

PROJECT BANDALOO

23-26 October, 2009 Woodstock School will be hosting the renowned vertical dance company, Project Bandaloop, founded and directed by Woodstock graduate, Amelia Rudolph '82. Project Bandaloop will perform in the new Win Mumby Gymnasium on Monday, 26 October at 2:30 pm, in conjunction with the distinguished alumni award ceremony for Chris Anderson '74, Curator of the TED Conferences. TED stands for Technology, Entertainment and Design, each of which is an integral element in a Project Bandaloop performance.

Since 1991, as a pioneer in the field, Project Bandaloop has been making dynamic dances that reframe how people perceive their environment and the art form. Project Bandaloop performs in natural and urban settings to large and diverse audiences both nationally and internationally. They perform in theaters, dance on buildings, towers, bridges and skyscrapers, and create site-specific work in the mountains. Project Bandaloop also offers workshops and classes in our studio and residency activities on tour.

The company, under the artistic direction of Amelia Rudolph, creates a blend of dance, sport, ritual, and environmental awareness. Inspired by the possibilities of climbing and rappelling, the choreography draws on aerial, vertical and horizontal movement to craft dances, many site-specific. The work explores the relationship between movement and gravity and stimulates viewers' awareness of their natural and built environments. Project Bandaloop hopes to enrich the quality of life with their performances, out-reach and ability to bring dance to new audiences. Since 1991, the company has enjoyed performing for close to half a million people.

Recent Performances and Choreography

"Loft!" is a full evening length performance that includes popular repertoire and the new work "Interiors, Phase I" featuring an interactive set by Todd Laby. This touring show can be combined with an outdoor component.

Outdoors Project Bandaloop are currently touring "Three Building Pieces" - which is a suite of dances that is adapted to the specific architectural features of a site. We also perform various hybrids of indoor and outdoor work.

New short works were premiered for the opening of the new wing of the Art Institute in Chicago (with the Taiko Project) and for Bandaloop's appearance with the Detroit symphony in 2008. These new works are now folded into the repertoire that the company can chose from to perform on architectural sites.

Praise for Project Bandaloop:

“There is no more joyous, festive or entertaining show in town.”

— *The San Francisco Bay Guardian*

The aerial gymnastics are awe-inspiring, and frankly beautiful, and the company showed enormous creativity and complexity in its final piece, 'Bach Wall,'”

— *Boston Globe*

There's fine structure to the choreography, too, with metaphorically suggestive motifs that build and give the work coherence.”

— *The San Francisco Bay Guardian*

A performance that transcends boundaries of all kinds - gravitational as well as artistic... a truly awe inspiring performance”

— *Art Papers, North Carolina Arts Council*

A new definition of freedom.”

— *San Francisco Chronicle*

Project Bandaloop is proving that its members don't need to be on the face of a cliff or a building to do what they do best: Dance.”

— *Oakland Tribune*

Dancing and rock climbing became spectacular partners in Luminescent Flights, the finale of Wolf Trap's new venture, Face of America...”

— *Washington Post*

Project B. received a standing O.”

— *Life Magazine*

A triumph over limits!”

— *SF Weekly*

The work achieves a kind of sublime alchemy. Art and sport instead of diluting or neutralizing each other, meld to create something greater, something bracingly original.”

— *Oakland Tribune*

This type of unifying activity is an essential ingredient for a successful summit”

— *Nitin Desai, Secretary-General for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, 2002*

During the 1980s, the Butoh troupe Sankai Juko brought an element of mystery and ineffable drama to the task of dangling from on high. Choreographer Elizabeth Streb added gymnastics. Rudolph added mountaineering.”

— *Oakland Tribune*

They turn gravity sideways, tweaking an immutable law of physics with the illusory powers of a magician.”

— *Houston Chronicle*

They perform arabesques, flips and aerial, spinning head over heels through the air like pinwheels in the wind.”

— *Sports Illustrated*

We are proud to have given the thousands of visitors to Expo 98 a first-hand experience of the talent in our country... Your performances at the Ceremonial Plaza, Jules Verne and the Vasco Da Gama tower were captivating.”

— *Tony Coelho, Former Commissioner General, United States Information Agency*