

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Northwestern University Dance Program presents
MOLLY SHANAHAN/MAD SHAK
STAMINA OF CURIOSITY: my answer is yes
JUNE 4-6, 2009

EVANSTON — Molly Shanahan/Mad Shak presents a new dance work as part of the Company's multi-year project, *Stamina of Curiosity* June 4-6 at Northwestern University. Performances of *Stamina of Curiosity: my answer is yes* take place Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8:00PM in the Ballroom Theater of the Marjorie Ward Marshall Dance Center, 10 Arts Circle Drive, on Northwestern's Evanston Campus. Tickets are \$15, \$10 for students and seniors and can be purchased at **847-491-7282** or visit www.dance.northwestern.edu.

Stamina of Curiosity is Shanahan's multi-year ensemble project that explores the energetic exchange between observers and observed as a palpable, alchemical agent in spontaneous composition, and deepens Shanahan's evolving movement vocabulary within a new ensemble of dancers. The current ensemble members directed by Shanahan are Kristina Fluty, Tim Heck, Benjamin Law, and Jessie Marasa, complimented by Kathleen Aharoni as Movement Coach and Rachel Damon as Production Manager. Shanahan is a Full-time Lecturer in the Dance Program, which has hosted performances of her work numerous times since Molly Shanahan/Mad Shak's premiere performance in 1994. This performance marks the fifteenth anniversary of that debut performance.

"Her movement follows a continuous path of wavelike phrasing...The experience is like looking out at the ocean."

- iDanz Newswire

***Stamina of Curiosity: my answer is yes* — Performance Details**

Molly Shanahan/Mad Shak's *Stamina of Curiosity: my answer is yes* runs June 4-6 at the **Ballroom Studio Theatre**, Marjorie Ward Marshall Dance Center, 10 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, IL 60208. Performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15/general admission, \$10/students & seniors. Purchase tickets at Theatre and Interpretation Center Box Office: **(847) 491-7282** or visit www.dance.northwestern.edu.

For more information and additional high resolution photographs, visit www.madshak.com.



Photo: Sandbox Studio, Chicago

Performer Bios:

Molly Shanahan (Choreographer and Performer) was born in Windsor, Ontario in 1968. After completing her secondary education at Detroit Country Day School in suburban Detroit, she attended Denison University (B.A. Dance and English) and The Ohio State University (M.A. Dance). In 1994 she founded Molly Shanahan/Mad Shak in Chicago as the home for her movement and performance research and collaborations with other artists. Shanahan's recent projects (*Eye Cycle*, *Blackbird*, and *Stamina of Curiosity*) are emblematic of her transition from craft and theme-driven dances to live performance research of spontaneity and vulnerability as productive creative states, and explorations of the energetic channel shared by performer and witness. Shanahan is influenced by Authentic Movement, Jungian theory, Buddhist concepts of dharma art, and advanced study of the Feldenkrais Method. She also acknowledges the influence of early formative experience with the urban social dances of the 1970s, competitive cheerleading, and Caribbean dance. She is a full-time Lecturer in Northwestern University's Dance Program and a long-time faculty member of the Lou Conte Dance Studio. Additionally, Shanahan teaches throughout Chicago and nationally in residencies associated with the creation and presentation of her work.

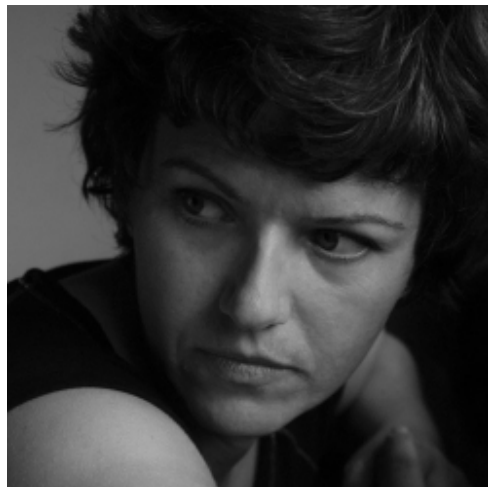


Photo of Molly Shanahan: Nadia Oussenko

Kristina Fluty (Ensemble Member) is in her fifth year as a movement collaborator with MS/MS, and has been honored to work with many other talented choreographers in Chicago. She holds a Graduate Certificate in Laban Movement Analysis from Columbia College Chicago, and is currently pursuing the MA in Dance/Movement Therapy and Counseling at Columbia. She enjoys teaching at Lou Conte Dance Studio, Thodos Dance Chicago, the Chicago Park District, and The University of Chicago. Kristina graduated Summa Cum Laude from Point Park University, attaining a BA in Dance with a minor in English.

Tim Heck graduated from Hope College in 2004 and has been steadily working in Michigan and Chicago. In addition to MS/MS, he has performed with Lucky Plush Productions, Eisenhower Dance Ensemble, Thodos Dance Chicago, LehrerDance and toured internationally with dANCEpROJECT. He has also held leading and ensemble roles with Redmoon Theatre, Hope Summer Repertory Theatre and is currently a Blue Man in the Blue Man Group at the Briar Street Theatre in Chicago. He has worked as a teacher and choreographer at a number of institutions.



Photo of Ben Law and Jessie Marasa: Sandbox Studio, Chicago.

Benjamin Law (Ensemble Member) has danced with the Dance COlective, Hedwig Dances, and Instruments of Movement and is currently working with Concert Dance Inc., Mordine & Co. Dance Theatre, and Lucky Plush Productions. He has also performed Tino Seghal's *Kiss* at the Museum of Contemporary Art. This year he is guest choreographer at NEIU. He received his BA from Beloit college in 2005 and was presented the Beloit College Department of Theatre Award for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography.

Jessie Marasa (Ensemble Member), an Illinois native, graduated from the University of Iowa with a degree in Journalism and Dance Concentration. After college, she moved to New York and worked for Good Morning America and Spotlight Communications. Jessie returned to Chicago to pursue a dance career and upon doing so has worked for Thodos Dance Chicago, Khecar Dance Theatre, Museum of Contemporary Art and Molly Shanahan/Mad Shak.

Collaborator Bios:

Kathleen Aharoni (Feldenkrais® Practitioner and Movement Coach) is the founder of Water Over Stone, a Chicago center practicing Feldenkrais®, GYROTONIC®, Pilates and teacher training.

Rachel Damon (Production Manager) performs, creates, designs, and manages dance and performance. She is a founding member and the Artistic Director of Synapse Arts Collective (www.synapsearts.com). In addition to her work with MS/MS, she collaborates with contemporary and aerial dancemakers, object-based time arts creators, and non-traditional theater groups such as the Neo-Futurists. She is also the Technical Director, Production Stage Manager, and an Artistic Associate at Links Hall.

Josh Weckesser (Lighting Designer) is a Chicago-based lighting designer, production manager and stage manager. In addition to collaborating with Shanahan on her projects since 2003, Josh is the production manager for the Chicago Human Rhythm Project, lighting director for River North Dance Chicago and Jump Rhythm Jazz Project, as well as lead lighting designer and stage manager with the annual Dance Chicago festival. www.joshweckesser.net

Molly Shanahan / Mad Shak is supported by Alphawood Foundation, Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, and The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation. Additional support comes from a City Arts Program Level I grant from the City of Chicago, Department of Cultural Affairs and the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; and from generous individual contributions. Molly Shanahan / Mad Shak is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation.

Stamina of Curiosity is a National Performance Network (NPN) Creation Fund Project co-commissioned by Alverno Presents in partnership with Denison University and NPN. www.npnweb.org.

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