

SEÁN CURRAN COMPANY

Artistic director **Seán Curran**
Associate artistic director **Elizabeth Coker Girón**
Dancers **Rebecca Arends**
Evan Copeland
Elizabeth Coker Girón
David Gonsier
Tony Guglietti
Shane Dennis Rutkowski
Rachel Salzman
Lighting designer & technical director **Joe Doran**
Company tour manager **E. John Pendleton**
Exclusive representation **IMG Artists**
President, Curran Events, INC. **Gabrielle Gossner**

PROGRAM

Metal Garden (2001)

Choreography by **Seán Curran**
Original score by **Tigger Benford** and **Peter Jones**
(music available at joneschord.com)
Lighting design **Phillip Sandstrom**, recreated by **Joe Doran**
Performed by **The Company**

Metal Garden is a post-modern romp of a response to the improvised jazz score for metallic percussion and prepared piano by Tigger Benford and Peter Jones. The shimmering piece draws on movement as disparate as traditional Balinese and Indonesian dance to American musical theater forms. A dance for three couples and one outsider/leader, *Metal Garden* is as much about performing for a crowd as it about showing off for one another.

Hard Bargain (2010)

Choreography by **Seán Curran**
Music by **George Fredric Handel**, sung by **David Daniels**
Lighting design **Joe Doran**
Performed by **Rebecca Arends** or **Tony Guglietti**, **Evan Copeland** or **Elizabeth Coker Girón**, **David Gonsier** or **Rachel Salzman**, and **Shane Rutkowski**

Hard Bargain is a danced conversation between four individuals with differing opinions and agendas. The implied narrative escalates to an aggressive, slapstick danced argument culminating in a quartet who have to agree to disagree. An abstract visual gestural language combined with a robust and athletic way of moving shows us four dancer/diplomats at work and at play.

Social Discourse (2007)

Choreography by **Seán Curran**
Music by **Thom Yorke**
Lighting design **Joe Doran**
Performed by **Rebecca Arends**, **Evan Copeland**, **Elizabeth Coker Girón**, **David Gonsier**, **Shane Rutkowski**, and **Rachel Salzman**

Social Discourse is a contemporary urban folk dance for six dancers who individually solve the formal compositional problem of trying to move like the letter "S" turning its self inside out. A series of virtuosic and fast partnering duets is followed by a fluid use of space and movement in a dance of spatial counterpoint, and a soloist uses accumulated material to solve an elegant math problem. Finally we see a resolution to this abstract painterly dance with a double trio in an explosion of color energy.

Commissioned by: The Bessie Schönberg/First Light Commissioning and Creative Residency Program of Dance Theater Workshop with support from the Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the Jerome Robbins Foundation, and The College of St. Benedict (St. Joseph, MN).

Seán Curran Company's performances are made possible in part, with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, Altria Group, Inc., and The O'Donnell Green Foundation.

Seán Curran thanks the dancers for their collaboration in the creation of these dances.

For tour information, please contact:

R. Michael Blanco
Project Director—DanceMotion USASM
BAM
30 Lafayette Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11217

Tel + 1.718.623.7817



BAM



SEÁN CURRAN COMPANY

Seán Curran Company “When I see something good that reminds me what dancing can be at its most basic, I’m faint with pleasure,” hailed Deborah Jowitz in *The Village Voice* after seeing the Seán Curran Company in performance. The company has been pleasing audiences since it began in 1997. Known for his wit, intelligence, ingenuity, and uncanny physical humor, Seán Curran successfully blends a myriad of influences into a purely original style. The company’s first major commission came in 1997 from Celebrate Brooklyn for the piece *Folk Dance for the Future*. Until then, Curran, who took traditional Irish step dancing lessons as a child, had resisted using his Irish voice in the pieces he created. *Folk Dance for the Future* marked the beginning of Curran incorporating his Irish background into his choreography. With the 1999 National Dance Project commission by the Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, the company achieved national prominence, and has since been commissioned by the Joyce Theater, the New Victory Theater, Dance Theater Workshop, Danspace Project at St. Mark’s Church, Symphony Space, the 92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Project, and Central Park Summerstage, among many others. Seán Curran Company’s newest work, *Left Exit*, premiering in 2010 at the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Notre Dame, examines spirituality, faith, and religion, illuminating the common desire for significance and purpose in one’s life. The company was recently awarded a National Dance Project grant for the creation and touring of *Even Here*, a collaboration with the Grammy Award-winning Kings Singers of the United Kingdom.

Seán Curran (artistic director) began his dance training with traditional Irish step dancing as a young boy in Boston, MA. He went on to make his mark on the dance world as a leading dancer with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company. He received a New York Dance and Performance (“Bes-sie”) Award for his performance in *Secret Pastures*. A graduate and full-time faculty member of New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, Curran was an original member of the New York City cast of the Off-Broadway percussion extravaganza *Stomp*, performing in the show for four years. He has performed his solo evening of dances at venues throughout the United States as well as at Sweden’s Danstation Theatre and France’s EXIT Festival. Theater projects for Curran include productions of *Much Ado About Nothing* and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* for the Shakespeare Theater, the 20th-anniversary production of *Nixon in China* and Street Scene at Opera Theater of St. Louis; choreography for the New York City Opera productions of *L’Etoile*, *Alcina*, *Turandot*, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, *Capriccio*, and *Acis and Galatea*; the Playwrights Horizons’ production of *My Life with Albertine*; and Shakespeare in the Park’s *As You Like It*. He made his Metropolitan Opera debut choreographing *Romeo and Juliette*. He directed *Salome* for Opera Theatre of St. Louis, San Francisco Opera, Opera de Montreal, and San Diego Opera, and most recently directed *Daughter of the Regiment* for Opera Theatre of St. Louis. Curran’s work has also appeared on Broadway in James Joyce’s *The Dead* for Playwrights Horizons, and *The Rivals* and *Cymbeline* at Lincoln Center Theater. He has created works for Trinity Irish Dance Company, ABT II, Denmark’s Upper Cut Company, Sweden’s Skånes Dance Theater, Irish Modern Dance Theatre, Ririe Woodbury Dance Theater, and Dance Alloy, as well as for numerous college and university dance departments. Curran has taught extensively at the American Dance Festival, Harvard Summer Dance Center, Bates Dance Festival, and Boston’s Conservatory of Music. *Irish American Magazine* selected

Curran as one of its “Top 100.” He has also been awarded several Choreographer’s Fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts. Happiest when making new work or performing, Curran continues to be an ambassador for the art of dance by building and educating the dance audiences of tomorrow.

Elizabeth Coker Girón (associate artistic director, dancer) trained at the Washington School of Ballet and the Ballet Nacional de Cuba before joining the Washington Ballet for several seasons. She has been a member of the Seán Curran Company since 2006, and its associate artistic director since 2009. Girón also creates work and performs with Ana Isabel Keilson. Elizabeth graduated summa cum laude/Phi Beta Kappa from Columbia University with a degree in psychology and dance and earned an MA from Teachers College of Columbia University in biobehavioral science. She is currently a doctoral student at Teachers College, researching uses of motor imagery by dancers. She has appeared with and/or assistant choreographed for Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Opera de Montreal, San Diego Opera, El Paso Opera, and Yale Repertory Theatre. She teaches, lectures, and sets repertory across the country.

Joe Doran (lighting designer/technical director) has worked with Armitage Gone! Dance, HT Chen and Dancers, Gabrielle Lansner and Co., and Martha Graham Dance Company, among others. He is the producing artistic director and resident designer of Equilateral Theatre Company, a nonprofit organization he founded in 2004. He recently designed an adaptation of *The Tempest* starring Olympia Dukakis for the Alpine Theatre Project. Regionally, Doran has designed for Historic Swift Creek Mill Theatre and Richmond VA’s Festival of the Arts at Dogwood Dell. He is the 2008 and 2009 recipient of the Richmond Theatre Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Lighting Designer. He is an artistic member of Resonance Ensemble in New York, a graduate of North Carolina School of the Arts, and a member of United Scenic Artists Local 829. joedorandesign.com.

E. John Pendleton (tour manager) worked in tourism as group leader and interpreter in the former Soviet Union. He started his career in the performing arts as a touring manager and interpreter for Russian performing groups in the United States which led to a position as company manager with Pacific Northwest Ballet in Seattle. Pendleton works every year at the Edinburgh International Festival and also works as a freelance company and tour manager for performing arts groups such as the Bolshoi Opera, Ballet and Orchestra; St. Petersburg Philharmonic; Moscow State Symphony; Hamburg Ballet; and Paris Opera Ballet.

Rebecca Arends (dancer) holds a BA in history and Afro-American studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Arends attended the Ailey School under the direction of Denise Jefferson and was awarded the Oprah Winfrey Foundation Fellowship. Arends dances with the Seán Curran Company and has helped teach Seán Curran repertory at the Ailey School/Fordham University as well as NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts. Other select New York performance credits include *ROSARIO*, Judith Jamison’s *Divining*, Alvin Ailey’s *Memoria* with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Tino Sehgal’s *Kiss* at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. Most recently, she played Anybodys in the El Paso Opera’s *West Side Story*. Arends is also a member of the Screen Actors Guild and has been featured in commercials, print ads, and voice overs.



SEÁN CURRAN COMPANY

Evan Copeland (dancer) was born in Framingham, MA, raised in Camp Hill, PA. Copeland grew up dancing at the Wevodau Dance Center. He continued his training at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts where he received his BFA in dance and got to briefly study abroad at the Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance. He went on to work with the Seán Curran Company. Copeland has also worked with Kyle Abraham/AIM, Wendy Blum, Stephen Koplowitz, Brook Notary, and Elke Rindfleisch. He is involved with the Circle Rules Football Federation created by Greg Manley. Copeland began working with Shen Wei Dance Arts in 2008. He is thrilled to work with the Seán Curran Company on this project.

David Gonsier (dancer) was born and raised in New York City. He came late to the dance world, starting his training while studying philosophy at Skidmore College. Since graduating and returning to New York he has trained at the Paul Taylor and Alvin Ailey schools, as well as with a great many wonderful teachers and choreographers. He has toured the US, Europe, and Asia performing in modern dance concerts, opera productions, and musicals.

Tony Guglietti (dancer) received his BFA in dance from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Upon graduation he became a founding member of the Seán Curran Company, performing from 1997 to 2004. As well as dancing with SCC, Guglietti has had the privilege of working and dancing with Peter Pucci, Brian Brooks Moving Company, Ben Munisteri, and has also preformed on stage

with New York City Opera and the Metropolitan Opera. He is currently the dance director of the Pomfret School's dance program (Pomfret, CT). He also has taught at schools throughout the northeast including Harvard University, Roger Williams University, Adelphi University, and the Groton School. Guglietti also holds seven scoring records for the NYU hockey team and is currently a Division I ice hockey referee. He thanks Curran and his amazing company for the opportunity to come back and perform again.

Shane Rutkowski (dancer) graduated with honors from Fordham University Lincoln Center. Credits include: Seán Curran Company, Alison Chase Performance, *Tap Kids*, and *Step Up 2: The Streets*. When not on stage he teaches at Steps on Broadway. For more visit: Shanewho.info

Rachel Salzman (dancer) was born and raised in New York City, where she trained at the School of American Ballet and at the Paul Taylor School. She has worked with CorbinDances, Ramon Oller, LottDance, and Jody Sperling/Time Lapse. Also a circus artist, Salzman performs her own choreography on aerial hoop, silk, and hammock as well as a fusion of dance, hand-balancing, and contortion. She performs regularly in New York and London for the Box, Floating Kabarette, and Hiro Ballroom, among others. Recently she was part of the American exhibition at the Venice Biennale performing a 17-minute acrobatic solo on a replication of a first-class airline seat.

For touring information contact:

IMG Artists
Carnegie Hall Tower
152 West 57th Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10019
Tel: 212.994.3500
artistsny@imgartists.com

CONTRIBUTE TO SEÁN CURRAN COMPANY

Seán Curran Company relies on the support of institutions and individuals from across the country to sustain its work. Please consider making a gift to Seán Curran Company to help advance these creative endeavors. Gifts may be directed to: Curran Events, Inc., 21 First Avenue #18, New York, NY 10003. Seán Curran Company (Curran Events, Inc.) is a non-profit organization as defined under Section 501(c)(3), and all contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent as allowed by law. Your gift will be acknowledged.

Thank you for your support.



SEÁN CURRAN COMPANY

ABOUT DANCEMOTIONUSASM

Examining, sharing, and exploring the American modern dance experience with international audiences, DanceMotion USASM is a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the US Department of State, produced by BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music).

From March to June 2012, four dance companies are making month-long tours, each to a different region of the world: Rennie Harris Puremovement (Egypt, Israel, Palestinian Territories—West Bank); Seán Curran Company (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan); Jazz Tap Ensemble (Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe); and Trey McIntyre Project (China, Korea, Philippines, Vietnam).

US Embassies are partnering with leading cultural, social service, and community-based organizations and educational institutions to host unique residencies that create opportunities for engagement and exchange. Public performances are complemented by master classes, lectures, demonstrations, workshops, media outreach, and exchanges with in-country artists. In an effort to connect broadly and vitally, special outreach is being made to disadvantaged and underserved youth. Educational and contextual materials further extend the scope of the project. Visit DanceMotionUSA.org

PARTNERS

US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs promotes mutual understanding between the United States and other countries through international educational and exchange programs. Through its Cultural Programs Division, the Bureau supports a variety of cultural exchange programs that support US foreign policy, foster America's artistic excellence, and demonstrate America's respect and appreciation for other cultures and traditions.

BAM's mission is to be the home for adventurous artists, audiences, and ideas, engaging both global and local communities. Its enduring purpose is to provide a distinctive environment in which its audiences may experience a broad array of challenging and enriching cultural programs. Based in Brooklyn, New York, BAM is the oldest performing arts center in the USA and celebrates its 150th anniversary through 2012. Visit BAM.org

MADE POSSIBLE BY

A PROGRAM OF



PRODUCED BY



ADDITIONAL MAJOR SUPPORT PROVIDED BY

J.P.Morgan



ROBERT
STERLING
CLARK
FOUNDATION

