

Visiting Artist Series presents

GRUPO CORPO (Brazil)

Suite Branca / Dança Simfônica



January 31, 2018 . 8PM
KAY THEATRE
at The Clarice

ARTIST PARTNER PROGRAM

VAS
VISITING ARTIST SERIES

The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center's
Visiting Artist Series presents

GRUPO CORPO

Suite Branca / Dança Sinfônica

This performance will last approximately 1 hour 35 minutes.

Join the artists for a conversation after the performance.

Suíte Branca

Choreography.....	Cassi Abranches
Music.....	Samuel Rosa
Scenography.....	Paulo Pederneiras
Costumes.....	Freusa Zechmeister
Lighting.....	Paulo Pederneiras Gabriel Pederneiras

Dança Sinfônica

Choreography.....	Rodrigo Pederneiras
Music.....	Marco Antônio Guimarães
Scenography.....	Paulo Pederneiras
Costumes.....	Freusa Zechmeister
Lighting.....	Paulo Pederneiras Gabriel Pederneiras

Suíte Branca

When the first guitar chords and the sinuous silhouette of a ballerina strike the air, there is a hint of mystery on stage. Soon, the aridity of an eerily white landscape emphasizes the enigmatic atmosphere.

Dressed in white from the start to the finish of the ballet, moving across the linoleum – which is also white – and against the backdrop panel that gradually reveals the peaks and valleys of a structure that resembles a giant glacier, the Grupo Corpo dancers drift through the intriguing web of themes composed by Samuel Rosa for the *White Suite* score.

Idealized as the old Roman blank slates or a blank page, on which a new story begins to be written, *White Suite* marks the first collaboration between the young choreographer from São Paulo, Cassi Abranches, and the dance company from Minas Gerais. Among undulating arms and hips, pendular movements, suspensions, and considerable floorwork, the score suggests an interaction with the law of gravity, where it is possible to see the distinctive traits of Grupo Corpo that for so long have inhabited our imagination, and at the same time, to glimpse the strength of an unequivocal otherness.

Dança Sinfônica

Created to celebrate Grupo Corpo's 40th anniversary [2015], *Dança Sinfônica* is built on the memorialist theme proposed by Artistic Director, Paulo Pederneiras. In this first symphony created specially for the dance company, Marco Antônio Guimarães, the author of anthological works such as *21* (1992) and *Bach* (1996), combines a sophisticated plot with original pieces and evocative musical passages from ballets recently produced by Grupo Corpo. The set of themes, written masterfully for the 90-member Philharmonic Orchestra of Minas Gerais, and interconnected by ingenious musical bridges performed by the Uakti group, allows Rodrigo Pederneiras to revisit the best works from the group's entire repertoire, and also to process, with the experience accumulated through decades of working on detachment of form, a kind of synthesis of a choreographic scripture assembled over 34 years of residence at the company.

Taken from the private collections of professionals who have collaborated with or had an influence on the trajectory of Grupo Corpo over these 40 years – from dancers and *maîtres de ballet* to technicians and stewards – over a thousand informal photographic snapshots make up the 8m x 16m backdrop panel, establishing the mood for the show.

In contrast to the everyday character of the situations represented in the photographs, wine-red velvet curtains cover the base of the theater while the legs of the dancers are covered in tights of the same color, giving the performance a discrete air of solemnity.

While the company resides in Minas Gerais, Brazil, their ballet crosses borders. Brazil as a whole, with all its cultural diversity, can see itself in **GRUPO CORPO**, the dance company founded in 1975 in Belo Horizonte. In a world where the speed of information is producing an increasingly homogeneous landscape, the ensemble stands out for having developed a signature of their own.

When one sees GRUPO CORPO dance on stage, it is as if all questions concerning the transit between nature and culture were being fully answered. All facets of Brazil, past and future, erudite and popular, foreign influence and local color, and the urban and the suburban come to being as art. Brazilian art. World art.

As founder and general and artistic director of GRUPO CORPO, **PAULO PEDERNEIRAS**, is also responsible for the lighting of the ballets and since Bach (1996), he has also participated in the scenic design creation. Commenting on the light as a strong presence, which both illuminates and serves as a space for dancing, he states, "I think of the space the same way I think of the lighting. Sometimes the light is the space." Besides his work with Grupo Corpo, Paulo has done lighting projects for several operas. He has also done set design for exhibits such as Indigenous and Anthropologic Art at the Brazil 500 years exhibit, and at the "Oca" (Hut) – at the Ibirapuera Park, São Paulo, 2000. Of Grupo Corpo, it is stated that this "Brazilian company has great physical diversity. Each dancer's movement is different, and yet the idea of being a group is not lost. That's where the dance draws its strength from." The words describe what happens with the bodies, but equally serve to describe the company. Under the direction of Paulo, Grupo Corpo made a virtue out of its diversities. And it continues making this virtue the principle of creation: a way of knowing and not knowing, a bet on the unknown in order to always reach a new dance, which will always be its own dance.

RODRIGO PEDERNEIRAS has been Corpo's choreographer since 1978, and his work is recognized nationally and internationally. He has choreographed for companies such as Ballet do Theatro Municipal do Rio de Janeiro, Ballet do Teatro Guáira, Ballet da Cidade de São Paulo and Companhia de Dança de Minas Gerais. Outside Brazil he has choreographed for companies that include Deutsche Oper Berlin (Germany), Gulbenkian (Portugal), Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal

(Canada), Stadttheater Saint Gallen (Switzerland), and Opéra du Rhin (France). But creating for Grupo Corpo remains his primary focus. “Grupo Corpo today has its own language, which is something hard to achieve, and does not mean that things become easier. Much on the contrary, I may make a mistake one thousand times while creating, until I find that which I want. This is not possible with other dance companies. There are pressures for time.” Creation, almost by definition, means anguish. Grupo Corpo’s dancers learn what the body of ours is, as imagined by Rodrigo during the creation phase. They are like tuned up instruments ready to be played. If Grupo Corpo has a language of its own, it is Rodrigo’s language: it has his unmistakable accent, which is understood by everybody—because it is our body that he induces to dance.

CASSI ABRANCHES began her career as a dancer at the age of 14. She performed at Raça Companhia de Dança, Balé do Teatro Castro Alves and Balé do Teatro Guaira before joining Grupo Corpo in 2001. In 2009 Cassi began to create choreographies to different independent dance groups and finally in 2013 she decided to leave her dance career to dedicate herself entirely to the choreographic creative process. She has already collaborated with the Ballet Jovem do Palacio das Artes, Companhia SESC de Dança, Companhia Jovem Bolshoi Brasil and São Paulo Companhia de Dança. Invited by Grupo Corpo, Cassi Abranches created in 2015 “Suíte Branca” to celebrate - with Rodrigo Pederneiras’s “Dança Sinfonica” – Grupo Corpo’s 40th anniversary. In 2016 she was the choreographer behind the opening ceremony of the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Members of Grupo Corpo taught in three classes this week in the UMD School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies. Additionally, they are presenting an interactive performance for 500 Prince George’s County students in grades 5 to 9 tomorrow morning as part of our K-12 School Partner Program student matinee series.

GRUPO CORPO

Artistic Director.....	Paulo Pederneiras
Choreographer.....	Rodrigo Pederneiras
Rehearsal Director.....	Carmen Purri
Technical Director.....	Pedro Pederneiras
Dancers.....	Ágatha Faro
	Bianca Victal
	Carol Rasslan
	Dayanne Amaral
	Edmárcio Júnior
	Edson Hayzer
	Elias Bouza
	Filipe Bruschi
	Grey Araújo
	Helbert Pimenta
	Janaina Castro
	Karen Rangel
	Luan Batista
	Lucas Saraiva
	Malu Figueirôa
	Mariana do Rosário
	Rafael Bittar
	Rafaela Fernandes
	Sílvia Gaspar
	Williene Sampaio
	Yasmin Almeida
Choreographic Assistants.....	Ana Paula Cançado
	Carmen Purri
	Miriam Pederneiras
Ballet Mistress.....	Bettina Bellomo
Pianist.....	Anna Maria Ferreira
Technical Coordinator.....	Gabriel Pederneiras
Technicians.....	Átilla Gomes
	Stefan Bottcher
Wardrobe Assistants.....	Alexandre Vasconcelos
	Maria Luiza Magalhães
Administrator.....	Marcello Cláudio Teixeira
Administrative Manager.....	Kênia Marques
Administrative Assistant.....	Marcel Gordon Firing

Secretary..... Flávia Labbate
Documentation..... Cândida Braz
Communication Director..... Cristina Castilho
Communication Assistant..... Mateus Castilho
Program Director..... Cláudia Ribeiro
Executive Producer..... Michelle Deslandes

Production..... INSTITUTO CULTURAL CORPO

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side

Artists lead complicated lives. They collect material for new work, they often teach and engage with community groups and they are always developing their craft.

In **SIDE NOTES**, we are providing good reads and fun facts to give you a sense of who our visiting artists are and what makes them do what they do. Contributing writers include students, faculty, staff and alumni from the extended Clarice family.

notes



What gives Grupo Corpo its particular brand of cool?

First of all, this dance company hails from Brazil and brings a unique cultural verve, infusing every chiseled choreographic movement with the sensuous rhythms of their native aesthetic.

Their name literally translates as “body group,” or could be interpreted as “body of work.”

Grupo Corpo celebrated its 40th year in existence in 2015. Originally founded by Paulo Pederneiras, he also designs the lights and sets for the company. His brother Rodrigo has been the full-time choreographer since 1981, and sister Miriam dances as well as assists Rodrigo with choreography. Another brother, José Luiz, manages most of the photographic work for the group. Now the best known dance company in Brazil, they started as an answer to a lack of work in their home city of Belo Horizonte, which lies north of Rio de Janeiro. Their company’s fidelity expands beyond just family as Freusa Zechmeister has been the company’s costume designer since 1985.

The performance is accompanied by original instrumental music by Samuel Rosa, the lead vocalist and guitarist for Skank, a massively popular Brazilian band whose unique sound fuses together reggae, Brit pop, Brazilian folk, and rock. (The name “Skank” was taken from a Bob Marley song and refers to a type of dance.)

“We are interested in showing what the human body can do in service to a piece of music,” said Paulo Pederneiras in a New York Times interview in 2002.

Ballet and modern dance techniques twist and blend within the choreography of Grupo Corpo, which gives them a signature style. In the mid-eighties, they began distinguishing themselves by attempting to imagine a new kind of approach, and “the company began combining classical technique with a contemporary re-reading of popular Brazilian dance forms.” It’s kind of their thing.

Trademark style, their own jewelry line, and pop stars’ compositions lift Grupo Corpo to their own brand of cool.

Lastly, here’s how you say “cool” in Portuguese:

Cool = Legal [lay-gow]

Further reading & listening:

Grupo Corpo : Companhia De Dança. Directed by Rodrigo Pederneiras.
Produced by Bernhard Fleischer. Kultur, 2004. DVD. (GV1786.G78 G78 2004)

Grupo Corpo. History. <http://www.grupocorpo.com.br/en/company/history>

H. Stern Jewelry. Grupo Corpo Collection.
<http://www.hstern.net/jewelry/collection/grupo-corpo>

Livingston, Tamara Elena, and Thomas George Caracas Garcia. Choro : A
Social History of a Brazilian Popular Music. Profiles in Popular Music.
Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2005. (ML3487 .L58 2005)

Rohter, Larry. “A Brazilian Company That Zigs Where Others Zag.” *The New York Times*. October 19, 2002. <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/10/20/arts/dance-a-brazilian-company-that-zigs-where-others-zag.html>

ABOUT THE ARTIST PARTNER PROGRAM

THE ARTIST PARTNER PROGRAM at The Clarice curates a multi-arts performance with regional, national and international artists and creative innovators program dedicated to creating performance and learning opportunities for students and our community through artist residencies workshops, master classes, K-12 student matinees and artistic exchange. We believe artists can be a catalyst for community change, leadership and empowerment.

As part of a major public research university, the Artist Partner Program is committed to the creation and investigation of new work and new ways of participating in the performing arts.

The Artist Partner Program has three primary missions:

To supplement and extend the academic learning and investigation of the classroom for UMD students;

To provide artistic and cultural opportunities as part of the UMD experience for students, faculty, staff, alumni and university friends;

To enhance and develop the artistic and cultural ecology of the community that surrounds and supports the university.

Visit theclarice.umd.edu/app for more info.

ARTIST PARTNER PROGRAM STAFF

MARTIN WOLLESEN

Executive Director, The Clarice

BOBBY ASHER

Senior Associate Director

RICHARD SCERBO

Director, National Orchestral Institute and Festival

MEGAN PAGADO WELLS

Associate Director

JANE HIRSHBERG

Assistant Director, Campus and Community Engagement

YARINA CONNERS

Artistic Administrator

ANDREW GIZA

Artist Services Coordinator

AMANDA STAUB

Graduate Assistant

For the 2017-2018 season, The Clarice is proud to present several artists whose beliefs in social justice and the power of the human spirit inform the art they make. These powerful voices will speak about their work through a series of public events in a variety of formats. Designed to complement UMD's Do Good campus initiative to create a hub of activity for philanthropy, nonprofit management, public policy, social change and leadership; these events will educate, inspire and reinforce the importance of taking action to make a positive change in our society and in the world.

DO GOOD DIALOGUE
ARTMAKING AS AN ACTIONABLE TOOL

TUE, FEB 13 . 7PM
 MILKBOY ARTHOUSE

In this Do Good Dialogue, wild Up founder Chris Rountree and UMD faculty from the College of Arts and Humanities host a public conversation, examining how artists create change in society. Rountree writes, "what a set of gargantuan tasks lays out before us. Many of us feel like our work couldn't possibly be enough to do what it needs to do...but I'm eager to talk about how it can and what we can do to make that happen."

DO GOOD DIALOGUE
TAKING ACTION:
UPSTANDING AND STANDING UP

WED, APR 4 . 7PM
 MILKBOY ARTHOUSE

During this Do Good Dialogue, we discuss the 600 Highwaymen's unique way of making work, usually with a diverse body of performers, in what co-founder Abigail Browde describes as, "sculpting our animal instinct to look at each other."

DO GOOD DIALOGUE
NO PLACE TO HIDE: A CONVERSATION
ABOUT PRIVACY OR THE LACK THEREOF

WED, FEB 28 . 7PM
 MILKBOY ARTHOUSE

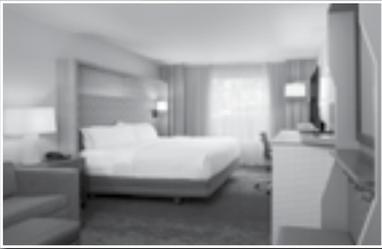
The Plurality of Privacy Project in Five-Minute Plays (P3M5) is a transatlantic theater project focused on the value of privacy. In cooperation with the Goethe-Institute Washington, theaters across the US and Europe have commissioned playwrights to write five-minute plays exploring the central question, "What does privacy mean to you in the digital age?" The results will be presented in different formats by a network of theaters, including The Clarice, between January 2017 and June 2018. In this dialogue, UMD faculty members will host a round-table conversation with three of the participating artist/playwrights.



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UPCOMING VISITING ARTIST SERIES PERFORMANCES

STEFAN JACKIW & JEREMY DENK WITH UMD SCHOOL OF MUSIC VOCAL QUARTET (USA)
CHARLES IVES VIOLIN AND PIANO SONATAS

THU, FEB 1 . 8PM

Two of America's most thought-provoking, multi-faceted and compelling classical chamber artists perform Charles Ives' complete sonatas for violin and piano.

ETIENNE CHARLES (TRINIDAD)
CREOLE SOUL

FRI, FEB 2 . 7PM & 9PM

MILKBOY ARTHOUSE

Trumpeter and bandleader Etienne Charles ushers jazz into new territory in this buoyant performance embracing his Afro-Caribbean roots.

WILD UP (USA)

FRI, FEB 16 . 8PM

MILKBOY ARTHOUSE

This modern music collective committed to creating visceral, thought-provoking happenings, believes that great ideas, empowered by art, are capable of affecting great social change.

KYLE ABRAHAM/ABRAHAM.IN.MOTION (USA)
DEAREST HOME

FRI & SAT, FEB 23 & 24 . 8PM

An interactive theatre performance focused on loving, longing and loss. Experience the show in silence, or don headphones to layer on a rich soundscape.

ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET (CANADA)

THU, MAR 1 . 8PM

This world-class chamber ensemble brings every piece of music to the audience in vivid color.

PRIVACY PROJECT (INTERNATIONAL)

FRI & SAT, MAR 2 & 3 . 8PM

MILKBOY ARTHOUSE

This groundbreaking theater project created by the Goethe-Institut Washington, features five-minute plays exploring the question, "What does privacy mean to you in the digital age?"

LINDA MAY HAN OH GRP (MALAYSIA/AUSTRALIA/USA)

THU, MAR 8 . 7PM & 9PM

MILKBOY ARTHOUSE

Though the bass rarely takes center stage, in this jazz performance, Linda Oh showcases the instrument's funky, soulful potential.

CYRO BAPTISTA & BANQUET OF THE SPIRITS (BRAZIL)

FRI, MAR 16 . 8PM

MILKBOY ARTHOUSE

A wild, unstoppable world beat percussive band featuring international musicians and spontaneous dance breaks!

RENÉ MARIE (USA)
EXPERIMENT IN TRUTH

THU, MAR 29 . 7PM & 9PM

MILKBOY ARTHOUSE

This GRAMMY-nominated vocalist borrows various elements of folk, R&B and even classical and country to create a captivating style uniquely her own.

600 HIGHWAYMEN (USA)

THE FEVER

THU-SAT, APR 5-7 . 8PM

This theatrical piece, performed in collaboration with the audience, examines how we care for people in light of a continuing legacy of violence and cruelty.

SIRIUS QUARTET (USA)

THU, APR 19 . 8PM

MILKBOY ARTHOUSE

This inventive contemporary quartet's forward-thinking, multi-genre approach includes collaborations in post-rock, avant-jazz and electronic music.

AAKASH OEDRA (UK/INDIA)

RISING

WED, MAY 9 . 8PM

Rooted in traditional Indian dance, Aakash Oedra's style is graceful, provocative and unflinching. Featuring solo pieces from the UK's most thrilling choreographers.

MILKBOY

ARTHOUSE

VENUE | ART | KITCHEN | BAR

A neighborhood gathering place for refined comfort food, craft beverages and eclectic performances. A partnership between The Clarice at UMD + MilkBoy of Philadelphia.

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

February 1
40 OZ. TO FREEDOM

Award-winning Sublime tribute band

February 2
ETIENNE CHARLES (TRINIDAD)

Buoyant Afro-Caribbean influenced Jazz

February 3
CHEVRE

with Old Eastern and 10/7 Portable

February 9
JOHN 5 (GUITARIST- ROB ZOMBIE)
AND THE CREATURES

with XK Scenario

February 16
WILD UP (USA)

An LA-based experimental modern-classical music collective

March 2 & 3
PRIVACY PROJECT (PARTS 1&2)

Groundbreaking transatlantic theater project focused on the value of privacy

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APP Visiting Artists Third Coast Percussion engage with K-12 students during a special matinee performance.



NURTURE THE FUTURE OF THE ARTS

We believe artists can be catalysts for community change, leadership and empowerment.

This season, our Visiting Artists will:

- CREATE opportunities for young audiences to experience live performances and creative conversations through the K-12 School Partner Program
- ENHANCE our understanding of the world through Do Good Dialogues, exploring social justice and the ways the human spirit informs art
- SUPPORT creation and development of new work by UMD students through master classes, coaching and performances of their work by visiting artists
- ENGAGE students through intimate, unplugged performances in residence halls throughout the year, creating connections through art, food, and shared experiences

Immerse yourself in a world of artistic discovery with our 2017-2018 visiting artists and strengthen the future of the arts by making your gift today.

To support the Visiting Artist Series visit theclarice.umd.edu/make-gift. Or call 301.405.4517.

THE CLARICE