



Eveoke Dance Theatre

Cultivating Compassionate Social Action Through Arts Education and Evocative Performance

Company Director
Nikki Dunnan

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For Immediate Release:

Founding Artistic Director & Choreographer
Gina Angelique

RISE- The California Earth Project

Founding Producer
Christopher Hall

Eveoke Premieres ***RISE- The California Earth Project***,
an original documentary dance created and choreographed
by Gina Angelique, August 10th-26th, 2007
at Centro Cultural de la Raza.

Production & Design
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Eveoke Dance Theatre premieres ***RISE-The California Earth Project*** Friday, August 10th, and running through Sunday, August 26th, 2007 at Centro Cultural de la Raza. Gina

Angelique's new documentary in dance shares the story of how she learned to walk — dance — backward one step at a time. Seeking to unravel the messy web of links that tangle and keep us wrapped up in life-long unsustainable practices, she interviewed heroes from all over the state of California who offer us a glimpse of the leadership and self-fortitude required to progress backward into a green future. Christopher Hall is producer and sound designer. Performers are: Nikki Dunnan, Becky Hurt, Douglas Johnson, Erika Malone, Elizabeth 'Froggy' Marks, Ericka Moore, and Charlene Penner. See the second page of this press release for a detailed description of *RISE*.

RISE previews August 8th & 9th at 8:00 PM and opens August 10th at 8:00 PM and shows Thursdays – Saturdays at 8:00 PM and Sundays at 4:00 PM and 7:30 PM through August 26th, 2006 at Centro Cultural de la Raza, at 2125 Park Blvd., San Diego, 92101. *Pay What You Can* performances are on preview nights and all Thursdays and *both shows* on Sundays, one hour before curtain at the theatre. Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$15 for students and seniors, \$12 Eveoke Community Members. Tickets/ Group sales: (619) 238-1153.

Detailed Narrative Description of RISE:

RISE is a docu-dance that takes us on a multimedia journey through California's most beautiful and vulnerable places. It is a dance about environmental heroes who rise to protect our natural resources from exploitation, abuse, and neglect. *RISE* features more than 14 interviews with activists who hold a vision of sustainable living: each person interviewed has taken direct mitigating action in the face of environmental crises. Their compelling stories show each of us our own ability to 'rise' and meet the environmental challenges of the 21st century. *RISE* shows that the health of our earth is inseparable from our own health and well-being. Mapping the body of 'mother earth' onto the bodies of the Eveoke dancers, *RISE* connects dance and nature.

RISE specifically addresses: energy debates including the Sunrise Powerlink proposal, air quality and asthma in Long Beach and National City, nuclear waste disposal in Needles, logging in the Sequoia and Headwaters Forests, and wilderness protection in the Algodones Dunes. Interviews showcase environmentalists in San Diego, including Kelly Fuller of Alpine and Diane Conklin of Ramona, who advocate for alternative energy solutions to counter the installation of the Sunrise Powerlink—a project which would allow Sempra to permanently change the boundaries of Anza Borrego State Park. Statewide interviews include Karen Schambach, director of Employees for Environmental Responsibility in Georgetown, California, who led a victory for wilderness protection in 2003: the federal court upheld an off-road vehicle ban in the Algodones Dunes, saving several species of endangered plants and animals.

Except three, all of the interviewees are women activists: *RISE* tells the story of how Elina Green, Executive Director of the Long Beach Alliance Against Asthma, has spearheaded efforts to influence legislation to protect local children from the dangers of air pollution (as plans for Long Beach's Port expansion encroached on nearby schools). *RISE* features interviews with Carla Cloer in Porterville and Naomi Steinberg in Carlotta who filed several lawsuits to protect old growth Redwoods in California's national forests, bringing into popular consciousness the activism of Juli Bari and Julia Butterfly Hill. Angelique gives a portrait of sustainable living through interviews with the Dervaes family of organic farmers in Pasadena, who grow their own food, make and use biodiesel fuel, use solar panels for energy, and collect rainwater, and encourage others to do the same.

Music selections, interspersed with Angelique's journal reflections and the voices of the interviewees, include *Metamorphoses/Piano Solos* by Philip Glass and *Rivers and Tides* by Fred Frith. *RISE* is Eveoke's fourth documentary dance (following *Mothers*, *Women Rebels*, and *Hips*). The creation and production of *RISE* was made possible in part by funding received from the Dance: Creation to Performance program, funded by The James Irvine Foundation and administered by Dance/USA. This project was funded in part by Mary Lou Lo Preste and by a grant from the Colonel Frank C. Wood Memorial Fund of The San Diego Foundation. Production underwriters include the Jacquelyn the Richard Earnest Fund at The San Diego Foundation and Danah Fayman.

"Angelique, a genius at picking music, choreographs for the body as lyrical instrument."

Charlene Baldrige, 2/15/07 La Jolla Village News

"Without preaching, the company practices true political art; through the passion and beauty of dance, they urge us to imagine, and realize, the possibility of a better world."

Jennifer de Poyen, 2002, San Diego Union-Tribune

Performance Pictures and Interviews Available.

Contact micah@eveoke.org or call (619) 238-1153

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