

Maureen Fleming C O M P A N Y

An American choreographer and performance artist born in Japan, Artistic Director Maureen Fleming, has gained international recognition on five continents for a singular form of multi-disciplined performance.

“Transcends the material world and enters the realm of pure spirit . . . wondrous choreographic metamorphoses.”

- NEW YORK TIMES

Fleming invents exquisite movement poetry, sculpting her body into nearly unbelievable, shatteringly beautiful shapes. She pushes the boundaries of the body’s expressive potential and challenges the definition of what is physically possible. Part dance, part dream, part sculpture, Fleming explores our never-ending search for what is universal about the journey of the soul.



“Through my art, my goal is to reveal the transcendent through images which focus on the human body as the vehicle of transformation. I am specifically defining a universal art which touches the evolutionary traces embedded in human experience and transcends the limits of nationality and gender, placed on us all, in an aim of discovering what is truly universal about the journey of the soul and being human.”

C O N T A C T

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PROGRAMS

B. MADONNA Maureen Fleming's **B. MADONNA** features text by David Henry Hwang and music by Philip Glass (performed live by pianist Bruce Brubaker), original accordion music by Guy Klucsevsek, and Taiko drumming by Kaoru Watanabe. This beautiful, multimedia meditation on 'miracles' juxtaposes Fleming's new and repertory works with three-dimensional video projections designed by long time collaborator Christopher Odo.

"She seemed to transcend the material world and enter a realm of pure spirit . . . a wondrous choreographic metamorphosis." (*The New York Times*)

"Astounding...soul in freefall...startling brilliance." (*Minneapolis Star Tribune*)

AXIS MUNDI Fleming's critically acclaimed solo, *AXIS MUNDI*, explores through metaphorical images our search for transcendence whatever its form. Performed in Italy's Palermo di Scena International Festival in the ruin of a 1000-year old church, Spoleto, Italy's vast Teatro Nuovo and the Boston Institute of Contemporary Art, *AXIS MUNDI* is adaptable to both conventional and unconventional spaces, museums and outdoor settings. The Boston Globe selected *AXIS MUNDI* among the top 10 dance performances of the year in 2017.

"Maureen Fleming mesmerizes ... As earth goddesses go, she is the real black madonna." (*The Boston Globe*)

"Maureen Fleming brings the work out of the normal esthetic dimension of dance which does not even land in the usual theatrical narrative, but it sites it into a territory of metaphysical experience." (*La Repubblica, Italy*)

WILDFLOWERS
a feminine genesis Originally commissioned by the Ireland Fulbright Commission, The Irish Arts Council, Culture Ireland, La MaMa ETC and the Irish Arts Centre in NYC, Fleming's new multimedia creation, *WILDFLOWERS, A Feminine Genesis*, is inspired by the lush symbolism of Irish poet William Butler Yeats. Fleming's new interdisciplinary celebration of femininity combines dance and mesmerizing visual theatre in a series of "vision poems." With original live music by renowned Irish composer/violinist Colm Mac Con Iomaire and pianist Bruce Brubaker performing the music of Philip Glass, Fleming juxtaposes her singular movement with geometric moving sculptures and brilliant lighting by Christopher Odo.

"Maureen Fleming conveys more meaning in one evening than most choreographers put across in an entire career ... takes in the whold of the universe." (*The Boston Herald*)

Fleming's courage in confronting the fragile glory of the human body is exemplary, as indeed is her insistence on an artistic practice that does not shirk its responsibility to history, its intimacies and atrocities. She moves beyond the beautiful to provide a deeply moving, and ultimately redemptive response to suffering... there was a collective sense that this was one of those rare moments when human capacity reaches its limits and then goes beyond itself.

(*Solas an Léinn, Dublin*)

RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES

‘REGENERATIVE’ WORKSHOP/ MASTER CLASS: ‘DANCING THE INTERNAL BODY’

Fleming shares with us her distinctive approach to sculptural movement, distilled into a unique approach to dance. Fleming adds alchemy and vocalization to the traditional dance techniques of strength, flexibility, and balance. In a disciplined way, she expertly guides to the deepest creative core, helping students to discover and reveal the transcendent that resides in physical form, allowing them to dance the internal body. Using the human body as the vehicle of personal transformation, Fleming teaches students to utilize subtle movement and vocal exercises to reach the internal body. She teaches core exercises to initiate movement from the innermost layer of muscles in the body; visual metaphors to challenge the way students think and help them to move past the physical form; and partner massage to increase joint flexibility and unlock blockages of energy. From this deep inner work, students access creative inspiration.

- Gain personal awareness of the alignment necessary for sustainable movement & voice through a study of Fleming's 10 images.
- Initiate movement from the innermost layer of muscles in the body through a series of daily exercises, improvisation, and composition.
- Understand and experience the principles of gravity used in efficient expansive movement through Fleming Elastxx (patent pending).
- Improve students' ability to access transformative imagery into physical form.

For over a decade Maureen Fleming Company has taught at such venues as The Juilliard School, U. of M., NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Seoul Institute of the Arts, Omega Institute, Brown University, R.I.S.D., RISEBA, the Irish World Academy and Jacob's Pillow Festival.

THE CHANGING ROLE OF ART ON SOCIETY- Lecture Demonstration

This one hour-length presentation geared for the college level is composed of excerpts from Fleming's repertoire. Performed in a studio or a theater, these excerpts are presented with intermittent projected videos, and narratives that deal with the philosophical underpinnings of Fleming's work and process, its relationship to Japanese butō and the changing role of art in society. This presentation, which coincides with a Q&A was developed and presented for Colorado College, R.I.S.D., Irish World Academy and the Juilliard School Dance Division.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2019 Culture Ireland
Fulbright Commission-Latvia
- 2016-17 Fulbright Commission-Ireland
2016 Sacatar Foundation Artist Residency
- 2013-15 National Endowment for the Arts: Art Works/O'Conner Fdn.
- 2012 NPN Performing Americas Tour:
- 2011 National Performance Network Performing Americas Tour
Fulbright Commission-Korea
- 2010 National Endowment for the Humanities
O'Connor Foundation
- 2009 USArtists International
Manhattan Cultural Council
- 2008 National Performance Network Community Fund
2007 Fulbright Commission-Korea
National Performance Network Community Fund
Japan Foundation: Performing Arts Japan
Asian Cultural Council
- 2006 Fulbright Commission-Korea
National Performance Network Creation Fund
- 2005 Fulbright Commission-Colombia
- 2004 National Endowment for the Arts: Creativity
Sacatar Foundation Artist Residency
- 2003 NPN Performing Americas Tour: Colombia
Fund for US Artists at International Festivals
Japan Foundation: Performing Arts Japan
- 2002 Japan Foundation: Performing Arts Japan
Fund for US Artists at International Festivals
- 2001 National Endowment for the Arts: Creativity
NEA-Japan/US Creative Artists' Commission
Fund for US Artists at International Festivals
National Performance Network Creation Fund
- 2000 NEFA: Tour Grant
- 1999 NEFA: Tour Grant
Fund for US Artists at International Festivals
Rockefeller Foundation M.A.P. Fund
- 1998 Rockefeller Foundation M.A.P. Fund
- 1997 N.E.F.A.: National Dance Project Production Grant
Rockefeller Foundation M. A. P. Fund
NYSCA: 1996 - 1997 (Decentralization)
NY Foundation for the Arts: Performance Art
Fund for US Artists at International Festivals
National Performance Network Creation Fund
- 1996 Fund for US Artists at International Festivals
National Endowment for the Arts Choreography
Fund for US Artists at International Festivals
- 1994 National Endowment for the Arts: Choreography
Fund for US Artists at International Festivals
- 1993 Fund for US Artists at International Festivals
- 1992 Meet the Composer/Composer-Choreographer Project
- 1991 Dewar's Profile Performance Arts Award
- 1990 NYFA/Performance Art; Asian Cultural Council
- 1980 Creative Artists Program Service (NYFA) Choreography

SELECTED ENGAGEMENTS

- 2019 The O'Shaughnessy, *WILDFLOWERS*, Twin Cities, MN
Latvia Performance Art Festival, *B. Madonna*, Riga, Latvia
O Black Madonna Photography Installation, Riga, Latvia
- 2018 La MaMa/Irish Arts Center, *WILDFLOWERS*, NYC
- 2017 Global Arts Live/ICA, *B. Madonna*, Boston, MA
- 2016 Sacatar AIR, Photography Installation, Itaparica, Brazil
- 2015 The O' Shaughnessy, *B. Madonna*, Twin Cities, MN
- 2014 FILO Festival, *Black Madonna*, Londrina, Brazil
- 2013 La MaMa Ellen Stewart Theater, *B. Madonna* Residency, NYC
- 2012 National Performance Network Performing Americas Tour
Colombia, Argentina, Uruguay, *Waters of Immortality*
Cleveland Museum of Art - VIVA!, *Black Madonna*, OH
Teatro San Nicolò, *Dialogue of Self and Soul*, Spoleto, Italy
- 2011 Kazuo Ohno Festival, *Eros*, Yokohama, Japan
Seoul Institute of the Arts Residency, South Korea
- 2009 Cleveland Museum of Art - VIVA!, *Waters of Immortality*, OH
C.D.T., *Waters of Immortality*, Cincinnati, OH
Brown University/RISD, *The Immortal Rose*, Providence, RI
Mercado Cultural, *Waters of Immortality*, Salvador, Brazil
- 2008 Jacob's Pillow Festival, *Waters of Immortality*, Becket, MA
Seoul Institute of the Arts Residency, South Korea
Symphony Space, *The Stairs*, New York, NY
- 2007 World Music-CRASHarts, *Waters of Immortality*, Boston, MA
Flynn Center for the Arts, *Waters of Immortality*, Burlington, VT
Kaatsbaan Int'l Dance Center, *Waters of Immortality*, Tivoli, NY
- 2006 Fall for Dance, City Center Theater, *The Stairs*, NYC
- 2005 VI Mercado Cultural, *Decay of the Angel*, Bahia, Brazil
FILO Festival, *After Eros*, Londrina, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Manizales Int'l Theater Festival, *Decay of the Angel*, Colombia
Kaatsbaan Int'l Dance Center, *Decay of the Angel*, Tivoli, NY
- 2004 Emerson Majestic Theater, *Decay of the Angel*, Boston, MA
University of Massachusetts, *Decay of the Angel*, Amherst, MA
La MaMa Residency, *Decay of the Angel*, New York, NY
- 2003 Teatro Nuovo, Spoleto Festival, *After Eros*, Spoleto, Italy
Manizales Int'l Theater Festival, *After Eros*, Manizales, Colombia
International Festival of Seoul, *After Eros*, Seoul, Korea
The Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, *After Eros*, VT
- 2002 Emerson Majestic Theater, *After Eros*, Boston, MA
Kyoto Arts Center AIR, *Decay of the Angel*, Kyoto, Japan
Contemporary Dance Theatre, *After Eros*, Cincinnati, OH
IV Mercado Cultural, *Decay of the Angel*, Bahia, Brazil
- 2001 Kazuo Ohno Studio, *Decay of the Angel*, Yokohama, Japan
Saison Foundation, *Decay of the Angel*, Tokyo, Japan
Contemporanea Festival, *After Eros*, Bogota/Medellin Colombia
NYU Tisch School of the Arts Residency
- 2000 University of Santa Cruz, *After Eros*, Santa Cruz, CA
Mandala, Reykjavik, Iceland
The Juilliard School Residency, NYC
- 1999 Dance Center of Columbia College, *After Eros*, Chicago, IL
Virginia Museum of Fine Art, *After Eros*, Richmond, VA
The Juilliard School Residency, NYC
Oldenburg Internationale Ballett-Tage, *After Eros*, Germany
Contemporeana Festival, *Eros*, Bogota/Medellin, Colombia
- 1998 The Kitchen, *After Eros*, NYC
Five College Dance Dept Residency, U of Mass., Amherst, MA
Contemporeana Festival, *Eros*, Medellin, Colombia
La Mama Umbria Spoleto, *After Eros*, Spoleto, Italy
Cleveland Museum of Art, *Tara*, Cleveland, OH
- 1997 NYU Tisch School of the Arts Residency
Palermo di Scena International Festival, *Axis Mundi*, Sicily, Italy
Tollwood Festival, *After Eros*, Munich, Germany
MIMOS '97 Festival, *Axis Mundi*, Irkutsk, Russia
Pittsburgh Dance Council, *After Eros*, Pittsburgh, PA
Franco Parenti Theater, *After Eros*, Milan, Italy
Reykjavik Arts Festival, *After Eros*, Reykjavik, Iceland
92nd St Y Harkness Dance Project, *After Eros*, NYC
Maison Des Cultures du Monde, *Eros*, Paris, France
France: International Mime Festival, *Eros*, Perigueux, France
- 1995 Spoleto Festival, *Eros*, Spoleto, Italy
Jose Limon Dance Festival, *Eros*, Culiacan, Mexico
San Francisco Butoh Festival, *Axis Mundi*, San Francisco, CA
Philadelphia Museum, CAGE Tribute Exhibit, Philadelphia, PA
New Arts Festival with David Parsons, *Eros*, Fort Myers, FL
- 1994 NYU Tisch School of the Arts Residency, NYC
Bates Dance Festival, *Axis Mundi*, Lewiston, ME
- 1993 Milan Oltre Festival, *Eros*, Milan, Italy
International Festival Voyage A Roma, *Eros*, Rome, Italy
Modena Bosch Festival, *The Garden*, Milan Italy
- 1992 Cleveland Performance Art Festival, *Axis Mundi*, Cleveland, OH
Pittsburgh Dance Council, *Eros*, Pittsburgh, PA
- 1991 LaMaMa E.T.C., *Eros*: with Yoshito Ohno, NYC
- 1990 1990 Butoh Festival, *Axis Mundi*, Tokyo, Japan



“Maureen Fleming gives birth to a new vision of the body.”

Ballet Tanz International, Germany

“Fleming is a sensational discovery, one of the rare, aesthetic emotions in recent years... How beautiful it is to roam in the land between theater and dance, because when one of its authentic creatures is found, the dream becomes natural, essential and infinitely thrilling.”

La Repubblica, Italy

“There is an old saying: the body doesn't lie. But that doesn't really go far enough. There are times – and the Bates Dance Festival was one of them – when the body tells a truth so deep that it transforms the way we look at life itself. With stillness, strength and the naked force of one body, Fleming took on the very essence of being.”

Portland Herald Press, Maine



“Watching choreographer and performer Maureen Fleming is like watching a magician. She demands that we suspend our rational beliefs. Her solo work Eros astounded the audience with stunning imagery. It was part dance, part sculpture, and part dream.”

The Baltimore Sun

“This remarkable performer turns struggle into something calm and ordered.”

The Village Voice

“This is human struggle at its most metaphoric as Fleming explodes all notions of what should be physically possible . . . making her journeys poignant examples of the potency and elasticity of the human spirit.”

The Boston Globe



“A sensation of danger, of a violence, of a revelation still remains there: that mixing of life and death, of image and flesh...that make us a human being, and that Fleming's courage opens for a moment into a fascinating and hypnotic wound.”

La Repubblica, Italy

“Sometimes, as you watch Maureen Fleming perform it's hard to believe your eyes . . . exhilarating.”

The Boston Globe

“The theme was evocative and mysterious and the performance was provocative and amazing . . . Fleming has perfected an unmistakable personal style, discovering dance with the allure of ancient myth, and a body capable of being sculpted into a new form.”

RAI National Television, Italy



“Astounding...sang with transcendent emanation...startling brilliance.” *Mpls Star Tribune*

“Maureen Fleming mesmerizes . . . As earth goddesses go, she's the real black madonna.”

The Boston Globe

“Fleming's courage in confronting the fragile glory of the human body is exemplary, as indeed is her insistence on an artistic practice that does not shirk its responsibility to history, its intimacies and atrocities. She moves beyond the beautiful to provide a deeply moving, and ultimately redemptive response to suffering... there was a collective sense that this was one of those rare moments when human capacity reaches its limits and then goes beyond itself.”

Solas an Léinn, Ireland

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The New York Times