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**NEWS RELEASE**

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Oct. 2, 2009

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**‘MEET THE ARTIST’ EVENT BRINGS CHOREOGRAPHER BEBE MILLER TO UM  
MISSOULA —**

Renowned choreographer Bebe Miller will be featured Thursday, Oct. 15, at a University of Montana School of Theatre & Dance “Meet the Artist” presentation.

Miller will present “The Indirect Path from Here to There – Dance Making While Thinking” at 5 p.m. in Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center Room 005. The event is free and open to the public.

Miller has choreographed dances for more than 25 years. To further a process of group inquiry, she formed Bebe Miller Company in 1985. As she continues a line of exploration of the visceral, unruly edges of heart and psyche that inform our day-to-day progress, her interest in finding a physical language for the human condition is a connecting thread throughout her work.

In recent years, Miller has investigated a mix of text, performance and visual presentation to expand this language, most notably in the Bessie Award-winning “Landing/Place” (2005), “Verge” (2001) and “Going To The Wall” (1998). In 1999, along with choreographer Ralph Lemon and filmmaker Isaac Julien, she completed the award-winning collaborative film “Three.”

Miller will restage her 2000 work “Prey” for UM’s “Dance in Concert” production March 3-6, 2010, in the Montana Theatre.

“Prey” is contextualized by year 2000 events including, President Bill Clinton in his second term in office; Republican and Democratic primaries ending with Republican George W. Bush,

governor of Texas, defeating John McCain; the price of gasoline soaring to an unprecedented \$2 per gallon; and ABC leading the resurgence of prime time game shows by airing "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" with host Regis Philbin coining phrases such as "Is that your final answer?"

During that time, Miller had just returned from a month in North Africa, where she was "looking at [the] postmodern sense of irony in the body and trying to come to terms with that" as well as "another way of looking at contemporary work." Miller takes the context upon which this work is based and builds a non-narrative world where the signature dancing is rich, vigorous, vulnerable, imagistic and human.

While "Prey" premiered in 2000, its premise is still significant today. The reconstruction of "Prey" is made possible by American Masterpieces: Dance, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts with Dance/USA.

For more information about the "Meet the Artist" presentation or the "Dance in Concert" production in March, call Nicole Bradley Browning at 406-243-2682 or e-mail [nicole.bradleybrowning@umontana.edu](mailto:nicole.bradleybrowning@umontana.edu).

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