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**RUSSIAN CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMES TO THE UNITED STATES**  
*Visiting Russian Choreographers Showcase Work in New York **Monday, July 6th**, Attend Dance Festival*

This summer, [CEC ArtsLink](#), in cooperation with the [American Dance Festival](#) and [Jacob's Pillow Dance](#), presents its second annual Summer Dance Series of New Russian Choreography, highlighting the work of leading young choreographers from Russia with one-of-a-kind events in New York City. This summer brings new dancers, new collaborations, and new interdisciplinary endeavors.

All dance lovers know Mikhail Baryshnikov, but even the savviest would stretch to recall a performance by the young, contemporary dancer-choreographers coming out of Russia today.

After years of being subsumed by the enormity of the country's ballet tradition, modern and contemporary dance have recently gained momentum in Russia. Dance communities in far flung cities like Chelyabinsk, Krasnoyarsk, and (as Sophia Kishkovsky documents in her recent piece for the [Times](#)) Perm— not just Moscow and Saint Petersburg—are joining in the global dance conversation.

In June and July, CEC ArtsLink partners for the third time with the American Dance Festival to host a group of four dancer-choreographers for a two week residency at the Festival in Durham, North Carolina. Subsequently, the group will perform in New York on **Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup> at 8pm at Judson Memorial Church**. The four choreographers participating in this iteration are **Leonid Glukhov** (*PRO-dvizheniya* Dance, Novosibirsk), **Natalya Podkovyrova** (*Acid Rain* Dance, Chelyabinsk), **Maria Samsonova** (*OKNO* Dance Project, Saint Petersburg), and **Olga Zimina** (*The Center of Contemporary Dance*, Krasnoyarsk). Each will present a solo work, followed by Q & A and light wine reception. The event is free and open to the public. RSVP to

[chartblay@cecartslink.org](mailto:chartblay@cecartslink.org) or via CEC ArtsLink's Facebook page to reserve a seat.

In August, CEC ArtsLink will partner for the first time with Jacob's Pillow to bring two modern dance choreographers and two theater directors from Russia to participate in a two-week Choreographers Lab session exploring points of intersection between choreography and theater. At Jacob's Pillow, they will be joining eight U.S.-based choreographers and directors in creative development labs guided by Annie-B Parson and Paul Lazar, artistic directors of Big Dance Theater and recipients of the first annual Jacob's Pillow Dance Award. The group of artists will hold a public presentation in New York City on **Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009**, details TBA.

CEC ArtsLink looks forward to bringing the rare opportunity to see a new generation of Russian dance to audiences at both festivals and in New York City.

Both residencies and the Summer Dance Series are part of the Open World Cultural Leaders Program, an endeavor of the Open World Leadership Center at the Library of Congress with partnership and funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Founded in 1934 in Bennington, Vermont, the **American Dance Festival** remains an international magnet for choreographers, dancers, teachers, students, critics, musicians, and scholars, drawing them together to experiment, explore, learn, collaborate, and create in a supportive environment. Students and community members interact directly with luminaries in the field, learning first-hand from those who define modern dance. ADF's wide range of programs includes performances, artist services, humanities projects, publications, community outreach, educational programs and classes, archives, media projects, and national and international projects. ADF has been presenting the best in modern dance for 76 years and has been called "the world's greatest dance festival" by *The New York Post*.

**Jacob's Pillow's** mission is *to support dance creation, presentation, education, and preservation, and to engage and deepen public appreciation and support for dance*. Considered one of the great festivals of the world, along with Bayreuth, Avignon, and Spoleto, the Pillow has been hailed as "the hub and mecca for dancing in America" (*Time*) and "the dance center of the nation, possibly the world," (*The New York Times*). In 2003, the federal government declared Jacob's Pillow a National Historic Landmark for its contribution to American culture—the only dance entity to achieve this honor. The 163-acre woodland campus fuses natural beauty and history in such a way as to create a unique setting in which to experience dance. Best known for its annual international festival, the Pillow also

encompasses a renowned dance training school, one of America's most significant dance archives, an intern program that trains a new generation of arts management professionals, and community programs that serve local residents throughout the year.

**CEC ArtsLink**, through a multi-faceted program of cultural exchange, serves to create and sustain constructive, mutually beneficial relationships in the arts between the United States and Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asia, and the Caucasus. Working with contemporary artists, arts organizations and community-based groups, CEC ArtsLink provides an essential structure for ongoing dialogue, contributing to a culture of openness and trust between nations. In addition to contemporary dance choreographers, CEC ArtsLink hosts Open World Cultural Leaders residencies for Russian independent filmmakers, folk musicians, poets, and prose writers.

With years of experience as a leader in cultural exchange between the United States and Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asia, and the Caucasus, CEC ArtsLink has long been a behind-the-scenes player in numerous esteemed cultural events, as a supporter and facilitator of residencies, projects, and networks for artists and art managers at venues across the U.S. and around the world. Today, we are pleased to bring an on-going series of cultural events to the public through our partnerships in New York, around the United States, and abroad. Visit our homepage for more about upcoming events and on-going projects.

**Open World** is a unique, nonpartisan initiative of the U.S. Congress. Over 13,000 Open World participants have been hosted in all 50 U.S. states since the program's inception in 1999. Open World's Cultural Leaders Program aims to forge better understanding between the United States and Russia by enabling emerging Russian leaders in the arts to experience America's cultural and community life, and to work with their American counterparts. Support for the cultural program is provided through partnership and funding from the **National Endowment for the Arts**; the Open World Leadership Center funds the administrative portion of the program.

For more information, please contact Cassandra Hartblay, Program Coordinator, CEC ArtsLink, at (212) 643-1985 x17 or [chartblay@cecartslink.org](mailto:chartblay@cecartslink.org). To learn more about the artists mentioned here, and opportunities for artists and arts organizations administered by CEC ArtsLink, please visit [www.cecartslink.org](http://www.cecartslink.org).

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