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*Artists' bios and high-res digital images
available on request.*

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**Hedwig Dances' Jan Bartoszek, along with Nadia Oussenko
present dance cinema world premieres at the Music Box this November 11th.**

Chicago, IL- Twenty five year dance veteran **Jan Bartoszek** and multifaceted dancemaker / filmmaker **Nadia Oussenko**, both Chicago Dancemakers Forum 2009/10 Lab Artists, present a double feature dance cinema event on Wednesday, **November 11, 2009 at 7:30pm at the Music Box Theatre**. These world premiere dance films, ***Arch of Repose*** and ***On Falling...***, offer audiences two distinctly different looks at a collaborative art, that fuses the immediacy, energy, and mystery of dance combined with the intimacy of film. The Music Box Theatre is located at 3733 N. Southport Avenue in Chicago IL 60613. There will be a second screening on **Friday, November 13 at 7:30pm at Alliance Française de Chicago**, located at 54 W. Chicago Ave. in Chicago, IL 60611. Audiences are invited to stay for a post screening discussion with the artists after each screening. All **tickets are \$15 / \$10 for students and seniors**, and are available only online at nadiaoussenko.com or hedwigdances.com. For more information call 773.871.0872 or visit hedwigdances.com.

Bartoszek's ***Arch of Repose*** and Oussenko's ***On Falling...*** are not to be confused with dance documentary film. Because movement is a basic element in all time-based visual media forms, dance cinema is distinguished from other film genres by its emphasis on the craft and composition of movement in the work. Further, it may be argued that much experimental film (dance or otherwise) is no longer in fact "experimental," but has in fact become a film genre and that many of its more typical features - such as a non-narrative, impressionistic or poetic approaches to the film's construction - define what is generally understood to be "experimental". ***Arch of Repose*** and ***On Falling...*** are the shift to this contemporary understanding of the genre. Sampling both ends of the dance cinema spectrum, each film provides the viewer with a rich artistic experience that will leave them as breathless as a live performance and perhaps a deeper understanding of the movers' journey, and the choreographers' emotional connections to their subjects.

(Hedwig Dances is) "...fluid, elegantly arranged modern dance works...
recognizable for their organic grace and unaffected virtuosity"
~ *Time Out Chicago*

Arch of Repose is a lush film by Hedwig Dances' Artistic Director Jan Bartoszek, created in collaboration with Bitter Jester Creative, featuring Hedwig Dances' ensemble and performance by Carol Genetti. The work is a poetic, dream-like film accompanying six wandering souls on an existential odyssey. Shot in the open air on Lake Michigan's North shore, this is for dance and film lovers alike. Beautifully photographed, and elegantly edited with

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haunting music and evocative performances by the Hedwig Dances ensemble. Hedwig Dances offers audiences what the Chicago Tribune says is “The sort of deep and magical evening of dance and performance that makes one’s heart inexplicably soar.” This autumn audiences get to experience that magic on the big screen for the very first time.

On Falling . . . , by Nadia Oussenko in collaboration with filmmaker Daniel Kullman, with original scoring by Chicago composer Ian Harcher, is composed of improvised vignettes that investigate falling and surrender. Oussenko’s experimental dance film juxtaposes public and private spaces as well as various surfaces and structures, and seeks to heighten the viewer’s visceral response by exploring the dynamic between voyeur and subject. Ms Oussenko’s new work is like a “... duet occurring between dancer and camera. It has become about my own journey of letting go, and expresses the physical manifestations and sensations of falling, but also issues of desire, the desperation of hanging on, feelings of abandonment and despair, and finally the trust to surrender to the elements.”

For more information call **773.871.0872** or visit hedwigdances.com.

ARCH OF REPOSE ARTISTS’ BIOS

JAN BARTOSZEK founded Hedwig Dances in 1985. In 1992, Commissioner Lois Weisberg acknowledged Hedwig Dances’ strong leadership with an invitation to become the dance company-in-residence at the Chicago Cultural Center. This opportunity catalyzed Hedwig Dances’ growth and success. Hedwig Dances has since been integral in dance programming at the Chicago Cultural Center where it presents on-going programs, including performances, workshops and the annual *Dance for the Camera* program.

Jan Bartoszek’s credentials include eight choreography fellowships from the Illinois Arts Council and one from the NEA, decades of creating high quality dances, mentoring of numerous artists and a leadership role in making dance a vital force at the Chicago Cultural Center. She has choreographed over 55 dances in her career that critics have described as "intelligent, accomplished, moving" (Chicago Tribune) and "poignantly human" (Chicago Reader). New City has described her as "a movement pioneer who [has] incorporated global-historical elements into [her] bottomless repertoire." These dances have been presented in venues throughout Chicago including the Ravinia Festival, the Dance Center of Columbia College, the Museum of Contemporary Art and the Athenaeum Theatre, among others. Her work has toured internationally as well as to regional performance venues. Throughout her career, Ms. Bartoszek has fostered a spirit of collaborations with other artists, melding dance with art, text, music and video to create highly theatrical dances.

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Ms. Bartoszek is the recipient of a Ruth Page Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Dance Community for her work at the Chicago Cultural Center as an "educator, mentor, presenter, administrator and promoter of dance in the city with inspirational excellence." She was included in "100 Women Making a Difference" by Today's Chicago Woman Magazine in recognition of her artistic and civic contribution to the Chicago community.

Ms. Bartoszek's choreography credits include work for Steppenwolf, Northlight, Live Bait and Court theaters, as well as with director Ping Chong. As a performer, she toured with Ping Chong & Company, the Charlie Vernon Performance Company and the Radis Dance Strata. As a leader in the dance community, Bartoszek has served on the Advisory Board of the Arts and Business Council of Chicago, dance panels for the Illinois Arts Council and the Oregon Arts Commission, and the Board of the Chicago Dance Coalition. She is currently on the dance faculty at Northwestern University and is a recipient of a 2008 Chicago Dancemakers Forum Artist Award.

BITTER JESTER CREATIVE, INC. – www.BitterJester.com Founded in January of 2001, Bitter Jester Creative, Inc. (BJC) is a film, photography, and live theatre production company with a focus on short films and documentaries. BJC helps individuals and companies to tell their unique stories in creative, compelling, and visually interesting ways. Since 2008, the team at Bitter Jester has won seventeen prestigious production awards for their films including seven 2009 Telly Awards.

DANIEL KULLMAN A 2001 graduate of the University of Miami with a Bachelor of Science in Communication, a Bachelor of Science in Anthropology, and a Minor in Art History, Daniel is the Co-Owner of/Director of Photography for Bitter Jester Creative, Inc – a position he has held since 2003. Daniel's extra-curricular passion is photography, a medium that allows him the ability to experiment with creative lighting and framing, often giving him inspiration for Bitter Jester's live-action projects.

NICOLAS DEGRAZIA A 2001 graduate of the University of Miami with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Visual Communication, a Bachelor of Science in Anthropology, and a Minor in Photography, Nicolas is the Co-Owner of/Creative Director for Bitter Jester Creative, Inc, the production company he co-founded in 2001. Outside of film and video production, Nicolas has written, performed, and directed live sketch comedy for the stage and screen since 1992, an activity that keeps his creativity and sense of humor sharp - something he has found very beneficial in his daily work.

CAROL GENETTI is an experimental vocalist and costume designer. Her vocal work is grounded in an almost inhuman extended technique that creates a distinct non-verbal sound palette with provocative depth. Her sounds evoke unconscious emotions which are automatically triggered by the body fleshy cavity quality of the voice.

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Based in Chicago, Genetti has toured throughout the U.S., Canada, France and Germany and has collaborated with a large number of like-minded artists in both ad hoc groupings and long-standing partnerships including their duos with springboard inventor Eric Leonardson; bassist Tatsu Aoki, the trio Nom Tom with Jack Wright, saxophones and Jon Mueller, percussion; collaborations with composer Adam Sonderberg; and multi-disciplinary performances with dancer Asimina Chremos. She has designed costumes for Hedwig Dances, Asimina Chremos and Jan Erkert.

ON FALLING... ARTISTS' BIOS

NADIA OUSSENKO is a choreographer, filmmaker, photographer, and dance teacher. She completed a Master of Fine Arts degree in Dance at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she discovered her desire to pursue choreography for the camera. Recently Ms. Oussenko premiered a dance documentary about Molly Shanahan/ Mad Shak's yearlong process and culmination of evening length work *My Name is a Blackbird*. Ms. Oussenko has had her dance films shown at the 12th Annual ADF Dancing for the Camera Festival of Video and Dance in Durham, NC, Chicago Short Comedy Video and Film Festival, the Fifth Annual Dance For the Camera Festival at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, the Around the Coyote Film Festival in Chicago, and the Reel Dance Film Festival in Victoria, B.C.. She has choreographed for dance festivals and concerts in Chicago such as Dance Chicago and Ameba Acrobatic and Aerial Dance Company. "My primary goal as a choreographer is to connect to a wide audience through movement as seen through the filter of film that is emotionally sourced and felt. For me as a dance/film artist I find the combination of these media trigger an altogether unique, intimate and 're-playable' kinesthetic response from the viewer."

DANIEL KULLMAN is a cinematographer, photographer, and co-director of *Bitter Jester Creative*, a video production and photography company. Daniel earned a Bachelor of Science at the University of Miami, double majoring in Film Production and Anthropology. His filmmaking has won him awards in the *Bare Bones Film Festival*, the *Rochester Film Festival*, and *Chicago's Fast Forward Film Festival*. His films have also been accepted in the *Santa Fe Film Festival*, and the *New York Film and Video Festival*. He has collaborated with choreographer, Nadia Oussenko, on two previous Dance for the Camera works, and he looks forward to his upcoming project with her where he can explore his own visual creative process within the greater context of the piece and utilize his strengths as a visual artist and willing collaborator.

IAN HATCHER is an electronic writer, programmer, and musician. His digital work has been presented at the Electronic Literature Organization and Electronic Literature in Europe conferences and published by Counterpath Press, The New Yinzer, and Subito Press. In addition to scoring film/video, he composes for the Moving Architects dance company and performs live as a solo artist. He is currently a graduate student at Brown University.

~ DETAILS FOLLOW ~



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Dance Cinema World Premiere Double Feature

Arch of Repose

a film by Hedwig Dances'
Jan Bartoszek

On Falling . . .

a film by
Nadia Oussenko

Tickets: **\$15** or **\$10** for students and seniors
Online at nadiaoussenko.com or hedwigdances.com

Wednesday / **November 11** / 7:30pm

Music Box Theatre
3733 N. Southport / Chicago, IL 60613

and

Friday / **November 13** / 7:30pm

Alliance Française de Chicago
54 W. Chicago Ave. / Chicago, IL 60611

LOCATION DETAILS

The **Music Box Theatre** is located at 3733 N Southport Avenue, Chicago, IL 60613. **CTA:** Red Line Addison stop, Brown Line Southport stop. **BUS:** Clark and Ashland buses Grace stop / Irving Park and Addison buses Southport stop.

The **Alliance Française de Chicago** located at the corner of Chicago Avenue and Dearborn Street, 54 W. Chicago Ave. in Chicago, IL 60611. **CTA:** Red Line and Brown Line Chicago stops **BUS:** #66

NOTE TO EDITORS: Hedwig Dances URL is www.hedwigdances.com (not ".org").

Hedwig Dances creates and performs contemporary dances that convey the essence of the human experience. Through its programs, Hedwig Dances trains and mentors professional dance artists, teaches dance and movement, and thereby enriches the cultural life of the individuals and communities it reaches.

Hedwig Dances is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. The company is funded in part by The Arts Work Fund for Organizational Development, a donor advised fund of the Chicago Community Foundation, The MacArthur Fund for the Arts and Culture at the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, the Illinois Arts Council (a state agency), Alphawood Foundation, Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation, Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, CityArts II Grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, Mayer & Morris Kaplan Family Foundation, Chicago Wallace Audience Engagement Network, a collaboration between the Wallace Foundation and the Chicago Community Trust, The Weasel Fund, Chicago Dancemakers Forum, Chicago Seminar on Dance and Performance, and many individuals.

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