The performances you are about to see are in many ways an exploration into the unknown, within certain known landmarks. The first piece, "(In)spire" is a directed improvisation created in collaboration with the University of Colorado students during our residency. The dancers are working within a macro structure, but within that are free to choose their movements. The second piece, "Utopia Parkway", grew from our love of the work of the visual artist, Joseph Cornell (1906-1972) particularly the works at the Art Institute in Chicago. Best known for his shadow boxes, Cornell created what he called, “poetic theaters” in which he constructed worlds from his construction and juxtaposition of objects that he had collected in his journeys through New York City neighborhoods.

Cornell understood and believed in art’s ability to traverse real and imaginary worlds. At some point we began looking closer at the work, the life of the artist and most importantly his process. Our desire in creating this work was not to make a piece about Cornell or to replicate his boxes, but to draw inspiration from his process of collecting things, putting them together in singular ways and framing them in ways that inspire a sense of reverie.

We choose to improvise because of our intense curiosity about collaboration and emergent processes. When we don’t know what is going to happen, we are challenged in each moment to be fully present. Our choices are influenced by you, the audience, whom we see as collaborators in the creative process. When we don’t know what is going to happen, we are challenged in each moment to be fully present. Our choices are influenced by you, the audience, whom we see as collaborators in the creative process.
**Directed by**
Chris Aiken and Angie Hauser

**Dancers**
- Nathan Blackwell
- Cristina Goletti
- Kate Speer
- Christie Nelson
- Sexton McGrath
- Margaret Behm
- Brit Ford
- Sam Lyaghut
- Jamie Maslach

**Understudy**
- Cassidy Wagner

**Lighting Designer**
- Erin Tinsley

**Media Designer**
- Eitan Mendelowitz

**Technicians**
- Master Electricians: Alex Rausch, Ted Stark, Erin Tinsley, Jack Krikorian
- Technical Director: Bob Shannon, President/Instructor
- Production Coordinator: Connie Lane, Instructor
- Costume Shop Manager: Ted Stark, Senior Instructor
- Production Supervisor: Aja Jachan

**Run Crew**
- Stage Manager: Tia L. Brown
- Scenography/Props: Alicia Breuer, Hannah Hess

**Sound/Video Supervisor**
- Light Board Operator: Kari Turner
- Sound/Video Operator: Kewa Launea, Emily McComas

**Special Thanks**

**This project is made possible in part by support from the National Performance Network Creation Fund.**

**Major contributors include Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Ford Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency). For more information: www.dpf.org.**

The creation of Utopia Parkway was also funded through co-commissions from Links Hall Chicago, University of Utah, and Kentville College.

**Thanks to Trish Arnold, Balinda Craig-Guiadila, Lisa Gonzalez, Stephen Koester, Roell Schmidt, the CU production crew, and Macky Auditorium Concert Hall.**

**A special thanks to Lindy Bergman for sharing her home, her experience and her collection with us.**

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**Chris Aiken**
Co-Director, Dancer

is a leading international teacher and performer of dance improvisation and contact improvisation. His work has evolved from his long-standing study of perception and imagination. This work began many years ago through the inspiration of Nancy Stark Smith, Steve Paxton and other instigators of contact improvisation. Increasingly his work has come to be defined by an approach which seeks to bridge the ecological, the cultural and poetic realms, a place where the physical, the historical and the imaginary interweave. Chris has been influenced greatly by his study of the Alexander Technique, J.J. and Eleanor Gibson, fascia research, neuroscience, and ideokinesis. Chris has worked with many gifted improvisers over the years, including Nancy Stark Smith, Andrew Harwood, Peter Bingham, Ray Chung, Kirtane Simson and Angie Hauser. He has had the good fortune to work with musicians such as Mike Vargas, Peter Jones, Stephen Katz, and Andrew Gribou. Chris has received numerous awards for his artistic work, including a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Bush Foundation Fellowship, funding from the Jerome Foundation and commissions from the Walker Art Center, Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, Dance Theater Workshop, Bates Dance Festival and the National Performatoses. He is an Assistant Professor of Dance at Smith College and the Five College Dance Department in Northampton, MA.

**Angie Hauser**
Co-Director, Dancer

is a choreographer and dancer. Her work and research is grounded in her ongoing inquiry into improvisation, performance and collaboration. Since 2000, Angie has been a member of the Babe Miller Company. She was awarded a BESSEY (N.Y. Dance and Performance Award) for Creation and Choreography for her work with the company. She is currently collaborating with Babe Miller Company, The Forsythe Company, and Ohio State University in the project “TWO” for MotionBank (motionbank.org). She has also collaborated with other gifted improvising artists including Chris Aiken, K.J. Holmes, Mike Vargas, Andrew Harwood, Kathleen Hermesdorff and Darrell Jones. Her work with dance artist Chris Aiken has been supported by the National Performance Network and presented nationally. She has danced in the companies of Elizabeth Streb, Liz Lerman and Popgo Shirisashi. Angie received her MFA in dance from the Ohio State University and holds a BA in Art History from University of South Carolina. She is currently an Assistant Professor at Smith College in the Department of Dance where she teaches choreography, creative process, improvisation and dance technique.

**Tigger Benford**
Musician

is a percussionist, composer, and educator, specializing in hand drumming, improvisation and music for dance. Work in 2011 and 2012 included appearances at Baryshnikov Arts Center and Joyce Soho in NYC as percussion soloist in Quentin Chiapetta’s score for Jody Weiss’s In the Time Lapse Dance. The piece is set in DC and this past summer at the International Ballet Festival in Bodrum, Turkey. Over the years he has produced four full length CDs, some in collaboration with fellow Bates musicians Peter Jones and Jesse Manno, and released an instructional DVD on the subject of percussion for modern dance class. He has produced half evening length scores for Sean Curran and Jane Comfort, and performed them live at the Joyce Theatre, New Victory Theatre, and various universities around the country. Benford is an Associate Professor in the Dance Department of Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University.

**Jesse Manno**
Musician

is a composer, improviser, vocalist and multi-instrumentalist based in Boulder, CO, where he is Music Director of the University of Colorado Boulder. His work with numerous theatre and dance companies has been presented all over the U.S. and in several European and Asian countries, with support from the New York City Dance Project and the National Endowment for the Arts, among many others. As a specialist in Balkan and Eastern Mmen, he performs frequently with the regional ensemble SHEREFE, and with the Kalin Yong Peace Project. www.jessemanno.com www.sherefe.org

**Erin Tinsley**
Lighting Designer

has been working as Lighting Designer and Lighting Supervisor out of Washington, D.C. since 2007. Her most recent work has been with The Washington Ballet, The Suzanne Farrell Ballet, and Dance Exchange among many others. Much of this work has taken her across the country and to Turkey. Erin is excited to be working on Utopia Parkway, her first production with Chris Aiken and Angie Hauser. Among her travels, Erin is thrilled to have recently moved back to Chicago with her wonderful husband, Dan.

**Eitan Mendelowitz**
Media Designer

is a transdisciplinary artist, who explores the cultural implications of the algorithmic creation of meaningful while exposing the wonder inherent in the generation of knowledge. His process blends performance, generative literature, game-play, installation, and visual arts, with embodied interaction, physical interfaces and artificial intelligence to create works situated at the intersections of computer science and the arts. His work articulates the expressive potential of artificial intelligence as a newly emerging cultural form. Eitan’s work has been shown internationally at venues including SIGHTOGRAPH, ArtKraft, ArXelectronica, and the Beartl Center. Eitan is an Assistant Professor of Computing and the Arts at Smith College where his creative research and art production inform his teaching of algorithmic art and computer science. Eitan holds a Ph.D. (2010) from UCLA in computer science and a MFA (2002) in design | media arts.