

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

Project website: metrostateofmind.org

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(For immediate release)

To Fringe or not to Fringe, there’s no question!

What inspires a dance company to “fringe it”? Fringe festivals are designed to showcase theatrical projects that are innovative and risk taking. Pointillism Jazz Consort needed an independent vehicle exactly like this to host its experimental theatre piece, “METRO: *in the state of mind*.” Funding was tight in the company’s home city and the avant garde nature of the production didn’t seem marketable for a traditional repertory season. Enter the offbeat hero of our story: the Capital Fringe Festival in Washington, D.C. And, the METRO Fringe Express was off and running – set to arrive in D.C. performances on July 10-13 and 19-20!

The adventurous quality of “fringe” is realized in the minimalist score by Ron Hazelett, with its mesmeric electronic phrasing and character vocalizations. Suzanne Winland embraces the minimalist process in choreographic “dance monologues” set to Metro sound effects. Costume designs by Andy Jordan explore the outer limits of visual perceptions in glints of orange plastic. And the METROesque set design acts as a barrier-window to a 21st century worldview. Like the Fringe itself, the modular themes of “METRO” coalesce in an unabashedly disjointed vision.

Some of the experimental energy encouraged in the Fringe is reflected in the improvisational freedom of the pedestrian dance movement and vocal dialogues of METRO. Dance and vocals are combined with improvisation to peer into the lives of the characters, who are just as spontaneous as the audience observing them. Great art is born out of inspiration, out of the desire of the artist to open the eyes of the viewer with new insights. “METRO” is designed with unassuming theatrical elements. But the concept runs much deeper than the familiar setting of the Metro; it inspires the audience to take a look inside, asking themselves how they perceive their own reality.

Another element of Fringe openness is the informational website for the production: metrostateofmind.org. Blog entries by the members of the international cast and production staff reveal the many facets of expression in “METRO: *in the state of mind*.” Perception is the vehicle for travel in METRO and every participant will experience it individually. METRO’s distinctive group of performers, whose work spans the varied disciplines of the theatre, brings an unquenchable intellectual curiosity to the stage.

“Original work is a two-edged sword for many dance companies,” Pointillism Jazz Consort director, Suzanne Winland comments. “Producers, investors, and funders become nervous that too much experimentation will reflect badly at the box office. Artists want to explore new work and find their own expression of the times. This bridge is gapped by the exposure new work receives at the Festival. The Fringe fills an extremely important role in encouraging new art!” And that, undoubtedly, is what the Fringe Festival is all about!

“METRO: *in the state of mind*” will be seen at the Baldacchino @ Fort Fringe at 607 NY Ave NW, Washington DC on July 10-13 and 19-20. Ticket information is available through a “ticket link” at the project website <http://metrostateofmind.org> – or by calling the Capital Fringe Festival office at 1.866.811.4111

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