has worked with many fabulous artists over the years, and received a 2007 Bessie Award for her performance in Thorson's *Faker*. Her own work has been presented nationally, including by P.S. 122, Danspace Project, Movement Research, ODC, Highways, the Walker Art Center, The Southern Theater, and many others. She is a 2009 Bush Foundation Artist Fellow and a McKnight Foundation Dancer Fellow. Very special thanks the cast of *Heaven* and to MT.

Max Wirsing moved in 2000 from his home state of Vermont to Minnesota, where he studied printmaking at Carleton College. He currently works as a freelance dancer, and is the house manager at the Walker Art Center. Recently, Max has danced with Justin Jones, Karen Sherman, Sarah Jacobs, and Jane Shockley. He is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of *Heaven*.