

LinksHall3030

Chicago's Center for Independent Dance
and Performance Arts

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Links Hall's Artistic Associates Rachel Damon and Dan Mohr present *collision_theory*

Chicago, IL – Links Hall 2009-2010 Artistic Associates, **Rachel Damon** and **Dan Mohr** present *collision_theory*. On the heels of their own year-long voice/movement collaboration *Stridulate*, Mohr and Damon are excited to present a series of similar music/movement collaborations. Fueled by a desire to undermine the prevailing preconceptions of “accompaniment” and the primacy of one discipline over the other in collaborations between musicians and movement practitioners, *collision_theory* seeks to incubate a performance environment for novel — and largely unpremeditated — meetings between notable improvising sound and movement artists. When music and movement meet one usually has primacy over the other - music "accompanies" dance, one might happen to dance while attending a music event. *collision_theory* seeks to subvert this paradigm. The *collision_theory* series premieres Monday, October 12, 2009 at 7:30pm featuring devotional trio **Pillars & Tongues** and movement artist **Asimina Chremos**. *collision_theory* musicians and dancers collide the second Monday of each month at 7:30pm, October 2009 through June 2010. Tickets are \$12 for general admission and \$10 for students and seniors. All collisions will take place at Links Hall, located at 34335 N. Sheffield on the second floor in Chicago, IL 60657. For more information call **773.281.0824**, or purchase tickets online at www.linkshall.org.

ancillary, 'wallpaper' status. Curating the series affords me an opportunity to see artists whom I admire from both disciplines performing together on a level plane—and to share that experience with a unique audience of dance, music, and improvisation enthusiasts alike. This is very exciting," says Dan Mohr.

Witness dance and music as an active chemical reaction on November 11, 2009 with Pittsburgh bred prepared piano and electronics duo **Technical Drawings** and movement artists **Darrell Jones** and **Kirstie Simson**. Critically acclaimed 'drone' collective **DRMWPN** mesh with dancers **Julia Rae Antonick & Jonathan Meyer** on December 14, 2009.

collision_theory will be presented in three segments of three months each. The fall segment, **COLLIDE**, and the final segment, **ACTIVATE**, will be comprised of performances by curated pairings of artists. The winter segment, **ENGAGE**, will feature a voice/movement workshop by Synapse Arts Collective's Stridulate Ensemble, a “Move on Mondays” music/movement improv

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workshop, and a screening of documentation of the fall segment's performances followed by a panel discussing improvisational fusions of music and movement. The series will culminate with a weekend of performances, discussions, and workshops (*PUNCTUATE*) on June 25-27, 2010.

"This series aims to unite improvising dancers and musicians as well as their curiously segregated audiences. *collision-theory* provides an opportunity to document the rare intersection of these artists and their ephemeral craft; I look forward to preserving and learning from this series of creative collisions." ~Rachel Damon

Links Hall's Artistic Associates program is a residency program that allows Artists to curate a three-week series of performance with a few exceptions. Artistic Associates enhance the quality of our artistic programs and expand audiences for new work at Links Hall allowing the development of new project funding relationships. Each year's Artistic Associates participate on Links Hall's Programming Committee to select the subsequent year's Artistic Associates. For more information call 773.281.0824 or visit www.linkshall.org

ARTISTS' BIOS



RACHEL DAMON, PERFORMER/DESIGNER/CHOREOGRAPHER, performs, creates, designs, and manages dance and performance. She is a founding member and the Artistic Director of Synapse Arts Collective, online at www.synapsearts.com. She has performed and presented in Illinois, Minnesota, Colorado, North Carolina, and Canada, making appearances with Synapse and as a former company member of Breakbone Dance Company and the Anatomical Theatre. Rachel currently works as a Production Manager and Collaborator with Molly Shanahan/Mad Shak, and Production Manages Chicago Dancemakers Forum Lab projects with artists such as Darrell Jones, Ayako Kato, and Nadia Oussenko. Her work with Choreographer/Director Erica Mott delves into dark subjects, and she finds illumination when designing lights for contemporary and aerial dance,

video, plays by the Neo-Futurists, and shows at Links Hall where she is the Technical Director and Production Stage Manager. Rachel also teaches movement classes with the Chicago Park District through the Chicago Moving Company and is Operations Manager for Dance Chicago, the month-long international dance festival. Featured in Dance Spirit Magazine for her self-made career which bridges onstage and backstage, Rachel is a recipient of the Crosscut Grant (with her collaborator Dan Mohr), the Albert P. Weisman Memorial Foundation Award for Choreography and Direction, and was awarded a Stagecraft Apprenticeship by The American Dance Festival. While a three-time Resident Dance Lab Artist at the Chicago Cultural Center, Rachel was commissioned by Redmoon Theatre to create the critically-acclaimed *First Sound*, a voice and movement installation. Damon is a 2005 graduate of Columbia College Chicago (BA Theater Design/Production, Dance Minor).

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DAN MOHR, SINGER/COMPOSER/MUSICIAN/PERFORMER, received his BA in composition and voice from Bennington College in 2000. Through the course of his education, he studied and performed with Meredith Monk, Lynn Book, Amy Williams, Tom Bogdan, Tobias Picker, Dana Reitz, Allen Shawn and many others. He is an accomplished ensemble singer, having sung with the New Orleans Symphony Chorus, and having toured extensively with Vermont-based traditional polyphonic singing institution Northern Harmony/Village Harmony. The influence of polyphonic singing and other ethnic singing techniques can be heard in Dan's musical contributions to a myriad of theatre, dance, and film works. He has worked extensively with Split Pillow, an independent film production company in Chicago, scoring, writing, directing, and designing productions for works including *soulMaid* (2006, Ariztical Entertainment) and *The Christians* (2008, Stephen Cone, director). He has performed and collaborated in a number of theatre and dance-theatre pieces, with such notable artists as TimeOut Chicago dance editor Asimina Chremos, writer/director Brian Torrey Scott, artist/writer Mary Walling Blackburn, and songwriter Azita Youssefi. As resident artist at Links Hall in 2007, he developed *Guns, Aloe* — an evening-length one-man performance about the specious portrayal of identity on reality television. The performance spawned Dan's first solo record, also called *Guns, Aloe* (2009, DRP). As recipients of the 2008 Crosscut Grant (sponsored by Experimental Sound Studio and Links Hall), he and his collaborator Rachel Damon of Synapse Arts Collective are currently developing an evening-length ensemble performance exploring compositional fusions of the voice and the moving body entitled *Stridulate: Hybrid Forms in Voice & Movement*.

Dan plays with an assortment of bands and ensembles, including critically acclaimed Chicago trance-drone collective DRMWPN (Dreamweapon), Relaxation Record, and Box of Baby Birds. He is currently writing his second record, *If You Let People Walk All Over You, Do You Become a Place?*

Links Hall encourages artistic innovation and public engagement by maintaining a facility and providing flexible programming for the research, development and presentation of new work in the performing arts.

Links Hall is located at 3435 N. Sheffield Avenue, Chicago, IL 60657—convenient to the BROWN & RED line stop at Belmont and RED line Addison stop in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood. For more information call 773.281.0824 or visit www.linkshall.org

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