



FESTIVAL OF
IDEAS FOR
THE NEW CITY
MAY 4-8, 2011

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**The Performance Project @ University Settlement
in collaboration with the Festival of Ideas for the New City
presents the New York premiere of:**

They Might Be Napping

**Created by Jessica Nicoll and Barry Oreck
of NICOLL+ORECK DANCE THEATER**

University Settlement

184 Eldridge at the corner of Rivington

Thursday May 5 + Friday May 6 at 7:30

Saturday May 7 at 3:00 and 7:30

\$15 adults/\$10 students and seniors

For tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/144059> / 212-453-4532

The Performance Project@University Settlement in collaboration with the **Festival of Ideas for the New City** is proud to present the New York premiere of **Nicoll+Oreck Dance Theater's *They Might Be Napping***, Thursday through Saturday, May 5th – 7th, 2011.

Dance artists **Jessica Nicoll and Barry Oreck**, collaborating with the improvisational theater artists **Mike Durkin and Laura Livingston**, present a darkly humorous work using illusion, free-wheeling physicality, and musical/verbal interplay to examine critical moments-from global warming to Wall Street fraud-that we might have accidentally slept through. Winner of a 2008 Boulder International Fringe Festival Encore Award, *They Might Be Napping* has been developed as an evening-length work with live music composed and performed by **Amir Khosrowpour** and a multi-layered set through which the performers toy with physical laws of motion.

Examining the phenomenon Charles Tart called "consensus trance," *They Might Be Napping* taps into our flawed, absurdly determined, and tangled lives and draws the audience into their own investigation of whether things are quite as they seem. As with *Hic+Nunc (Here+Now)*, Nicoll+Oreck's exploration of the physical and emotional impact of cell-phone culture (with the help of some dog leashes, 36 strollers, and a pair of opera singers), *They Might Be Napping* juxtaposes unlikely images, objects, characters, and texts to ask how a group of people become so happily distracted that their very planet can fall apart without them noticing. Are we asleep?

Nicoll and Oreck (nicollandoreck.com), partners in life and art since 1983, have had their work presented at St. Mark's Danspace Project, Performance Space 122, and The Kitchen and have appeared in NYC downtown festivals and at venues in New England, Switzerland, and Colorado. Susan Yung, in *The Dance Insider* wrote, "Nicoll and Oreck have a rhythmic understanding, despite their 13" height difference, even seeming to breathe at the same pace." Their Boulder Fringe appearances in 2007 and 2008 garnered two Encore Awards and initiated a collaboration with Durkin and Livingston that continues to push disciplinary boundaries and expand their notions of physical theater.

Jessica Nicoll has performed with Kei Takei, Phyllis Lamhut, Beth Leonard and others, and received a 1998-9 OOBRA Award for choreography in Chekhov Theatre Ensemble's production of *King Lear*. Barry Oreck, a co-founder of *New Mexico DanceWorks*, performed with Gerrie Glover, Elizabeth Waters, and Lee Conner. Both have performed with Stephan Koplowitz, Bob Beswick, MoMoMo, and Elise Long and have performed together in duets by the choreographers Phyllis Lamhut, Ann Carlson, Claire Porter, and Joanna Mendl Shaw. Laura Livingston, an actor and playwright, is the Artistic Director of Freestyle Repertory Theatre (freestylerep.org). Mike Durkin performs in scripted and improvisational theater and is the Executive Director of Freestyle Rep. Amir Khosrowpour is an award-winning concert pianist who works in many genres and mediums. He is a frequent collaborator with dancers and theater artists, performs in the duo Corky Has a Band, and recently performed in a month-long exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art.

Nicoll+Oreck's "Hic+Nunc" belongs to the movement theater tradition (!) of groups like The Talking Band and Otrabanda and shares their gift for social commentary of the sustained loopiness variety.

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Louise Sunshine, Gowanus Wildlife Review

Contained and free, rhythmic yet casual, conjoined but independent.

Elizabeth Zimmer, The Village Voice

Performance art that is still accessible...endearing, beautiful and funny...

Their choreography is refreshingly bizarre, clear, and hilarious...

Beckett can dance.

Boulder Fringe On-Line Reviews

For photos go to: <http://www.nicollandoreck.com/photos.htm>

About The Performance Project @ University Settlement

The Performance Project @ University Settlement provides established, emerging and young artists and local audiences with opportunities to connect and enrich each other's lives. Our aim is to encourage greater participation in the live arts and to help cultivate diverse creative communities on the Lower East Side.

About University Settlement

University Settlement is one of New York's most dynamic social service institutions with deep roots on the Lower East Side. Each year University Settlement's diverse programs help over 25,000 low-income and at-risk people build better lives for themselves and their families. With an impressive legacy as the first settlement house in the United States, University Settlement has been an incubator for progressive

ideas for 125 years, offering pioneering programs in mental health, early childhood education, literacy, and adolescent development that set the standard. Building on the strength of this experience, University Settlement now provides services at 21 locations in lower Manhattan as well as in upper Manhattan and Brooklyn.

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The Festival of Ideas for the New City, May 4-8, 2011, is a major new collaborative initiative in New York involving scores of Downtown organizations, from universities to arts institutions and community groups, working together to effect change. A first for New York, the Festival will harness the power of the creative community to imagine the future city and explore the ideas destined to shape it. It will take place in multiple venues Downtown and is organized around three central programs: a three-day slate of symposia; an innovative StreetFest along the Bowery; and over eighty independent projects and public events. The Festival will serve as a platform for artists, writers, architects, engineers, designers, urban farmers, planners, and thought leaders to exchange ideas, propose solutions, and invite the public to participate.

For more information, visit festivalofideasnyc.com.
www.nicollandoreck.com