



PRESS RELEASE

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ASZURE BARTON & ARTISTS **PREVIEW OF NEW WORK BY NATIONALLY** **ACCLAIMED CHOREOGRAPHER AT LOBERO** **"DANCEworks" CONCERTS**

- Aszure & Artists Perform Friday & Saturday, March 6 & 7, 8 p.m.
- New Work Created During One-Month DANCEworks Residency
- Highlights from Past Works Also on Concert Program
- Dancers and Observers Welcome to Four Public Masterclasses;
Open Rehearsals: Dates tba
- Download Photos at www.lobero.com/contact/press

Santa Barbara, CA, February 10, 2009 – Aszure Barton and her seven member company, Aszure & Artists, is the first choreographer and dance company to be selected for the new DANCEworks residency, created by the Lobero Theatre Foundation and SUMMERDANCE Santa Barbara. Barton holds four public masterclasses and two open rehearsals (dates tba) at the Lobero Theatre during her residency. Aszure & Artists will preview the work created here at two formal performances at the Lobero. "I am overwhelmed with joy and am honored to have the opportunity to create in a theater for four solid weeks," comments Barton. "My creative process is rooted in a celebration and respect for music and movement, and a love for collaboration with dancers, filmmakers, designers, photographers, and musicians. I look forward to sharing this process with Santa Barbara." The performances also feature the work *Blue Soup*, showcasing scenes from celebrated past creations. DANCEworks presents Aszure & Artists on Friday and Saturday, March 6 and 7, at 8 p.m.

Tickets for the March 6 and 7 performances are \$30 and \$25; \$18 for students; and are available at Lobero Theatre Box Office, online at www.lobero.com,

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by phone at (805) 963-0761, or in person at 33 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara, CA, 93101.

[Aszure Barton Comments on Residency](#)

“I had the wonderful experience of performing at the Lobero with Mikhail Baryshnikov in 2007, and with Aszure & Artists in 2005-2007,” comments Barton. “I will never forget the warm and sizzling energy that its audience offers. The Lobero is a charming, beautiful, and intimate space...a gem.

“My intention for this project is to bring together a fantastic and talented team of collaborators and create a world that is rich in dance/movement, structure, form, color, flavor, sensation, visual architecture, narrative imagery, space, and sound.

“I am interested in the inner lives of the performers, and in revealing personalities, both in their emotional and physical power. I enjoy creating dense settings, in which each player is an individual and yet all are united by a common language. My goal is to reveal and deliver the talents of my fellow collaborators and build a dynamic and engaging work based on them, as individuals and as a family.”

[Aszure Barton & Artists' Master Classes](#)

Dancers and observers are invited to public masterclasses by Aszure Barton on the Lobero stage, presented as part of the DANCEworks residency. A concise and pulsing warm-up will be followed by potent and maniacal highlights of Aszure Barton's choreographic works led by Ms. Barton and company members.

Masterclass dates and times are: Saturday, February 14 from 10:30 a.m. to noon; Sunday, February 15 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; Friday, February 20 from 6:15 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.; and Wednesday, February 25 from 6:15 p.m. to 7:45 p.m..

Preregistration for dancers is suggested as space is limited. Tickets are: \$18 dancers, \$15 SBDA members, \$8 observers and \$5 SBDA members. Pre-registration for dancers and tickets for observers are available through Santa Barbara Dance Alliance (SBDA) at 805-966-6950 or www.sbdancealliance.org.

[About Aszure Barton](#)

No stranger to the Lobero stage, Barton wowed SUMMERDANCE audiences in 2005 and with Mikhail Baryshnikov's Hell's Kitchen in 2006. Aszure Barton was born and raised in

Edmonton, Alberta. She received her formal training at the National Ballet School in Toronto where, as a student, she helped originate the ongoing Stephen Godfrey Choreographic Showcase. She also studied at The Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Alberta Ballet School, and the John Cranko Schule in Stuttgart, Germany.

She has performed internationally with many celebrated dance companies including The National Ballet of Canada, Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal, Wendy Osserman Dance Company, Mikhail Baryshnikov's Hell's Kitchen Dance, and her own Aszure Barton & Artists.

Barton has been commissioned to choreograph new works for Mikhail Baryshnikov, Fang-Yi Sheu, Sydney Dance Company, The Juilliard School, Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal, The Martha Graham Dance Company, American Ballet Theatre II, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, U.K. Laban Institute, among others.

Her choreography has been performed at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Spoleto Dance Festival, New York's City Center, The Joyce Theater, John F. Kennedy Center, Madrid's Teatro Español, Oscar Peterson Concert Hall, Studio 54, among many others. She choreographed the Broadway production of *The Threepenny Opera* starring Alan Cumming, Jim Dale, Nellie Mackay, Ana Gasteyer, and Cyndi Lauper (in a new translation by Wallace Shawn, directed by Scott Elliott).

Barton is the recipient of numerous grants and awards from across North America and overseas, and has choreographed numerous international film projects in collaboration with distinguished filmmakers Daniel Conrad and Kevin Freeman.

She was recently designated a Paul D. Fleck Fellow at The Banff Centre, she is the Resident Choreographer for Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal and an Artist-in-Residence at the Baryshnikov Arts Center (BAC).

“Ms. Barton is audacious,” says the *New York Times*. “Barton is clearly brilliant,” adds the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

[About DANCEworks](#)

DANCEworks, is a groundbreaking new partnership between SUMMERDANCE Santa Barbara and the Lobero Theatre Foundation offering artistic freedom to nationally recognized choreographers to create a new work during a one-month creative residency (February 8 to March 8, 2009) at the Lobero Theatre. Santa Barbara and the Southern California community have unusual access to the company's ongoing work during masterclasses and open rehearsals.

This innovative residency culminates these public performances of works from the choreographer's existing repertoire and a preview of the new work.

"Each residency will be designed according to the needs of the artists in residence," says Dianne Vapnek, SUMMERDANCE Executive Director and Artistic Director for DANCEworks. "There are no stipulations on what is to be produced, only that the public can be a witness to the work created here. This is unheard-of in dance commissioning."

"The Lobero Foundation has made a three-year commitment to this project and we are confident that we will be able to sustain DANCEworks into the future," notes Lobero Executive Director David Asbell. Though the Lobero will offer other performances during the residency period, the resident artists will have ample time on stage. "We have a schedule to provide the stage to DANCEworks when it is not in use," adds Asbell.

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DANCEworks is supported by Dianne and Daniel Vapnek, the Lobero Theatre Foundation, the Towbes Family Endowment for Dance, the Towbes Foundation, the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission and individuals. Additional support comes from The Franciscan Inn, Santa Barbara Dance Alliance and the Santa Barbara Independent.

Calendar Editors, please note:

Friday, March 6, 8 p.m.

Saturday, March 6, 8 p.m.

Lobero Theatre

DANCEworks presents

Aszure & Artists

Celebrated New York choreographer presents highlights from past productions and preview of new work created during month-long DANCEworks residency.

Tickets: \$25, \$30; \$18 students. Lobero Box Office, (805) 963-0761, www.lobero.com, 33 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101