



www.eclecticedgeensemble.com

Eclectic
Edge
Ensemble

press kit 2011





mission

Eclectic Edge Ensemble (EEE) is a contemporary jazz dance company with a diverse repertoire, actively collaborating with local musicians, choreographers, and other artists to create theatrically inspired performance art. We present a fresh perspective on jazz dance in the Twin Cities community by creating accessible performance experiences that connect with our audiences through the joy of movement.





performances

2011

EEE and Mad Munchkin productions present
Snow Bound! A Journey from Autumn to Spring

The Ritz Theatre, Minneapolis, MN
February 17-20, 2011

EEE performs at ***Dances at the Lakes***

Lake Harriet Rose Gardens, Minneapolis, MN
July 11, 2011

EEE presents ***Send in the Jazz***

The Ritz Theater, Minneapolis, MN
July 14-17, 2011



2012

EEE presents ***Reeling Over Love***

The Ritz Theater, Minneapolis, MN
February 16-19, 2012

EEE presents ***(to be announced)***

The Ritz Theater, Minneapolis, MN
July 2012



2013

EEE and Mad Munchkin productions present
Snow Bound! A Journey from Autumn to Spring

The Ritz Theatre, Minneapolis, MN
February 2013





artistic direction

Karis Sloss

graduated from the University of Minnesota with a B.A. in Dance and Theatre Arts in 2002. She has been passionately studying dance for over twenty years. She created Eclectic Edge Ensemble eight years ago and has since produced many works locally with the company. EEE has performed shows at the Ritz Theatre, Intermedia Arts, Illusion Theatre, Hopkins Center for the Arts and at five MN Fringe Festivals. Karis' other choreography credits include SteppingStone Theatre, Children's Theatre, Loring Playhouse, Illusion Theatre, University of MN and the College of St. Catherine. Her artistic vision is to keep jazz dance alive in the Twin Cities dance community.



what people are saying

"Karis Sloss.....presented new works solid in construction, technique and execution."
Camille LeFevre, Star Tribune, 7/21/2008

"Karis Sloss is determined to bring jazz dance back, front and center."
Linda Shapiro, Citypages, 7/18/2008

"As a teacher and choreographer, Karis Sloss is the "real deal" - someone with a knowledge of dance, music and theater that honors the form's histories and moves them into the present with skill, passion and insight."
Danny Buraczeski, Twin Cities dance legend and founder of JAZZDANCE.





who we are

Irving Amigon, dancer

is currently a junior at the University of Minnesota in pursuit of a BA in Dance as well as a BA in Biology, Society, and Environment. He has had the opportunity to work with Laurie Carlos and the amazing faculty at the U of M dance program. This is Irving's second season with EEE.

Christa Anderson-Hill, dancer

earned her BFA in Dance from the University of MN. She is the director of Tonka DanceWorks and Creo; Arts & Dance Conservatory. She has performed original choreography by Dough Varone, Shapiro and Smith, Zoe Sealy, Joe Chvala, and Reginald Yates. 2011 marks her sixth year with EEE.

Heather Annis, dancer and artistic board member

Heather is excited to perform with EEE for her third season. She has been dancing for 20 years and currently graduated from the University of Minnesota with a BFA in dance. Heather has worked with many choreographers and teachers, and recently performed "Escargot" choreographed by Louis Falco and restaged by Alan Sener.

Mackenzie Beck-Esmay, dancer

recently graduated from the University of Minnesota's BFA Dance Program, and has had the privilege to perform works by talented choreographers such as José Limón and Louis Falco. Currently, Mackenzie is dancing with Threads Dance Project, teaching dance to enthusiastic students at Ballare Teatro, Tonka Dance Works, and The Children's Theater, and working as a program counselor in a group home with vulnerable adults. She is honored and thrilled to be dancing with EEE this year!

Sarah Beck-Esmay, dancer

is currently earning her Master's in elementary education from the University of Minnesota where she completed her BFA in dance. She frequently performs with Erinn Liebhard, is an ensemble member of Aniccha Arts led by Pramila Vasudevan, and recently joined Ananya Dance Theater. She is honored to be on stage in her second year as a member of EEE.

Jeremy Bensussan, dancer

is a MN native and recent graduate of the University of Minnesota dance program. His company credits include Out on a Limb Dance Company, Joe Chvala and the Flying Foot Forum, Christopher Watson Dance Company, and since 2009, EEE.

Emily Broeker, dancer

is pursuing her B.A. in Dance from St. Olaf College. She has been dancing for 12 years, and especially enjoys tap and jazz dance. This is her sixth year as a member of EEE. In her spare time, she enjoys eating food (any kind is great) and playing four square.





who we are

Desiree Dantona, dancer and artistic board member

is a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota, where she earned a BA in dance as well as an EMT-B certification. She discovered her ardor for dance growing up in Waconia and now is a dance teacher in Eden Prairie. She has been a member of EEE for 5 years.

Mallory Dykema, dancer and artistic board member

graduated from the University of MN with a BFA in dance and is in her fourth season with EEE. She has had the pleasure of dancing for many local artists as well as performing in masterwork reconstructions of Anna Sokolow, Trisha Brown, and Jose Limon.

Nina Ebbighausen, dancer

graduated from Syracuse University with a degree in architecture and currently both practices and teaches at the University of MN. In addition to dancing with EEE, she has recently performed choreography by Cathy Wright, Jeffrey Peterson, Tamin Totzke and Dustin Haug. This is her sixth season with EEE.

Vanessa Fischer, dancer

earned a B.A. in biology from Hamline University, and recently graduated from Creighton University with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree. A dancer for 20+ years, she teaches ballet, choreographs, and performs with The Dance Center in W. St Paul. This is her second season with EEE.

Susanne Grochett, dancer

moved from Houston, TX, to Minneapolis to complete a BA in Dance from the University of MN. She has performed with the national tour of Copacabana, Joe Chvala's Flying Foot Forum, Jeffrey Peterson, Red Dive, Edisa Weeks and Zoe Sealy. This is her third season with EEE.

Kristin Grohs, dancer

holds a BA in Dance and a K-12 teaching license in dance. Since relocating to Minneapolis in 2003, Kristin has had the opportunity to dance for companies such as EEE, Kinetic Evolutions, and the Christopher Watson Dance Company. Kristin has been a member of EEE for over 7 years.

Heather Klopchin, dancer

is an Associate Professor of Dance at St. Olaf College. She has performed with ARENA Dances, Zenon Dance Company, Linda Lehovc & Dancers, Joe Chvala Flying Foot Forum, and Dancing People Company. Heather is excited to be performing in her third season with EEE.





who we are

Erinn Liebhard, dancer and artistic board member

is a 2007 BFA Dance graduate of the U of M. Her choreography has been seen with EEE, Alberta Dance Explosions in Calgary, Canada, and in independently produced shows at the Red Eye, the Lowry Lab, and the Bedlam Theatre. She is in her sixth year with EEE, and also performs with the Wild Goose Chase Cloggers.

Megan Mohr, dancer and artistic board member

started dancing at studios in her hometown of Inver Grove Heights, MN. She received her B.A. in dance and psychology from the U of M. Megan has been performing with EEE since 2007, and currently teaches all age ranges of dance and musical theater.

Becky Olson, dancer and artistic board member

has worked with many great local choreographers including Roxanne Wallace, Galen Treuer, Olive Bieringa, Justin Jones, and Laura Holway. She has been with EEE since 2006, and also tap dances with the Como Avenue Jug Band.

Crystal Pelletier, dancer

is a 2008 graduate of the University of MN, receiving her BFA in dance. Crystal also completed a B.S. in kinesiology from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. She currently teaches tap, jazz, and ballet at the studio where she grew up dancing. This is her third year performing with EEE.

Katrina Schleisman, dancer and artistic board member

is in her sixth season with EEE, and is currently working toward her Ph.D in cognitive neuroscience at the U of M. She has danced for several great local artists and has shown her own choreography both locally and with EEE. Katrina also plays with the Como Avenue Jug Band.





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