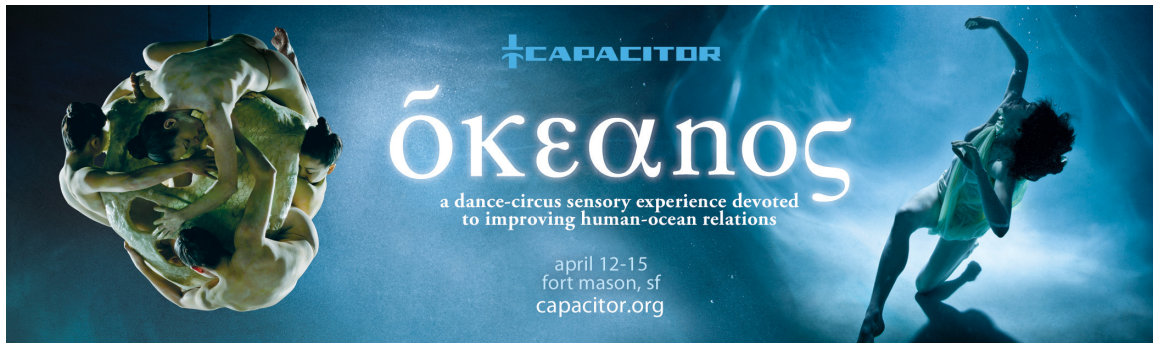


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



In 1957, Jodi Lomask's father dropped almost two miles straight down into the ocean, ultimately settling for three hours in a Mediterranean Sea ravine off the coast of Italy. Famed ocean explorer Jacques Picard piloted the Bathyscaphe while her father, a physicist, collected information on sound waves at various depths.

More than a half century later Capacitor Artistic Director, Lomask used that story that so enchanted her early on as the foundation to create a show to explain the magic, mystery and mayhem of the world's oceans. Two years in development, Okeanos will be presented as an ocean sensory immersion in Fort Mason's Herbst Pavilion on April 12 -15 at 8pm.

She dove deep, just as her father did: She went diving in a coral restoration site in Bali and in Monterrey's kelp forests to see two of the most vital biomes in the sea. She spent six months meeting with marine biologists and oceanographers at the California Academy of Sciences to develop a full and current understanding of ocean biology. She surfed the warm and the cold waters to feel the pulse and variation of the ocean's flow. She practiced sinking and falling to the bottom of bodies of water to experience the pressure increasing with depth – to experience a palpable letting go.

This effort to understand both the science and the spirit of the ocean led her to two major conclusions. The ocean is an integral part of our lives: we derive food from it, breathe the oxygen produced in it, drink the water that cycles through it, explore its depths to learn about the origins of life. Yet this essential resource is threatened by growing human demands. Coral extinction, trash contamination, over-fishing, oil spills, and climate change will affect not only the health of the seas but also human health. What once felt vast, endless, and overwhelmingly deep is now vulnerable to our increasingly destructive ways of living.

Okeanos is a multidisciplinary portrait of the ocean as body, environment, resource, metaphor, and force. It is a performance to inspire and educate audiences about the ocean and connect them directly to ocean conservation.

Okeanos features the distinctive artistic and technical components that Capacitor has become known for – inventive and articulated dance vocabulary, contemporary circus acts, abstract structures that mirror nature, poetic integration of audio/video/media forms, sculptural costumes, scientifically supported content, and conservation partnerships.

Fort Mason Center is co-presenting the premiere of Okeanos on April 12 – 15, 2012 in their 30,000 square ft Herbst Pavilion. The 60-minute performance will take place within a video environment constructed of two 25' wide scrims. Capacitors' four dancers and four circus artists perform within the projection space. Underwater footage of dancers, sea life and constructed video effects will be projected over the live performers and aerial apparatus. Vocal improvisations performed in conjunction with recordings of whale songs and interviews with scientific advisors Dr. Sylvia Earle and Dr. Tierney Thys punctuate the electronic sound score.

### **Ocean Issues Café**

When the audience emerges from Okeanos, we expect them to be inspired and enthused about marine biology and conservation. To harness the momentum Okeanos creates, the show will be followed by an "Ocean Issues Café." The Café is an interactive after show reception with booths sponsored by ocean conservation groups. The Café will feature five different stations focusing on separate ocean conservation topics/concerns to engage audience members in the conservation movement and promote the work of the organization(s) sponsoring the station.

By partnering with ocean conservation groups, Okeanos is an alternative vehicle for environmental communications – reinvigorating conservationists and inspiring the general public to support ocean vitality through performance. The café also presents an opportunity for those on the front lines of ocean conservation to collaborate and extend their networks.

## **Mission Statement**

Capacitor Performance synthesizes the human body with abstract structures and interactive media to create science-inspired shows that deepen audience connection with the natural world.

## **Brief History**

Founded in 1997 by Jodi Lomask, Capacitor encourages contact with scientific concepts in ways that allow audiences of all ages to see patterns and relationships inherent in nature and the cosmos. Informed by the spirit of scientific inquiry, the company uses a laboratory-style process, which features artists in working collaboration with the world's leading scientific minds to develop its performances.

Through performance that incorporates a wide range of disciplines including dance, interactive video, new music, circus, and visual art, Capacitor personalizes large, abstract concepts. In doing so, Capacitor transcends cultural barriers and widens the scope of basic human experience.

Capacitor's past works have tackled the creation of the universe (Within Outer Spaces, 2001); the past and the future of mankind (Future Species, 2000); video gaming (Avatars, 2003); the forest ecosystem (Biome, 2007); flower reproduction (The Perfect Flower, 2009); and now ocean vitality (Okeanos, 2012).

Capacitor has performed for a number of organizations including Google, CNET, TED, Celera, SONY, The Webby Awards, Volvo, NASA, the Exploratorium, California Academy of Sciences, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Gallery, the San Jose Museum of Art, Oakland Museum of California Art, New York's Joyce SoHo, HERE Mainstage and the American Theatre of Actors, San Francisco's Cowell Theater, Project Artaud Theater, Union Square, San Francisco Gay Pride Festival, and SomArts Gallery.

Capacitor has been commissioned to create original works for NASA, TED 2009, the California Academy of Sciences, and the Salvadorian Gymnastics Team. In addition, Artistic Director Jodi Lomask's contemplative use of dance, technology, and science has won her invitations to speak and/or perform at the Monaco Dance Forum, the Ecological Society of America, the American Physical Society, The BLUEMiND Summit, and City University of New York's Graduate Center.

## **Collaborators:**

### **Jodi Lomask – Artistic Director & Choreographer**

Capacitor was founded in 1997 by Jodi Lomask. Under her artistic direction, Capacitor created seven full evening works. Her work has been covered by Nature Magazine, Wired.com, Res Magazine, SHIFT Magazine, NBC 11's Tech NOW!, CNET Radio, TECH TV, Dance Magazine, San Francisco Magazine, The New York Times, and many others. She has performed with Project Bandaloop, Kneejerk, Erica Essner Performance Co-op, Zaccho Dance Theatre, and has taught workshops and classes in modern dance technique at universities across the United States. Lomask participated in CHIME, a mentorship program of the Margaret Jenkins Dance Company with apparatus dance artist Joanna Haigood. She was in residence at Yaddo artist colony in 2005 and 2006 and won the Dale Djerassi Fellowship at the Djerassi Artist Colony in April 2008. Lomask has created performance concepts for the World Showcase and Future World in Disney's Epcot Center. She appeared in National Geographic's 'Wild Chronicles' with canopy tree ecologist Dr. Nalini Nadkarni. Her 'biome' process was documented in Nadkarni's book, "Between Earth and Sky."

### **Dr Tierney Thys - Lead Scientific Advisor**

Marine Biologist, National Geographic Explorer, Filmmaker. Thys holds a biology degree in biology from Brown University and a doctorate in zoology from Duke University where she studied the biomechanics of fish swimming and taught comparative anatomy. A veteran natural history documentarian, Thys travels the world ocean conducting research on the giant ocean sunfish—the world's heaviest bony fish--and speaking to audiences about the importance of protecting our fragile ocean. She serves as a science journalist and science consultant for large multi-media ocean conservation projects and is a member of the TED conference braintrust.

### **RJ Muna – Photographer/Cinematographer**

RJ Muna has been photographing dance for over twenty years. Combining the physical energy of dance with the keen observation of photography allows him to move seamlessly between still and moving images. His many dance collaborations over the years have resulted in creative relationships that influence the artists on both sides of the camera. RJ's film work has been featured in many festivals including Dance On Camera Festival (NY), Dance Camera West (LA), San Francisco Dance Film Festival, and Art Basel Switzerland. He has won over 150 national awards, among them the International Center of Photography's Infinity Award and a Lucie Award. RJ's work has often been featured in magazines such as Communication Arts and Graphis Annuals, as well as Camera Arts Magazine, American Photography, and many other international publications. RJ's fine art work is represented by several galleries nationally where he has had numerous solo and group exhibitions.

## **David Hannan – Cinematographer**

Cinematographer, Director and Producer, David Hannan has won international acclaim for his tropical and temperate marine images. His now classic original underwater music video 'Coral Sea Dreaming - An Evolving Balance' released in 1992 has screened in over 60 countries and remains the best-selling Natural History program ever produced and marketed from Australia. Since then, David Hannan and his Australian based media company Plankton Productions has produced, co-produced and filmed for many other TV Documentaries and Musical Videos, amassed one of the worlds largest independent tropical marine footage libraries and also an extensive archive of Antarctica on HD. Several HD programs, 'Antarctica Dreaming - Wildlife on Ice', 'Serenity - Southern Seas' and 'Ningaloo - Where The Desert meets the Sea' were produced with ProCam in Brisbane, Australia. David Hannan has been extensively involved in shooting and/or supplying images for many of the worlds best known programs and series over the last two decades including the BBC's 'The Blue Planet', National Geographic 'The Shape of Life' and 'Great Migrations' series and David Suzuki's 'The Nature of Things'. In 1999 David won an Emmy Award for his Cinematography on 'Palau - Paradise of the Pacific', an episode of the highly acclaimed US Living Edens Series. He was again nominated for an Emmy Award in 2008 for 'Equator: Reef of Riches'. In 2007, David was Australian Producer and Cinematographer on Rob Stewarts Feature Documentary 'Sharkwater' that has since won more than 34 International Awards. The 6-part TV series 'Undersea Edens' completed during 2009 with Co-Producer Nate Scripture for Smithsonian Channel won a prestigious award for 'Best Series'.

## **Joseph Seif – Photographer/Cinematographer**

Joseph Seif is a photographer, cinematographer, and cinematography consultant based in San Francisco. Since completing his master's degree, he has worked on a wide array of independent films and commercial productions, honing his unique visual style. Joseph conducts media production seminars at Future Light Digital Workshops and is an active member of the APA (American Photographic Artists). He also runs a digital cinematography training and consulting service, [cinestudio.info](http://cinestudio.info).

## **Anka Draugelates – Musician/Vocalist**

Anka Draugelates is a German improvisational voice artist and musician who composes both experimental and classical pieces. Draugelates studied music therapy in the Netherlands at hoogeschool nijmegen and received her masters in 1996. She has trained with master voice teachers Jonathon Hart Makwaia, Jean-Rene Toussaint, Bobby McFerrin, and Lisa Sokolov. Draugelates has participated in solo and group shows throughout Europe and the United States. She has received residencies and fellowships from the Oberpfaelzer Kuenstlerhaus, Djerassi Artist Colony and Helen L Bing. She has worked extensively with diverse artists, including filmmakers, visual artists, dancers and musicians.

**Assistant Director:** Cari Delaplane

**Performers:** Mayuko Hosoai/ Elliott Gittelsohn / Jodi Lomask/ NancyKate Seifker/  
Chin-chin Hsu/ Michele Wong/ Naomi Hummel/ Elhassan Rais / Anka Draugelates

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(email for hi-res versions)