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The University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance presents En·com·pass, The Department of Dance, Master of Fine Arts Thesis Concert. En·com·pass will be presented at the Duderstadt Center Video and Performance Studio, 2281 Bonisteel Blvd. (North Campus,) one on March 25, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. and two performances on March 26, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.. The performance showcases the 2011 Master of Fine Arts in Dance candidates Jessica Bonenfant, Sean Hoskins, and Susie Thiel. The program includes three choreographic works by each of the three choreographers as well as solo performances by Hoskins and Thiel. Doors open 30 minutes before the show, and seating is limited. Admission is $5 available one hour prior to the performance. For more information contact the Department of Dance at (734)763-5461.

Jessica Bonenfant, creative director of Brooklyn-based Lola Lola Dance Theatre, presents a 25-minute work for five female performers. The work uses the medium of dance theatre and incorporates multimedia technology to evoke images that inhabit the space between dusk and nightfall, the hour when fireflies appear on a mild summer night. The work addresses concepts of exposure: emotional vulnerability, corporeal revelation and photographic processes, all framed by the multi-sensory human experience. Working from embodiment of embedded memories, photographic imagery, and fictional narratives, Bonenfant juxtaposes, superimposes and overlaps collaboratively created vignettes to create an intimate, moving and visually stunning experience.

Much of the imagery is based on travel to Paris, Montpellier and Marseille, France, and Bonenfant herself will be designing an immersive projection environment that will be populated by the moving, speaking and even singing bodies of Jillian Hopper, Isabella Ingles, Julie Learned, Molly Ross and Nola Smith. Set design by Janine Woods. The costumes will be illuminated by LED technology engineered by multi-media artist William Stanton. The sound score will collage American contemporary folk, early country, and indie rock with French chanson and pop music.

Sean Hoskins’ thesis works probe the intersections of dance and geography, directing attention to navigation, pathways and the ways we change and are changed by the spaces through which we travel. His group work Isolated Proximity focuses on individual and group identities as the dancers’ pathways overlap and
diverge to the original sound score by Justin Crowell. Crowell’s video projections add depth and a sense of place to the work.

In his solo *Faintlines*, Hoskins is both an explorer and a guide, inviting the audience on a personal journey as the shifting landscape of his body moves through the four distinct environments he creates with the help of collaborators Crowell, Kyle Kramer and Collin McRae.

Susie Thiel’s group work entitled *Deniz*, developed in response to her 2010 summer research in Istanbul Turkey, explores cross-cultural female friendships between Turkish women and herself. The work aims to present the deep connection women have regardless of language, religion, race, and cultural upbringing culminating with a folk dance that embodies culture and aspects of the dancers’ lives. Seven female dancers perform the work, with an original score by University of Michigan composer, Kelly Moran and costume design by Costume Shop Manager of University of Michigan Productions, Lynn Holbrook.

*I Draw a House, A Cloud, An Avenue and A Man With A Green Hat*, is an autobiographical solo created and danced by Thiel, that examines a romantic relationship between a man and a woman that has ended. Exploring various shades of love and conflict, the work aims to convey emotional textures presented in a non-linear narrative. Projections designed by Reed Esslinger, Master of Fine Arts student from the University of Michigan’s School for Art and Design, emerge as a backdrop to the choreography to form part of the imagery.

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