



A PREVIEW BY JENNIFER PONDER

New York choreographer/dancer Doug Varone has been described as "that rare choreographer with a gift for expressing emotion through dance. He has a company of daredevils, profoundly human super humans who dance on a dime — wheeling, darting and slicing the air at lethal looking speeds."

In February, Doug Varone and Dancers will present an evening of emotionally gripping and highly physical work, including both the new *Sleeping with Giants* as well as signature works from the company's repertory. It's a perfect next step in Burlington's Flynn Theatre's ambitious dance season, which has seen everyone from the Moscow City Ballet to Australia's Tap Dogs.

Sleeping with Giants, about a man no longer capable of moving as fast as the world moves, is set to Michael Nyman's *Harpichord Concerto*. Nyman is the well-known composer of film scores for *The Piano* and *The Cook, the Thief, His Wife, and Her Lover*, as well as other Peter Greenaway films. During the development of this piece, Varone experimented with movement vocabularies and choreographic structures inspired by filmmaking and script-writing.

Rounding out the evening's performance are Varone's signature piece, *Rise*, a swirling energetic quartet set to John Adam's *Fearful Symmetry* from 1993, and 1998's *Bel Canto*, a hilarious, exuberant send-up of Bellini's opera *Norma*.

Preceding the arrival of the company, the Flynn is presenting a free dance lecture series: *Inside Dance with Suzanne Carbonneau*. Carbonneau is the dance critic for the *Washington Post*, and a recognized dance scholar. On Wednesday, February 2, she provides a video-illustrated overview of Western dance from ballet to postmodernism. The next evening's discussion is on "narrative and abstraction" — exploring the concept of dance as a language that can exist in a range from literal gesture to abstract evocation.

In addition to the Saturday performance, the Flynn will present a master class with members of Doug Varone and Dancers on Friday, February 4 at the UVM Dance Studio. The class, for intermediate and advanced dancers, will explore repertory, composition, and improvisation.

Finally, there will be a free pre-performance lecture/discussion with Doug Varone and Suzanne Carbonneau, Saturday, February 5, at 6:30pm at the Flynn Gallery. They will discuss the creative process, and Carbonneau will provide an overview of Varone's work.

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Doug Varone and Dancers
 Flynn Theatre, Burlington
 February 5, 2000

Inside Dance with Suzanne Carbonneau
 Fletcher Free Library, Burlington
 February 2-3, 2000

Varone/Carbonneau lecture/discussion
 Flynn Gallery, Burlington
 February 5, 2000

Master class with members of Doug Varone and Dancers
 Flynn Gallery
 February 4, 2000



They Might Be Giants

