

Inventive dancer-illusionists Momix to create surreal imagery April 25 in Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD

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Media Contact: Ruth Baily at University Events, (619) 534-0497, rbaily@ucsd.edu or

Jan Jennings, (619) 822-1684, jjennings@ucsd.edu

INVENTIVE DANCER-ILLUSIONISTS MOMIX TO CREATE SURREAL IMAGERY APRIL 25 IN MANDEVILLE AUDITORIUM AT UCSD

Momix, a company of dancer-illusionists whose performance is praised by the Dallas Morning News as "one of the most inventive and fascinating creations ever hatched by anyone," will perform at 8 p.m. April 25 in Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

It's "a combination of dream, magic, light show and hymn to the glories of the human body," the Dallas paper continues.

The Washington Post calls Momix "a grown-up fantasy world of the best bodies, the neatest toys and a magician('s) sleight of hand."

Moses Pendleton is Momix founder, director and choreographer. The ensemble dancers include Timothy Acito, Brian Simerson, Suzanne Lampl, Claire Kaplan and Charlaine Katsuyoshi.

A 1971 cofounder of Pilobolus Dance which rose to world-wide acclaim in the 1970s for its innovative blend of acrobatics and imagination, Pendleton began expanding his artistic endeavors and in 1980 choreographed the closing ceremonies for the Winter Olympics at Lake Placid. He choreographed and performed a solo, Momix, which in 1984 became the name of today's five-member dance company under his direction.

Adjectives used to describe Momix dancers and dances include inventive, surreal, magical, breathtaking, inspiring, seductive, acrobatic, astonishing, passionate, fearless, wacky, wild, wonderful and an exclamatory WOW! They use props, light, shadow, humor and most importantly, the seeming elasticity of the human body to create the Pendleton-inspired world of surrealistic images.

"Pendleton has the same skewed viewpoint as his cohorts that everything under the sun is fodder for a dance," writes the Boston Herald, "and he is unencumbered by anything as expected as studio technique ... The fun of Momix lies in its childlike air of wonder, in addition to a large dose of irreverence."

Pendleton's resume includes choreography and/or performing for the Paris Opera Ballet, the Joffrey Ballet, Milan's La Scala Opera, the Berlin Opera; an ABC production, Moses Pendleton presents Moses Pendleton; an appearance in Julian Lennon's video, Too Late for Goodbyes; directing a television special from the Bologna Festival broadcast to 55 countries; choreography for the film FX II, and costarring in the International Emmy Award-winning, Best Performing Arts Special, Pictures at an Exhibition.

The Momix ensemble has performed throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, South America, Australia and Japan. It participated in the Homage to Picasso in Paris and is featured in one of the first IMAX films in 3-D, Imagine. It represented the U.S. at the European Cultural Center at Delphi and was featured in PBS's Dance in America series.

An integral part of the Momix performance aesthetic, according to Newsday, is danger. "Will that hoop drop? Will that bunk tilt? Will those revolving poles slam into the heads of the dancers underneath? They won't. The Momix dancers are incredibly strong, remarkably trained, utterly fearless. And oh, by the way ... beautiful."

Beautiful, and with a "do-it-yourself creativity," says the New York Times. "It is, in fact, easy to see the work of Momix as choreography for those who hate choreography. Whatever you call it, Momix has always brought down the house."

Tickets for Momix are \$20 general admission, \$17 for faculty, staff and senior citizens, and \$15 for students. Tickets are available at the UCSD Box Office, 534-8497, and at Ticketmaster outlets at 220-8497. The performance is sponsored by the UCSD University Events Office. For information on the entire season of events sponsored by the University Events Office, visit the website, <http://ueo.ucsd.edu>, or call the UCSD University Events Office at 534-4090.

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