

Lehigh Valley performance premiere

“The Cloud of Unknowing” explores the nature of uncertainty through dance

Choreography by Sarah Carlson

February 20th



The IceHouse Tonight presents “The Cloud of Unknowing”, an evening of dances exploring the human response to uncertainty at the Bethlehem Ice House on Saturday, February 20th at 8pm. Lehigh Valley-based choreographer Sarah Carlson and her company DanceLink will present a series of dances that unpack the theme of individual & collective unknowing.

Tickets are \$20/\$15 student (cash or check at the door). Group rates are available for groups of 10 and up. Reservations recommended: scdancelink@gmail.com

The Cloud of Unknowing

The program will reprise several works created in 2015 as well as a brand new group work set to live percussion by Moe Jerant and Tiffany Kent. Carlson herself will perform in three works including a solo entitled "Surrender" featuring original music by Lehigh Valley singer-songwriter Jessi Lee Ross. The program will climax with "The Cloud of Unknowing" choreographed to excerpts of Robert Kyr's hauntingly beautiful score of the same name.

"There is something inherently scary about the unknown," Carlson muses. "And try as we might, we are never truly in control." This quandary provides rich fodder for cultivating 'movement poetry', which Sarah considers her work to be. "In recent years, I've become more and more intrigued with improvisation, and what better topic to explore via improv than the unknown?" Upping the ante even further, at moments Sarah will ask her dancers to perform with their eyes closed. Dealing with uncertainty is never more captivating than when confronted in the here and now.

Benjiman Carlson, Sarah's brother, will light up the Ice House once again with his inspired designs. As a freelancer, Ben typically lights for TV & cable sports telecasts. Working with his sister allows him to return to his roots in theater where "the magic happens live". Ben's talents have been seen previously at the Ice House in DanceLink's productions of *ASCENT* (2013), *The Waiting Game* (2011) and *Spider Dance* (2009).

About the Artists:

Sarah Carlson (director) is the Founder & Artistic Director of DanceLink which seeks to bridge people, ideas & and understanding through the power of movement. Sarah danced professionally for 10 years in NYC with companies including Alexandra Beller/Dances, Brian Brooks Moving Company, Clare Byrne Dance, Paul Mosley Dance and the Metropolitan Opera Ballet. As an independent choreographer, her own work has been presented throughout the US at venues such as the Joyce Soho in NYC, On the Boards in Seattle, and The Yard on Martha's Vineyard as well as in Benin, Africa. Sarah is a co-director of the Lehigh Valley Dance Exchange & the editor of the Lehigh Valley Dance in Review. Sarah has been on the dance faculty at Muhlenberg College, DeSales University, Cedar Crest College, Lehigh University, and the University of Southern Mississippi. Sarah received a BA in French and European Studies from Connecticut College and an MFA in Dance from the University of Washington.

Benjiman Carlson (lighting designer) Theater credits include: B'way Revival Annie Get Your Gun, Regional theater: Company, Tale of Two Cities, Hamlet at the Huntington theatre in Boston, and two seasons at the Williamstown Theatre Festival. Selected TV credits include: Who Wants To Be A Millionaire, Top Chef, ESPN's SportsCenter, the World Series on FOX, The Tyra Banks Show, and the Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon. Ben graduated from the Boston University School for the Arts in 1998 with a degree in Lighting Design. This is Ben's sixth design for his sister Sarah.

About the series:

The IceHouse Tonight, a response to a growing night-life scene in downtown Bethlehem, targets the potential college-age and the "restaurant row" audiences in the center city. As an offering for evening audiences, the performance series is designed to mirror the charm, independence and sense of contemporary urban life represented by the current trends in downtown Bethlehem. The IceHouse Tonight will produce a performance schedule that projects a sense of youth and diversity by nurturing the production of new artistic works and the development of new regional arts organizations. Additionally, The IceHouse Tonight will provide a stage for collaborative and innovative programming from well-established regional arts organizations.

Sarah Carlson/DANCELINK seeks to bridge people, ideas, and expression through the power of movement. A blend of movement, stillness, stories, and play, LINK projects can take a variety of forms including community-based workshops, master classes, or proscenium and site-specific performance.

For more information, visit: www.scdancelink.org

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