



***Brainstorm* Symposium Explores Creative Thinking**
David Kirsh, Scott deLahunta, Philip Barnard, Robert Whitman,
Elizabeth Streb, and Michael Gordon to Participate
Tuesday, April 12, 2011
Alexander Kasser Theater

March x, 2011—Montclair State University's Office of Arts and Cultural Programming will present ***Brainstorm***, a symposium exploring concepts of creative thinking on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at the Alexander Kasser Theater. Presenters include leaders in creative research and choreographic, performance, and visual arts exploring cognitive tools for accessing creativity and how barriers can be broken through the creative process. Highlighted will be the development of Choreographic Thinking Tools by the R-Research component of Wayne McGregor | Random Dance. This event is free and open to the public, with particular appeal to those interested in creativity and the creative process as it is realized through the arts, science, and education.

Brainstorm will include presentations by David Kirsh, professor of Cognitive Science at the University of California, San Diego; Scott deLahunta, R-Research director for Wayne McGregor | Random Dance; and Philip Barnard, program leader of the Medical Research Council's Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit in Cambridge. The event will conclude with a panel discussion and question and answer session with performance/visual artist Robert Whitman, choreographer Elizabeth Streb, and composer Michael Gordon discussing intuitive creative thinking and the mental processes behind each artist's creative output.

According to Jedediah Wheeler, Executive Director of Montclair State University's Office of Arts and Cultural Programming: "Art and Science have a natural synergy that is most evident in the purpose of our symposium. *Brainstorm* reflects my belief that art is universal and shares interests with other disciplines, helping people with divergent goals find common ground."

Brainstorm was developed as part of the 2010 Creative Campus Innovations Grant awarded to Montclair State University. The grant program is made possible by the Association of Performing Arts Presenters, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Brainstorm is free and open to the public. Tickets will be issued on a first come, first serve basis. Free shuttle bus service is available from NYC. Tickets are available online at www.peakperfs.org or by calling the Peak Performances box office at 973-655-5112.

Montclair State University

Montclair State offers the advantages of a large university -- a comprehensive undergraduate curriculum with a global focus, a broad variety of superior graduate programs through the doctoral level, and a diverse faculty and student body -- combined with a small college's attention to students. montclair.edu.

Schedule of Events
Tuesday, April 12, 2011; 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Montclair State University ● Alexander Kasser Theater

Dance Engaging Science (1:00 p.m.)

David Kirsh, professor of Cognitive Science at UC San Diego

In collaboration with Wayne McGregor/Random Dance and using Random Dance rehearsals as a case study, Kirsch explores such questions as how dancers use their bodies to think, how memory is distributed across a group, and the differences between directions conveyed through speech, sounds, touch, gesture, and body movement.

Tools for the Imagination (2:15 p.m.)

Scott deLahunta, R-Research director for Wayne McGregor/Random Dance

Philip Barnard, program leader, Medical Research Council's Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, Cambridge, UK

Arts researcher deLahunta and cognitive psychologist Barnard apply insights from science to the creative process developed in collaboration with choreographer Wayne McGregor. They will discuss the development of Choreographic Thinking Tools in application with professional dancers from Wayne McGregor | Random Dance and in other contexts, including students at Montclair State.

Thinking Out Loud (3:15 p.m.)

Michael Gordon, composer

Elizabeth Streb, choreographer

Robert Whitman, performance/visual artist

Artists and researchers offer perspectives on thinking tools in the context of the creative process and engage with leading creators in the fields of dance, performance and visual art, and music, to probe the mental processes behind intuitive creative expression.