



Contact:  
Amanda Cooke  
Operations Assistant  
amanda@wellspringdance.org  
269/342-4354

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Wellspring's Dance Forum: Celebrating 25 Years**

KALAMAZOO, MI – Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers proudly presents the 25<sup>th</sup> annual *Dance Forum*, February 20 & 21 at 8pm and February 22 at 2pm.

What began as an open, relaxed performance opportunity twenty-four years ago has evolved into a juried event, which is now a professional dance concert. The *Dance Forum* is a wonderful opportunity for local and regional choreographers, allowing them to network with other dancers, take a free Master Class (which is open to the public), and perform their work in the beautiful Wellspring Theater. *Dance Forum* is coordinated by Wellspring's Artistic Associate Michael Miller and features original and experimental choreography by guest artists, including college/university dance students and faculty, and highly acclaimed dancers from the regional community.

This year's featured guest artist is Tammy Metz Starr of Ohio. Ms. Metz Starr will return for her second *Dance Forum* to showcase two pieces of original choreography. She will dance in both pieces, along with two dancers in "Pennies from Heaven" and three dancers in "The Moment/Wind unseen". Ms. Metz Starr investigates Asian movement forms to inform the textures of her performance and choreography in contemporary dance. In addition to concert and gallery performance, she maintains a consistent record of educational performance and teaching of Korean dance, Balinese dance, tai ch'i ch'uan and butoh improvisation.

"After seeing the work that Tammy brought to last year's *Dance Forum*, there was no question that she should come back as the featured artist," Mr. Miller said, "Her style is unique and something new to the Kalamazoo dance community. We couldn't be happier that she will be back this year!"

Other choreographers include Shawn T. Bible of Grand Valley State University and stbdance, Michael McDonald and Edgar Page, both of whom choreographed pieces for Western Michigan University's Western Dance Project, Kristen Berger of Rustic Groove Dance Company in Jackson, Matthew Farmer of Jackson Dance Alliance, Bill Wade of Inlet Dance Theatre in Ohio, and Erin Mitchell of Virginia.

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## Wellspring Presents Dance Forum

The *Dance Forum* will take place in the Wellspring Theater at the Epic Center February 20 and 21 at 8 pm and February 22 at 2 pm. Tickets are \$15 general admission / \$10 with student ID / Free for children ages 5 and younger on February 20-21. Wellspring will offer the popular Pay-What-You-Can discount on Sunday, February 22. Bring your friends and family to the matinee show and pay what you can! Wellspring asks for a minimum donation of just \$5 per ticket (\$20 value). Tickets can be purchased by calling 269-387-2300, going online to [www.millerauditorium.com](http://www.millerauditorium.com), or visiting the Community Box Office at the Epic Center or Miller Auditorium. Ms. Metz Starr will hold a Master Class, which is open to the public, on February 21 from 12-1:30pm. The class is free, however, pre-registration is required. Call 269/342-4354 or email [wellspring@wellspringdance.org](mailto:wellspring@wellspringdance.org) to reserve your spot.

The *Dance Forum* is sponsored by Bronson Healthcare Group, and is supported in part by the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Mr. Miller, Wellspring's Artistic Associate, has been coordinating the *Dance Forum* for fourteen years. He has been teaching, choreographing and performing with Wellspring since 1991. He began his movement studies as a competitive gymnast in Royal Oak and went on to explore music and dance at Western Michigan University. He taught Modern and Jazz dance technique at the university from 1992-2000. In 1995, he received an Irving S. Gilmore Foundation Emerging Artist Grant to study with the Joe Goode Performance Group in San Francisco, and in 2000, he received the grant again to study with Jan Erkert at Columbia College in Chicago. Since 2001, he has been working and performing with Wendy Rodgers' *Choreographics* in the San Francisco Bay Area and New York City on site-specific works. From 2007-2008, Michael choreographed and performed with slam poetry duo Kinetic Affect. When away from Wellspring, Mr. Miller also works at Kalamazoo Public Library and Main St. Café.

Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers is west Michigan's only professional modern dance company. Founded in 1981 by dancer and choreographer Cori Terry, Wellspring presents performances featuring works choreographed by Ms. Terry, company members, and guest artists.

This extraordinary company of poetic and athletic dancers is committed to revealing the language of modern dance to adults and children alike. Critics have called Wellspring's work *dramatic, impassioned, seamless, compelling, exuberant, and life affirming*.

Located in the Wellspring Theater in downtown Kalamazoo's Epic Center, Wellspring offers performances, classes and outreach programs sharing the art form of modern dance. Each year, the organization's outreach and education programs serve an estimated 2,000 participants made up of children, their families, and those with special needs.

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