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ROSY SIMAS DANSE MAKES CHICAGO DEBUT OCT. 16–18
Multimedia Solo Explores Native American Ancestry, Heritage and Culture

CHICAGO—The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago presents the Chicago debut of Rosy Simas Danse in a mixed-media solo dance work, We Wait In The Darkness. Performances are October 16–18, 2014 at The Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago.

Simas examines her matrilineal Seneca heritage and the ways ancestry, homeland, culture and history are stored in the body and expressed in movement. In collaboration with French composer Francois Richomme, Simas creates an environment of sound, photography, video imagery and movement. Using personal metaphor and story, this new dance work engages past and future, DNA memory and invisible presences to create a personal artwork about loss, family, perseverance and home.

The Minneapolis Star Tribune writes, “Simas uses her slowly unraveling movement to reach back into time while still performing in the present… Simas delves into the collective memory of her Seneca kin as well as significant events that transformed their lives, specifically the breaking of a 1794 treaty signed by George Washington that condemned 10,000 acres of the Allegany Reservation in western New York to make way for the Kinzua Dam in Pennsylvania during the 1960s. Ancestral lands were flooded and some 700 Seneca people lost their homes. It is possible to heal the past using movement, Simas says.”

RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES
A post-performance conversation with the artist takes place Thursday, October 16, free to ticket holders. Simas also will participate in The Dance Center's FREE DanceMakers series, which features contemporary dance artists offering insight into their choreographic process, Monday, October 13, 6:30–8:30 p.m. at the American Rhythm Center, Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Ave. 3rd floor, Chicago. Preregistration is required.

ROSY SIMAS DANSE
Minneapolis based contemporary dance choreographer Rosy Simas has been creating dances and teaching for 23 years. Her choreography has been presented in Minnesota, New York, Wisconsin, California, Montréal and Vancouver. Simas values involvement in community as essential to living and art making. Simas is not only a choreographer but has held administrative and management positions in the arts and non-profits. Since 1992 she has been committed to creating opportunities for other dance makers and artists to present their work. She currently teaches Body Re-Education/Alignment Technique (Mahler/Klein) in Minneapolis, MN.

FUNDING
The Dance Center’s presentation of Rosy Simas Dance is funded, in part, by the New England Foundation for the Arts’ National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew Mellon Foundation, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

THE DANCE CENTER
The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago is the city’s leading presenter of contemporary dance, showcasing artists of regional, national and international significance. The Dance Center has been named “Chicago’s Best Dance Theatre” by Chicago magazine and “Best Dance Venue” by the Chicago Reader, and Time Out Chicago cited it as “…consistently offering one of Chicago’s strongest lineups of contemporary and experimental touring dance companies.” Programs of The Dance Center are supported, in part, by Alphawood Foundation, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince, New England Foundation for the Arts, the MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, The Irving Harris Foundation, National Performance Network (NPN) Performance Residency...
Program and the Arts Midwest Touring Fund. Additional funding is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Illinois Arts Council Agency. Special thanks to Friends of The Dance Center. For information, call 312-369-8330 or visit colum.edu/dancecenterpresents

The Dance Center’s 2014–15 season continues with Beijing Dance Theater (presented by the Harris Theater for Music and Dance in association with The Dance Center at the Harris Theater Oct. 28–29), Heidi Latsky Dance (Nov. 6–8), David Roussève/REALITY (Feb. 5–7), Chicago Dance Crash (Feb. 19–21), Shantala Shivalingappa (Mar. 5–7) and Urban Bush Women (Mar. 19–21).

**Ticket Information**
The Dance Center presents Rosy Simas Danse October 16–18, Thursday–Saturday at 8 p.m. at The Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave. Single tickets are $30. All programming is subject to change. The theatre is accessible to people with disabilities. For information, call 312-369-8330 or visit colum.edu/dancecenterpresents

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