

**Pointillism Jazz Consort presents "METRO: *in the state of mind*"
at the 2008 Capital Fringe Festival in Washington, DC**

Project website: metrostateofmind.org

Business Office: 2763 Kibler Road, Copley, OH 44321

Contact: Suzanne Winland, Director

Email: suzanne@pointewest.org or ian@pointewest.org

Phone: 330.666.2079 Cell: 330.807.8064

(For immediate release)

METRO's Far Flung Perceptions

Pointillism Jazz Consort will assemble from different parts of the world just days prior to their opening performance in "METRO: *in the state of mind*" at the Capital Fringe in Washington DC on July 10, 2008. But can a group that is spread from Texas to Ohio to New York to London to D.C. effectively prepare for such an unusual theatre project? (and, moreover, a project which requires a seamless blending of individual perceptions in a strong ensemble piece?) Impossible, you say! Nope – even the choreography can be learned in different cities at the same time. The minimalist music score is created in Akron by composer, Ron Hazelett and rehearsed in D.C. The costume design is conceptualized by Andy Jordan in New York by watching performers in rehearsal from disparate parts of the globe. But, HOW can this be?!! Modern technology is bringing these artists together through scheduled internet conferences and webcam rehearsals in their different time zones. In this way these professionals (dancers, actors, singers) are meshing the realization of their individual characters through electronic links and a shared vision of what it is to be a 21st century artist. "This process is a metaphor within this metaphoric piece," observed Suzanne Winland, one of the co-creators and director of the project. "The tagline for the show is: 'Perception will transport you in your own reality.' We're just taking that a step further and rehearsing as though our perception has brought us together in the same room. The digital age is terrific in a way – it knows no boundaries! We are together no matter how far flung our geographic locations may be. It gives the piece powerful synergy!"

This ensemble embodies the very essence of the company's name: Pointillism. The painting technique of combining dots of pure color which then become blended in the viewer's eye perfectly reflects the way this dance company functions. "Individual expression is very evident in each of us. And when we blend those expressions together in a single vision – POW! It's pretty intense stuff," comments Chace Coulter, an active collaborator in Pointillism Jazz Consort for the past two seasons. Experimental theatre usually refers to the performance, rather than the rehearsal process. But, in METRO even the rehearsal process has an element of experimental boundary stretching. Interestingly, this living art piece looks at modern technology and how it affects us daily. As Pointillism explores the perceptions of the information age, it is clear that without electronic technology this project would not be possible.

The concept for "Metro: *in the state of mind*" was hatched eight years ago by co-creators, Ron Hazelett and Suzanne Winland, and finally comes together with this most diversely gifted cast. The show runs from July 10-13 and July 19-20 in the Baldacchino @ Fort Fringe at 607 NY Ave NW, Washington DC. Stretch your perception even further by visiting the project website at <http://metrostateofmind.org> Ticket information is available through a "ticket link" on the site – or by calling the Capital Fringe Festival office at 1.866.811.4111

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