



FRIENDS OF THE HIGH LINE



City of New York
Parks & Recreation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Performa 11, Friends of the High Line, and the Times Square Alliance
present
Tyler Ashley and the SARAHS in
*half-mythical, half-legendary Americanism***

**Nov 5 at 11:00 AM in Times Square
Nov 12 at 12:00 PM & Nov 14 at 5:30 PM at the High Line**

**Co-Produced with Performa 11 and Friends of the High Line
Presented by Times Square Alliance**

New York, NY, November 7, 2011 – Performa 11, Friends of the High Line and Times Square Alliance present New York-based dancer and choreographer **Tyler Ashley and the SARAHS in *half-mythical, half-legendary Americanism***, a Performa Project and an original dance-theater work that explores the world of 18th century mass sports demonstrations and 1920's Russian Constructivism through the lens of a Jane Fonda workout video.

In this piece, Ashley and his group of ten performers known as the SARAHS explore Constructivist concerns about the arrangement and power of the body in space through a unique mash-up of aerobics class clichés and a 19th century Czech “slet.” With explosive movement, live music, and audience interaction, Ashley and the SARAHS probe Constructivist preachings and design. Jane Fonda meets Rodchenko in this interactive exploration into the world of Stepanova style, Meyerhold Biomechanics, and 19th century Eastern massive sports demonstrations.

Featuring Ethan Baldwin, Hooba Booba, Sarah Donnelly, Zoe Farmingdale, Sarah Holcman, Benjamin Kimitch, Cacá Macedo, Rakia Seaborn, Kris Seto, Ashley Walters, and Theodor Wilson. Music and Sound by Theodor Wilson. Costumes by Alyssa Tang and Sole Salvo, inspired by Stepanova.

PERFORMANCE DATES:

Saturday, Nov 5 at 11:00 AM

Broadway between 46th - 47th Streets, Times Square
FREE and open to the public

Saturday, Nov 12 at 12:00 PM & Monday, Nov 14 at 5:30 PM

High Line

Performance begins on the High Line at West 16th Street and travels south toward The Standard, New York.
FREE and open to the public

About Tyler Ashley

New York-based artist Tyler Ashley (b. 1985, Canton, New York) creates theatrically charged atmospheres and sweat-provoking movement, engaging his audience in a mediated self-discovery. Ashley has had the

pleasure of working with Michael Ingle, Rakia Seaborn, and Enrico Wey. Most recently, he has performed for Walter Dundervill, Larissa Velez-Jackson, and STREB. His own work has been presented at Columbia University, New York (2010); Dixon Place, New York (2010); AUNTS, New York (2011); and Movement Research, New York (2011).

About Performa 11

Performa 11, the fourth edition of the internationally acclaimed biennial of new visual art performance presented by Performa, will be held in New York City from November 1–21, 2011. The three-week biennial will showcase new work by more than 100 of the most exciting artists working today, in an innovative program breaking down the boundaries between visual art, music, dance, poetry, fashion, architecture, graphic design, and the culinary arts. Presented in collaboration with a consortium of more than 50 arts institutions and 25 curators, as well as a network of public spaces and private venues across the city, Performa 11 will ignite New York City with energy and ideas, acting as a vital “think tank” linking minds across the five boroughs and bringing audiences together for brilliant new performances in all disciplines. For further information about Performa 11, please visit <http://11.performa-arts.org/>.

About the High Line and Friends of the High Line

The High Line is a public park built on an historic freight rail line elevated above the streets on Manhattan’s West Side. It is owned by the City of New York, and maintained and operated by Friends of the High Line. Founded in 1999 by community residents, Friends of the High Line fought for the High Line’s preservation and transformation at a time when the historic structure was under the threat of demolition. It is now the non-profit conservancy working with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation to make sure the High Line is maintained as an extraordinary public space for all visitors to enjoy. In addition to overseeing maintenance, operations, and public programming for the park, Friends of the High Line works to raise the essential private funds to support more than 90 percent of the park’s annual operating budget, and to advocate for the preservation and transformation of the High Line at the Rail Yards, the third and final section of the historic structure, which runs between West 30th and West 34th Streets. For more information about the High Line and Friends of the High Line please visit www.thehighline.org.

About Times Square Alliance and Times Square Arts

The Times Square Alliance works to improve and promote Times Square so that it retains the energy, edge and distinctiveness that have made it an icon of entertainment, culture and urban life. www.TimesSquareNYC.org. Times Square Arts presents temporary cutting-edge art and performances in multiple forms and media to the 360,000 to 500,000 daily visitors to New York City’s Times Square, making it one of the highest profile public arts programs in the United States. Since its inception, Times Square Arts has featured works by a diverse group of more than four dozen prominent and emerging artists. It is funded by the Rockefeller Foundation’s Cultural Innovation Fund, which works to spur and support cultural innovation in New York City’s creative sector; and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. For past projects, please visit www.TimesSquareNYC.org/arts.

IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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