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**RUSSIAN INTERDISCIPLINARY PERFORMANCE IN NYC AND AT JACOB'S
PILLOW**

*Leading Young Choreographers and Theatre Directors from Russia Participate in
Festival, Showcase Work in New York **Thursday, August 20th***

Four performing artists participating in a residency co-hosted by [CEC ArtsLink](#) and [Jacob's Pillow Dance](#) will present short, interactive, site-specific works at the [Storefront for Art and Architecture](#) on **Thursday, August 20th, 2009 at 6:00pm**, followed by a reception. To attend, please RSVP via [Facebook](#) or [Email](#). The visiting performers will explore the uniquely designed space at Storefront to engender an event that circumscribes contemporary dance, postmodern performance, street theater, and physical theater.

The participating artists are [Alexander Andriyashkin](#) (TSEKH Dance, Moscow), [Tatyana Luzai](#) (Derevo Physical Theater, Saint Petersburg), [Kseniya Petrenko](#) (LIQUID Theater, Chelyabinsk), and [Alekssei Zhrebtsov](#) (LIQUID Theater, Chelyabinsk), selected for the program through a competitive nomination process.

The group is comprised of two modern dance choreographers (Andriyashkin and Luzai) and two theater directors (Petrenko and Zhrebtsov) from Russia, all interested in interdisciplinary work. At Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, they will participate in a two-week Choreographers Lab session exploring the confluence of choreography and theater. They will be joined by eight U.S.-based choreographers and directors in workshops 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.

This summer, [CEC ArtsLink](#), presents its second annual Summer Dance Series of New Russian Choreography, highlighting the work of leading young choreographers from Russia. The series kicked off in June with a group of young dance choreographers on residency at the American Dance Festival, followed by

a performance at Judson Church in Manhattan (reviewed by Jack Anderson [here](#)), and continues with the August 20th event and Jacob's Pillow residency, another rare opportunity to see a new generation of Russian dance here in New York.

The 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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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.

Founded in 1982, **Storefront for Art and Architecture** is a nonprofit organization committed to the advancement of innovative positions in architecture, art and design. Our program of exhibitions, artists talks, film screenings, conferences and publications is intended to generate dialogue and collaboration across geographic, ideological and disciplinary boundaries. As a public forum for emerging voices, Storefront explores vital issues in art and architecture with the intent of increasing awareness of and interest in contemporary design.

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. To learn more about the artists mentioned here, and opportunities for artists and arts organizations administered by CEC ArtsLink, please visit www.cecartslink.org.

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