



festival of interactive physics

Toronto, Canada, May 17-21, 2006

2006
10th anniversary

Stream 1

Coexisting Forms

*with Nancy Stark Smith (dance)
and Mike Vargas (music)*

5 days

May 17-21, 2006

\$350 Canadian

Stream 2

Improvisation Towards Performance

with Nina Martin

3 days

May 19-21, 2006

\$215 Canadian



Public Performance

May 21 from 5-6:30pm

Dovehouse Dance Ballroom

\$10 at the door.

For info and registration

Contact Karen Kaeja

416.537.5153

fi@kaeja.org :: kaeja.org/FIP

Register early!! Space is limited!!

dancers:

Nancy Stark Smith, Peter Bingham

artistic directors:

Karen Kaeja, Pam Johnson

design: dwain jones design

Dovehouse Dance Ballroom and Penthouse Studios

805 Dovercourt Rd

(West of Ossington and
North of Bloor)

Register early!



torontodarts council

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Workshop Descriptions



Coexisting Forms – with Nancy Stark Smith (dance) and Mike Vargas (music)

Furthering our research into performable structured improvisation, we'll work with three independent but interconnected forms—contact improvisation, live improvised music, and a movement practice called “come as you are.” The simultaneous overlay of these three “coexisting forms” will organize our performance at the end of the workshop.

Each form will be examined individually. We'll refresh and refine our practice of contact improvisation through essential skills and extended periods of dancing. Detailed listening practice will strengthen our perception of sound and music. We will also experiment with “come as you are,” a movement structure that invites precise and unadorned embodiment of changing states. Then, combining the forms, we'll use Mike's “86 aspects of composition” to focus and evaluate our improvisations.

We'll investigate coexistence on three levels—between individual dancers, between movement forms, and between the dance and the music. Alone, in and out of contact, in silence and with live music, we'll study changes of state, natural composition, presence, and relationship, developing more conscious and varied relationships between what we hear and see and how we move. Come prepared to dance, listen, watch, talk, and dance some more!

Nancy Stark Smith first trained as an athlete and gymnast, leading her to modern and postmodern dance in the early 1970s, greatly influenced by the Judson Church Dance Theater breakthroughs of the 1960s in NYC. She danced in the first performances of contact improvisation in 1972 and has since been central in its development as dancer, performer, teacher, organizer, and writer/publisher. She travels throughout the world teaching and performing contact and other dance improvisation work, collaborating with many favorite partners and performance-makers over the years including Steve Paxton, Julyen Hamilton, Karen Nelson, Andrew Harwood, and most recently, musician Mike Vargas. In 1975 she cofounded Contact Quarterly, an international journal of dance and improvisation, which she continues to coedit and produce. She lives in western Massachusetts, USA.

Mike Vargas began playing music in 1959. His curiosity and love of collaboration have led him through many contexts and cultures, from cocktail lounges in Indonesia to New York's Lower East Side, from cancer wards to the Kennedy Center. Since 1980 he has been composing, performing nationally and internationally, teaching music and improvisation, creating well over 100 commissioned dance scores, and presenting his music in concert and on CDs. He has taught at universities across the USA and has participated regularly at numerous festival such as the Bates Dance Festival and Tanzsommer Innsbruck. For the last 7 years he has been teaching and performing with Nancy Stark Smith.



Improvisation Toward Performance – Nina Martin

This workshop is for those interested in Improvisation as a performance art and who intend to include improvisation in future performance work. Participants need a moderate to high level of improvisational skill and a strong curiosity about turning this skill into a sophisticated and integral performance ability. All participants work towards a final performance.

Since 1976, **Nina Martin** has been a dedicated force in the development of postmodern dance as a performer, choreographer, organization builder, and teacher.

As a performer, Martin toured nationally as a member of David Gordon's Pick Up Company and New York based Channel Z. Martin also danced with Steve Paxton in “Beyond the Mainstream,” a production of the PBS Dance in America series.

As a choreographer, Martin founded Nina Martin/Performance, which she directed from 1979-1994.

Martin's work has been produced in New York City at PS 122, Dance Theater Workshop, Danspace,

Creative Time, Movement Research, and La Mama ETC. Her work has been produced across the US, Europe, South America and Russia. She has received support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Jerome Foundation and the New York State Council on the Arts.

As an organization builder, Martin served as a board member for Movement Research, a major resource for new innovations in dance. Martin co-founded the New York Dance Intensive, a unique full-time postmodern performance training program. After moving to San Diego, Martin spearheaded Lower Left as a teaching and performance collective.

As a teacher, Martin has secured a loyal following of students, through her classes in composition, Rewire/States Work, contact improvisation, Hamilton Floor Barre and other approaches to dancing. Nina has taught at universities in the US, Europe and Amsterdam's School for the Development of New Dance. She is also a featured teacher at many festivals including the Seattle Festival for Alternative Dance, Dance Weeks in Vienna, the International Summer School of Dance Tokyo and the International Festival of Movement Dance in Yaroslavl, Russia.