

One River Mississippi

Report from the Artistic Director

Issue No. 8: June 21, 2006

onerivermississippi.org

Just 3 days left until Performance Day
June 24 2006 ~ 7pm



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Note from the Director

Three days to go! I am feeling especially grateful for all of the wonderful people pulling our performance—the world's largest site-specific dance—together. Three words spring to mind as I write the last newsletter before the performance: culmination, ephemeral, and teams.

Culmination

In a few days, the performance will end. The presentation lasts one hour, yet the creation process lasted four years. That's the most time I have ever spent incubating a project.

Ephemeral

Last night, in the all-choreographer conference call (we've done that for close to two years now), we spoke about the art of dance, and about the poignant fact that it is inherently ephemeral. It is there; it is gone. Even photos or video cannot make it truly permanent.

Teams

I am delighted by our teams and how competent they are.

The choreographers from all of the sites have grown close. In these last weeks they have supported each other artistically, some musing about how to handle certain transitions, others

Even photos cannot make it truly permanent — Dancer on lock, Solstice River 2005.

[Itasca](#)

[Twin Cities](#)

[Quad Cities](#)

[St. Louis](#)

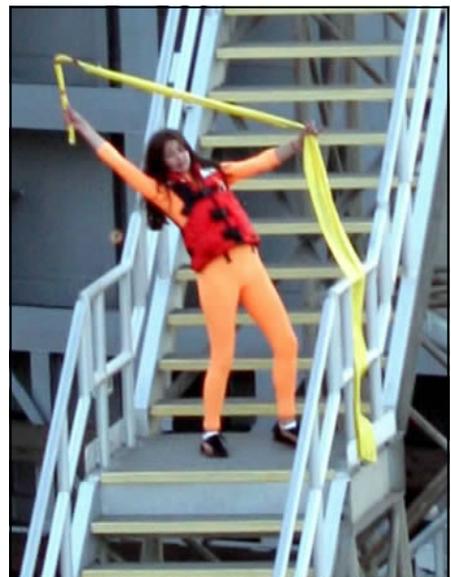
[E. St. Louis](#)

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commiserating about dancing on cobblestones, and so forth.

The dance therapists have connected via conference calls, working on the timing and polishing how they will lead their audiences to sing a harmonious chord all together.

The Reiki practitioners—we will have one at each site—will send energy to the river, and bless the waters. Like the other teams, they made a powerful connection via conference call.

The sound engineers will talk together during my next conference call. We will iron out remaining issues about the simultaneous chord sung by the audiences at all seven sites, via the wonders of electronic technology.

I am very excited. Very happy.

Marylee Hardenbergh, Artistic Director

Email us your snapshots

Following the performance, we will want snapshots of it to put up on our website. Even though, as we said, photos cannot truly make the performance permanent, we'd still like a photographic record! Got a photo you really like? E-mail it to us. If it's good quality and we don't have another like it, we'll use it on the Performance Slide Show page (<http://onerivermississippi.org/slideshow.html>).

One hint: since the performance involves everyone, including the watchers, we welcome photos of the audience reacting and participating.

Regrettably, we cannot pay for your photo, but we will give you full credit. Remember to include as much detail as you can: site, photographer, time or point during the performance, what the photo depicts.

How to e-mail your great photo of the Dance:

1. Please send one photo per email. Please send your photo in .jpg form. Remember, these are for the web, so if your photo is large, please reduce the file size; less than 100 KB is good. We will ask you for a larger file size if necessary.
2. Send your .jpg via email to **june24.oneriver@gmail.com**. Be sure to include as much detail as you can!

Great Photo of Shifting Shores

We latter-day humans readily understand the awe which gave rise to the Native American name for the Mississippi, "Father of the Waters." The broad, surging River meanders over the valley in great bends and curves, creating islands, oxbow lakes, swamps, natural levees, and fossil riverbeds.

And it shifts often. Our River builds large

The Mississippi River creating new shifting shores
<http://mshistory.k12.ms.us/features/feature25/mdnr.html>



necks of land, around which it loops until it breaks through in a cut-off, creating a new channel. Portions of Tennessee, such as Centennial Island, lay on the east bank when the state was created, but now lie on the west bank.

Send a postcard now to keep the River healthy!

At the June 24 Performance, look for the volunteers handing out postcards to mail to your US senators. The US Congress has a bill before it to protect the Louisiana coastal wetlands. We aim to convince all twenty senators from the ten states bordering the Mississippi River to unite in taking care of our One River Mississippi by supporting this bill.

Start learning more about Louisiana coastal issues on our website at: <http://onerivermississippi.org/venice/eco.html>

Front of the postcard you will send

Becoming a steward of the River

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin wrote to us. His words speak volumes: "This performance is a chance to strengthen the ties between our cities and awaken our consciousness to the environmental impacts associated with our existence."

This performance will awaken you, as the mayor said. After we participate in this nation-wide performance, One River Mississippi envisions that all of us, individuals and communities, will become better stewards of our River.

About One River Mississippi



Hamline University and the River

Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota, has created a Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE). The Center hosts Marylee Hardenbergh, One River Mississippi artistic director, as its artist-in-residence.

CGEE instituted the artist-in-residence program to promote artistic work that examines environmental issues and fosters stewardship through artistic expression. The Center holds that art sheds light on the interdependence of people and the environment.

Environmental Consultant Tracy Fredins serves as director of CGEE and assisted Marylee with major funding of One River Mississippi.

Please visit Tracy's page on the One River Mississippi website <http://onerivermississippi.org/eco/enviromdir.html>, and also visit CGEE's website for a wealth of information about stewardship. <http://cgee.hamline.edu/index.html>.



Tracy Fredins

The One River Mississippi newsletter provides updates about our project, which encompasses seven simultaneous performances in seven venues along the river.

This public art event, which is free and open to the public, has gained a timeliness and a new sense of commitment given the recent devastation downriver. The performances will create a sense of the interconnectedness that goes beyond one's immediate local environment to encompass an entire ecosystem.

The peoples of this ecosystem who come to the performance, and who act in it, will have the opportunity to work together to honor the "One River" that spans our nation, through the tools of art, ecology, and community awareness.

For complete information on the entire project, visit our website: <http://onerivermississippi.org>

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This project is presented as a collaboration between Global Site Performance and Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education, which is committed to environmental and community building efforts.