



life and vitality of their own. The obfuscating solo, initially existing only in relationship to another body, became its own event.

The goal of this exercise, Peter explained, was to engage the students' movement awareness both internally and externally. Rather than creating a piece of movement and then placing it within a spatial composition, he asked them to simultaneously engage the architecture of the body as well as the architecture around it.

Peter's relationship to space permeates his work. In his notes about a recent work, *Felt Presence of and Absence*, he says, "For many years, I have reflected about the visceral, sensual quality of this thing we call 'space.' As a choreographer, I think about 'spaces' in the body as areas of movement initiation; the body itself as it moves through and occupies space; how certain structures, when placed, help to define and the movement through and in it. The act of transition, small or large, has spatial integrity."

*Felt Presence of an Absence* was commissioned by Middlebury College, where Peter is on the dance faculty, in celebration of the college's Bicentennial. The evening-length work, choreographed in collaboration with a company of undergraduate and professional alumni dancers, was performed at the Cunningham

Studio in New York this spring.

Peter is not just a choreographer, however. During his 20-year involvement in the performing arts, he's gone many places and done many things to keep food on the table. He is a longtime member of Terry Creach's all male company of dancers, Creach/Company. He is a member of a performance improvisation ensemble, and is on the faculty of an annual summer intensive workshop, Work in the Performance of

Improvisation, held on the Bennington College campus. He is also an actor who frequently appears in Middlebury College theatre productions, and performs with the Potomac Theatre Project in Washington, D.C. His other theatre credits include A.R.T. and Triangle Theatre in Boston.

He has received a Meet the Composer grant in Massachusetts and in Vermont, a Dance Umbrella commission, guest artist residency at Rhode

Island College, and a Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities Award. Peter has worked at various colleges and in numerous communities throughout the US, Europe, and New Zealand. As guest artist, Peter has taught and performed in Amsterdam, Germany, France, and Italy.

When he's in town, he lives in an efficiency apartment overlooking the Middlebury Falls. It is furnished primarily

by light, books, plants, and pictures and momentos from friends, providing a simple serenity. He is a man of wry humor and quick wit, always observing the ridiculous in himself and any situation. He is passionate, mercurial, enigmatic, unpredictable, and generous of heart and spirit.

Jennifer Ponder is the lighting designer and technical director for the Middlebury College Dance Program. ▼

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