



Jane Franklin Dance

IMMEDIATE RELEASE!!
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CIVIL WAR LETTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHS INSPIRE NEW CHOREOGRAPHY

WHAT: Washington, DC Premier of "Ridge Line"

WHO: Jane Franklin Dance

WHEN: Saturday, October 22, 2005 at 8:00pm
Sunday, October 23, 2005 at 7:00pm

WHERE: Dance Place, 3225 8th Street NE, Washington, DC 20016

TICKETS: \$20 general admission, \$15 students, seniors, friends, teachers (PreK-12) and artists,
\$7 children and teens (17 & under)
(202) 269-1600

INFO: www.janefranklin.com or call (703) 298-3235

Washington, DC –

Dance Place presents Jane Franklin Dance in the Washington DC premiere of **Ridge Line** on Saturday, October 22 and Sunday, October 23. In this weaving together of dance, video images, and text, American Civil War history is brought to life—the axe blows as soldiers clear-cut the trees around a fort, the crowds of women on a dock seeing their men off to battle and a final heartbreaking moment—a solitary, still dancer as an unknown male sings a fragmented "Battle Cry of Freedom." Also appearing on the concert will be modern dancers Shane O'Hara and thompson&trammell, both of Harrisonburg, VA.

Ridge Line, titled for the ring of Civil War forts and batteries that were built to protect Washington D.C., is based on images, short fragments of letters and descriptions from the Civil War. The performance incorporates photographs from the Library of Congress, letters, and songs from the Civil War era. The first section of **Ridge Line**, titled **Clear Cut**, is inspired by a description of the falling of a whole hillside of timber to clear a path for the troops to march through. Filling the stage with video images, sound, and movement, **Clear Cut** makes seven dancers seem like many more. Bob Anthony of Review 4U said the work "gave a powerful anti-war statement as it showed how violence moved from the battlefield into the maddening crowds." Music by Judith Shatin, Director of the Virginia Center for Computer Music at the University of Virginia, incorporates electronically manipulated text and music. The score was built entirely from traditionally non-musical sounds, such as the chopping of trees in **Clear Cut**, spoken word in **Inside Out** or a cappella voice in **Rally**.

Inside Out, the second section of **Ridge Line**, is based on a short excerpt by Frank Wilkeson, a private soldier in the Army of the Potomac, describing the horrors of the robbing of dead soldiers and is read by noted Civil War

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historian Ed Ayers. Backdrop images are historical photographs from Manassas, Centreville, Petersburg, and Gettysburg built into a stunning intermittent tableau by multi-media artist Lars Issa. *Rally*, the finale of the piece, is based on Marion Southwood's description of some 20,000 people, mainly women and children, bidding their dear ones goodbye. The officials tried to keep back the women, but they were "not to be scared." The music for *Rally* is based on the popular northern tune "The Battle Cry of Freedom."

Showtimes are 8:00 and 7:00 pm respectively. Tickets are available through Dance Place by calling 202 269-2600 or online at www.danceplace.org. Prices are: \$20: General Admission, \$15: Members, students, senior 55+, artists and full time teachers, \$7: Children ages 17 and under.

For additional information, please call (703) 298-3235 or online at www.janefranklin.com. Photos are available in jpg or hard copy format upon request.

Jane Franklin Dance is based in Northern Virginia in Arlington County. The company has been presented at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, Dance Place, Grace Street Theater, Old Dominion University's Choreographers' Showcase, Richmond's "Yes, Virginia-Dance!" and other state and regional venues. Collaborative projects with poetry, live music, community participation and visual art have received funding in multiple years from the Virginia Commission, the Alexandria Commission, the Arlington Commission for the Arts, American Composers Forum - Washington DC Chapter and from foundations including Arlington Community Foundation, Washington Forrest Foundation and William D. Euille Foundation. Outreach includes educational performances and workshops for Young Audiences and for Arlington's Humanities Project. A STAR Award recipient for "Outstanding Community Outreach," JFD's ongoing projects include *Concert for Community* for Senior Adult and other community groups and *Young Dancers Project* for youth ages 7-14. *Jane Franklin Dance* has been recognized by Metro DC Dance Awards, Virginia's Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts and the company tours for the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Paul Mellon Arts in Education Program and the Virginia Commission's Tour Directory.

Judith Shatin's music has been described as "...fresh and bold..." by the Denver Post, and "...alluring and vital at every step..." by the San Francisco Chronicle. Awards include four national endowment composer fellowships, commissions from organizations such as the National Symphony, and major support from the Lila Wallace-Readers Digest Arts Partners Program. Currently William R. Kenan Jr. Professor and Director of the Virginia Center for Computer Music at the University of Virginia, Shatin is known both for her acoustic and electronic music. Her vivid sense of timbre draws equally on traditional instruments and on the sounds around her, whether the chopping of trees or the rhythm of a wooden loom. Recent recordings include *Dreamtigers* (chamber music), on Innova (#613) and *Piping the Earth* (orchestral), on Capstone (#8727). Her music is also available on the Centaur, New World, Neuma and Sonora labels. Shatin has a longstanding fascination with dance, and her *Ruah* (flute and orchestra) was choreographed by Kate Johnson for the Paul Taylor Company. Shatin's music is internationally performed by such groups as the Dutch Hexagon Ensemble, the Kronos Quartet, the Wiener Soloisten Ensemble and Ensemble Barcelona Nova Musica. Originally from Boston, Shatin was educated at Douglass College (AB), The Juilliard School (MM), and Princeton University (PhD). For more information visit www.judithshatin.com.

Jane Franklin Dance is supported in part by Arlington County through the Cultural Affairs Division of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources and the Arlington Commission for the Arts; by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts; Arlington Community Foundation; by Alexandria Commission for the Arts, Washington Forrest Foundation, William D. Euille Foundation, and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Paul Mellon Arts in Education Program and by individual contributors.

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