

NEWS

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WALKER COMMISSION AND WORLD PREMIERE, MORGAN THORSON WITH ALAN SPARHAWK AND COLLABORATORS: *PUBLIC LOVE*



Morgan Thorson and company. Photo: Bobby Rogers, ©Walker Art Center.

“Complete possession of the dancer by the dance is a rare sight, but it is one that can make watching a [Thorson] performance a near-transcendent experience for the audience too.” —*New York Times*

MINNEAPOLIS, NOVEMBER 8, 2018 — In *Heaven* (2009), choreographic mix-master Morgan Thorson and the sublime slow core music of Alan Sparhawk and Mimi Parker (LOW) drew audiences into a meditation on the ambiguities of perfection. In this new Walker commission, Thorson returns with Sparhawk and a brain trust of collaborators for an intervention on western dance culture that interrupts decision-making from a single authority. Resuscitating power as tenderness, *Public Love* embraces reciprocal touch as an intimate alternative to might and control. Co-created with dance artists Jessica Cressey, Non Edwards, Allie Hankins, Sam Johnson, Alanna Morris-Van Tassel, and Valerie Oliveira, the work considers consent, action, agency, and connection as a balm for our divisive times.

Public Love will be presented in the McGuire Theater on Thursday – Saturday, December 6-8, at 8pm.

ABOUT MORGAN THORSON

Since 2000, Morgan Thorson has generated a body of work that questions the conventions of western concert dance through interdisciplinary collaboration. Engaged in critical dialogue with the form, and inspired by a topic, physical process or point of view, her work honors the body as a complex means of expression as it relates to the site and community in which it is situated.



Morgan Thorson and company. Photo: Bobby Rogers, ©Walker Art Center.

Twice receiving the Sage Award for Outstanding Choreography, and currently a MacDowell Colony Fellow (2018, 2012), Morgan's honors also include the Doris Duke Performing Artist Award (2016), and United States Artist (2012), Guggenheim (2010), and McKnight (2009, 2002) Fellowships. Morgan's National presentations/commissions include Walker Art Center, Maui Arts & Culture Center, TBA Festival, PS 122, ICA Boston, ODC, On The Boards, INOVA, and Portland Art Museum. She has received support from The Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography (2016, 2011, 2009) and in 2015 was featured in *Local Time*, a three-month exhibition at the Weisman Art Museum. In 2012, Morgan was in residence at the Centre Choreographique National De Franche-Comte in Belfort, France.

Certified in Skinner Releasing Technique, she is a 2016 Creative Campus Fellow at Wesleyan where she engages students and professors in interdisciplinary practices, developing pedagogy in Dance, Archaeology, and Religious Studies.

ABOUT ALAN SPARHAWK/LOW

For the last 25 years, Alan Sparhawk has been in the band called Low. The band from Duluth, Minnesota, was formed in 1993 and features Sparhawk on vocals and guitar, Mimi Parker on vocals and drums, and Steve Garrington on bass. Known for their minimalist pop soundscapes and harmonies, Low have ventured beyond the lines of convention, specifically in its work in the past with choreographer Morgan Thorson. In *Public Love*, Sparhawk delves deep into the physical low frequencies, creating a resonant world as the dance unfolds into wild gestures of power, distance, and intimacy.

Low released its first album, *I Could Live in Hope*, in 1994 (producer by Kramer) on Vernon Yard Records. Pegged as "slow core," due to the band's minimalist soundscapes and the beautiful harmonies of Sparhawk and Parker, their music stood in stark contrast to the era's fascination with "grunge." Low released a constant stream of critically acclaimed albums (*Long Division*, *Curtain Hits the Cast*, *Things We Lost in the Fire*), one-offs, collaborations, and other miscellany including a classic Christmas album aptly titled *Low Christmas*. In September 2018, Low released *Double Negative* (Sub Pop Records), an unflinching eleven-song quest through snarling static and shattering beats that somehow culminates in the brightest pop song of Low's career.

WALKER ART CENTER PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM HISTORY

A catalyst for the creative expression of artists and the active engagement of audiences, the Walker Art Center examines the questions that shape and inspire us as individuals, cultures, and communities. Established in 1927 as the Walker Art Gallery, in 1940 it adopted a new name and focused on modern and contemporary art exhibitions as well as screenings, performances and public programs. The Performing Arts program grew dramatically during the 1960s, presenting over 100 events a year and transitioning into a formal Walker programmatic department in 1970. Following a 1971 expansion and its 1988 opening of the Minneapolis



William and Nadine McGuire Theater

Sculpture Garden, in 2005 the Walker opened a \$100 million expansion which housed dedicated venues for all its disciplines including the 385-seat McGuire Theater.

Today the Walker is one of the top-five most visited modern and contemporary art centers in the U.S. Multidisciplinary in focus, it is equally committed to advancing artistic innovation and interdisciplinary scholarship as it is with increasing access to lifelong learning in the arts. Approximately 1,600 artistic presentations engage 600,000 people per year through up to eight exhibitions; 170 film screenings; 85 performance events; the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden; and hundreds of residency, education, and community program events. Its 16-acre campus includes the highly acclaimed Herzog & de Meuron designed 385-seat McGuire Theater – home to one of the nation's largest contemporary performance programs. The Walker is respected nationally and internationally as a groundbreaking leader in contemporary performing art presentations, residencies, and commissions.

Led by Senior Curator Philip Bither since 1997, the Walker's Performing Arts program under his tenure has been defined by its commitment to the increasingly blurred lines between artistic disciplines, including contemporary dance, new music-theatre, performance art, experimental theatre, avant-jazz, contemporary classical music, new global sounds and alternative rock and pop. In addition to animating its outstanding McGuire Theater, the Walker has also greatly expanded its placement of dance into gallery settings, in its sculpture garden, and beyond, to further encourage a conversation between forms. It has also continued its long-standing tradition of mounting work together with presenters, venues, community-based collaborators, and unique sites across the Twin Cities. Through its endeavors, the Walker has earned an international reputation as "one of America's foremost experimental art spaces" (*The Guardian*).



Backstage of the William and Nadine McGuire Theater

Tickets

Tickets for the show will be \$28 (\$22.40 for Walker Members). For more information, call the box office at 612.375.7600 or visit online at walkerart.org/tickets.

Join the Walker

Members receive a 20% discount on performance tickets. Call 612.375.7655 or visit walkerart.org/membership.

Buy in Bulk

Buy a season package of four performances and save 25%—Walker members save 30%.

Students—Come Early

\$10 rush tickets are available starting one hour before the show. Limit one ticket per person with valid student ID.

Get Together

Bring 10 or more of your students, friends, and associates and get a 15% discounted group rate, available online and at the box office.

Drinks and Dining

Enjoy dinner at Esker Grove before the show, or grab a drink at the Cityview Room Bar an hour before or after the performance.



Photo: Walker Art Center

Free Gallery Admission

Extend your art experience—come back with your ticket within six months of a performance and receive free admission to the Walker galleries.

Head to The Fourth Wall

Learn about the shows and artists at the Fourth Wall (walkerart.org/magazine). Share your thoughts: #AtTheWalker.

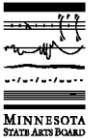
Accessibility

Assistive listening devices are available for events in the McGuire Theater and can be borrowed from the lobby desk. ASL interpretation, audio description, and CART captioning are available and can be arranged for any Walker event with at least two weeks advance notice. For more information, call 612.375.7564 or e-mail access@walkerart.org.

Acknowledgments

Commissioned by the Walker Art Center with support provided by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the McKnight Foundation, and the National Performance Network/Visual Artists Network (NPN/VAN) Creation & Development Fund Project co-commissioned by the Walker Art Center in partnership with the Maui Arts & Cultural Center. Additional support provided by Producers' Council members Leni and David Moore, Jr./The David & Leni Moore Family Foundation.

Premier Partners



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

The Walker Art Center is located at 725 Vineland Place—where Hennepin meets Lyndale—one block off Highways I-94 and I-394, in Minneapolis.

For public information, call 612.375.7600 or visit walkerart.org. Stay connected via your mobile device and follow us on Twitter and Facebook.