



FOR RELEASE: December 9, 2008

Contact: Kate Nordstrum
612.340.0155 ext. 314
kate@southerntheater.org
www.southerntheater.org

Dylan Skybrook joins the Southern Theater as Dance Programming Director

MINNEAPOLIS, MN – Twin Cities dancer and choreographer **Dylan Skybrook** has been named dance programming director of the Southern Theater. Completing the triumvirate of artistic programming directors at the Southern, Skybrook began work on December 1.

A Minnesota native, Skybrook began dancing at the age of 15 with Stephen Rueff's Youth Movement Company. After living briefly in New York, he went on to receive a degree in Arts and Social Change from New College of California before settling in San Francisco during the 1990s. It was a time and place, he said, in which people were making very wild and spectacular work. Returning to the Twin Cities in 1997, Skybrook participated in the first Momentum series, co-presented with the Walker Arts Center and the Southern Theater. Since then his work has been presented by a variety of venues in the Twin Cities and beyond.

"The Twin Cities is such a rich, fertile ground for dance," Skybrook said, noting that the support the community receives was a reason he moved back to the area. "There is a wide range of dance, and we are lucky as a community to have established companies, independent choreographers, and emerging talent in constant interaction. And a lot of that happens at the Southern."

"Dylan brings a thoughtful view to this position that will solidify existing Southern relationships with area dancers and open opportunities for new relationships," said Patricia Ann Speelman, the Southern's president. "His interest in meeting challenges beyond the realm of the performing arts, challenges like global sustainability, inform his very inventive ideas about the Southern's place not only in the Twin Cities arts scene, but in the world at large."

The dance programming director is one of the three programming positions new this year to the organization, following the October appointments of Jon Ferguson as director of theatre programming and Kate Nordstrum as director of music programming.

Although Skybrook's background is largely in postmodern and other contemporary dance forms, he envisions that the Southern's dance programming will continue to emphasize the voices that have made the Southern a home for a wide range of dance talents in the Twin Cities.

"I have my own specific tastes and interests—any good curator does—but I recognize that the Southern presents a wide range of work, and that I am curating for the whole community. I'm very excited by dance generally, however that impulse is expressed," he said.

"Dylan, Jon, and Kate will be a good team to develop cross-disciplinary programming for the Southern as well as programming in each of their specific disciplines," Speelman said.

Southern Theater mission and artistic statement

The Southern Theater cultivates artistic exploration by providing a vibrant home for performance, fostering a multiplicity of voices and catalyzing connections among artists and audience.

The Southern presents and produces performance characterized by innovation and originality. We value connections to the local community and celebrate artwork that holds potential for

transformative exchange. On stage, we are unyielding in our commitment to the highest levels of professionalism and artistic integrity.

For more information on the Southern, please visit www.southerntheater.org or call 612.340.0155.

###