



Greetings to GWD Site Choreographers!

Welcome to this new year of our global project. We are very excited to have such an excellent artistic team.

For this first newsletter, we would like to share questions sent in by the GWD Peruvian Branch. As an Artistic Director, I am answering the questions below based on my experience with large scale site-specific outdoor performances.

Suggestions for starting this project?

Pick your site as soon as possible

Find out who has control over that site, and ask their permission to both perform on June 25 and to have a few rehearsals on site. These owners can be the company who owns the property, or the cities or departments (for example, the City of Minneapolis, the Minneapolis Parks Department, the Police Department of Acre). Often they want to know 2 things:

a) Are you insured? Yes. You have a million US Dollar insurance policy for "Global Water Dances" from the very well-respected Zurich Insurance Agency. We can put the name (of the city, the department, a person, or the business) on a Certificate of Insurance that shows the insurance will cover that person or entity. Just ask, and you can receive these certificates (one for each name). Some of the choreographers have their own insurance and do not need GWD, but this service is available to all choreographers all around the world, if they wish to use this, whether or not they contributed to our fund.

b) Are the dancers insured? Tell them that you will have all of the dancers sign an Indemnification document (also called "Hold Harmless" – which states that the owners will not get sued). I personally have dancers up on

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rooftops while the audience looks on from below. The audience never signs these papers, only those who go onto restricted property. I can send you a template written by the legal department of the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Line up publicity

Find out when the deadlines are for an article in your local magazines, newspapers, television etc to get a story in. Usually monthly magazines need the information by the end of February. We can send you a press release for you to adapt to your site.

Invite the Mayor of your city to attend

I suggest to the mayors that they can welcome the audience, but the speech must stay under 2 minutes.

What about Money and Fundraising?

Do you work with a budget?

I have two budgets, the "Normal Budget" and the "Bare Bones (Poor Man's) Budget" -- one includes everyone getting paid, and the other the bare expenses.

How big was it?

In one dance last year, I asked for \$35,000. I received \$10,000, and everyone got paid a small amount. The bare expenses were about \$1,500. Let me know if you want a sample budget.

Did you ask for funding from the private sector? or local government?

Most of my fundraising comes from the private sector. Or do you only ask for independent help from artists who worked for free? Most of my funding come from the private sector, mainly individuals who have money and are interested in supporting this work. In some places, you may find a corporations to be a good source of support, especially if our theme connects to their business in some way. I have received many grants from the government in the past, so check out their deadlines – our June dance is coming up soon.

Music Technology at the Performance

In my city, you can rent speakers that are perfect for outdoors - battery powered portable wireless systems. For instance Anchor Audio manufactures products "that pack an amazing 126dB of clear speech projection into a unit weighing just 18 pounds. Able to operate for up to 10 hours on a single charge." I recently rented two speakers for

3 dress rehearsal and the performance for under \$200. They are very easy to run. No electricity is needed!

Performance Structure

As you all know, but just as a reminder: The performances will take place in outdoor places where water and/or water issues are prevalent; i.e. at a lake, river, ocean or dried up water bed. In each locale, interested participants will come together at 5 PM on June 25, 2011 to perform in front of an audience (and video). The envisioned structure for the dance performance can be with professionals and/or lay dancers and includes some elements of a Laban Movement Choir. The dance piece consists of four sections:

- Section I: The first 2 - 20 minutes of the performance will be in the mode of a ritual. It can include local spiritual and/or religious leaders engaging in a ceremony to address the water issues of the area. You may wish to include Laban's Dimensional Scale, which we have adapted to the theme, to be a part of this opening, but you may also have your own image, so go for it. Music is your choice.
- Section II: This section of approximately twenty minutes is for the local choreographer (you) to create a work that is appropriate to your area and cultural traditions, using local musicians/composers if you choose, around the water issues of your area.
- Section III: This 10–12 minute section will be a dance that is pre-choreographed (and rehearsed!). We will get the music to you either by mail or Internet for this section. It will have portions in it which have been created by many choreographers globally: a global water dance to unite all geographic areas
- Section IV: This is a very short but very important section, in which all of the audience is invited to join in the final few moments. The music and the universal easy moves that are common-to-all-sites will also be sent to you. You will have these before the end of March.

The local choreographers or choreographic teams will be working with large groups and the audience. Toward this end, choreographers may have their own expertise in working with Movement Choirs or large groups, or they might work with a Dance Therapist who can work with the audience that day to engage them in joining in the movements of the dance, and to empower stewardship of the water of the planet.

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We Invite Your Ideas

We would love to have your ideas for Section III, the part of the performance that is to be shared globally. (Submitting your ideas is totally optional, so only do this if you would like to)

Please visit the "For Choreographers" page on our website to find out more:

<http://www.globalwaterdances.org/choreos/index.html>

Submissions are due by March 9th at midnight (your local time).

There is much enthusiasm building and we are very happy for all of your participative energy. We would like to acknowledge Andrea Haenggi for her initiative on this video submission invitation.

Warm regards,
The Steering Committee

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March Information

Common Questions from Global Choreographers

Q. How can we get volunteers to help us at our site?

A. "Getting volunteers is not usually that hard in cities; it IS often harder in rural areas. Most of us are using a combo of professional companies and lay dancers and ALL of our online networks. Adding the details of your site plans on your location's GWD webpage will also attract support. Linking to an educational or arts org or a movement center helps. If you want, you can reach out to your regional liaison who can send out your wish list to Laban trained people (being in touch with CMAs near you is one of the quickest ways to get more ideas for movement choirs and choreography). Everyone should reach out to other list serves and social networks in your region if you haven't already. Connecting with CMAs in a 100mile sweep, local dance companies, arts organizations, environmental groups, social networks, and list serves make a powerful outreach plan." – Martha Eddy

Q. How does the timing work for the music in the performance?

A. You start at 5 PM. Your Section I and Section II can be as long as you want them to be. Each site will be doing the Section III (8.5 minutes) at its own time, since everyone's local music and dancing (Section I and II) will be up to the local choreographers. Section IV is audience participation and we will all use the same music for that. More to come on that, later.

Q. When I download Section III the sound is not clear.

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A. Follow these steps:

- 1) Please try downloading the “uncompressed” file for Section III.
- 2) Find someone who is computer savvy, if you are still having problems.
- 3) If all else fails, notify me immediately and send your mailing address and I will send you a CD (please use this as a last resort as this could get very expensive).

Q. Is it a requirement to videotape my dance?

A. The most important thing is that you do your dance (with or without video). Because we are trying to make this a global event, having video footage from all the sites is a very important element. If for some reason you are unable to videotape at least a few minutes, please try to take some photographs. We are definitely going to have a film made of all the videos after the event is over, especially highlighting our unifying Section III.

We are planning to live stream the videos in real time on Saturday June, 25th. We are still working on how to do that and will let you know as soon as we have figured it out.

Q. Does GWD have a letterhead that we can use for fundraising, press materials, inviting the mayor, etc?

A. Yes. It will be coming in a separate e-mail from director.gsp@gmail.com

Q. United Nation's World Water Day is coming up in a few days. Can we take advantage of that in our own publicity?

A. Yes, this will also be attached to the separate e-mail mentioned above.

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Welcome!

New choreographers are signing up, and we are very glad to have these international sites! June 25 is about two months away, so we are getting very excited!

Choreographers -- Questions and Answers

1. How can we amend our site page on the GWD website? We want to put in planning meeting dates, as well as add to the choreographer list.

Go to <http://www.globalwaterdances.org/map/where.html> to make any changes to the form. In boxes where there is even a tiny change, please re-enter the entire wording as you want it to be. In boxes where the information is exactly the same as before, put "same" -- except be sure to put your city in the top box.

2. Will you be sending us more specific dance "instructions" to use for the Section III where it says there will be movement parts created by choreographers around the world?

The international Steering Committee has taken all of the submissions from around the world and is putting together a video. This 8.5 minute long Section III music and moves will unite all our sites everywhere. The video will be up on our website by May 1, 2011.

3. When will the audience participation (Section IV) be available to us?

- 9 The music (recorded are women standing in water and using the water surface as a drum) and the Audience Participation simple moves will be up on the website by May 1 in the FOR CHOREOGRAPHERS section.

4. Will you send us a universal postcard/flier?

Yes, we are working on a version for a postcard that you will be able to type on to add your own information in your own language. We will send this to you by April 29.

5. What about videotaping our performance?

Please get as high quality video footage captured as you can. We are planning to create a final film about Global Water Dances that will include footage from every single site. We are researching how to gather the footage, whether it is better by Internet or mail.

5. How do we incorporate a water issue into our event?

Buddy up with an Environmental group in your city. They will be very happy to help get the public involved in a water issue.

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For the Global Sections

Section III

May 1st is almost at hand! The Steering Committee has an editor finalizing the video of this unifying dancers' section, which will be up on our website late Monday or Tuesday May 2 or 3. As a reminder, the music for this section is on the website now. It is 8.5 minutes of Indian Tabla and Andean Flute music, with a rain storm thrown in. This music can be downloaded off the website in either a small or large file.

Section IV

These are the moves for the audience participation. The rhythmic sound comes from hands drumming on the surface of water. There are four moves of four counts each. Feeling the world doing this together will be unforgettable, and video images of our audiences all around the globe inspiring! A link to the Teaching Section IV video is currently on the FOR CHOREOGRAPHERS page. Soon we will have the video and a copy of the music available directly on our website.

Questions and Answers

Q: How long does the entire dance need to be? Our Section II is only 9 minutes long.

A: Your Section I and II can be any length you choose, so the entire length of the performance may be shorter or longer, depending on what you choose. What we imagine is this: everyone will start their performance at 5 PM local time, so everyone's Section III will begin at different minutes -- whether at 5:10 or 5:45, it follows our plan.

Q. How long should the Audience Participation go on?

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A: Plan on it taking a while for the audience members to join in. Perhaps you teach them the moves before the dance begins, or perhaps they pick it up in the moment. One idea is to have people in the audience who have learned the moves ahead of time, to help the others. Often, as the audience repeats the phrase, they begin to enjoy it more and more. Perhaps your audience will only start off with the 4 moves in the video, but then change it in some way. Perhaps the audience joining will go on for many minutes, or it may be short. As the choreographer, you may want to have the Section IV music recorded for many minutes and then fade out as you see fit.

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And... Five Weeks To Go !

Greetings! Hey, great job to all who have added more water information about your site. Thank you!

Hopefully by now, you know about the video of our global Section III on the website. Below are more questions and answers..

Q: Are we free to interpret the video for Section III any way we want?

A: There are two points where we envision global synchrony: 1) at minute 3:17 in the music, forming a quick low group at the thunder clap, and 2) at 7:05 the unison moves performed three times, so that all are ending together.

There is a lot of room for interpretation. There is a story line provided, and as this dance is meant to be a global united front, we want to all be telling the same story. If you want to enhance this story, great. It is up to you to find some transitions, and you also decide on the length of time for each image. Some may have a short stream section and a long ocean part, for example.

Q: Do we all perform rain or shine?

A: Yes, absolutely. We all start at 5 PM our local time, regardless of the weather.

Q: Where can we find the Motif Writing for Section III?

A: On the GWD website, on the "For Choreographers" page

Q. Which is more important, the video footage for the film or the live streaming?

A: The footage for the final film is more important than the live-streaming. Not all of the sites will be live-streaming. We plan to make a final film with images from all of the sites.

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Information on how to live-stream will be coming in a later newsletter

Q. How will we upload our video footage?

A: Information on how to upload your footage will be coming in a later newsletter. We are in the process of signing up with a company that can handle 100 gigs at a time, and can also upload from China.

Q. Insurance: what if the owners of the property want to be insured?

A: No problem. Email us and give us the name and address (no post office boxes) of any company or city that wants to be insured, and we will send you a certificate with that name/address on it.

Q. Why does the Steering Committee ask that we wear shoes outdoors?

A: Safety is very important. Shoes protect from broken glass, or sharp sticks.

Q. What if our Section II is very long?

A: Start your dance at 5 PM, and then Section III will start after your local section. It can be at 5:10 or 5:55 PM. Just keep your order of sections. The timing itself is very flexible.

We are so honored to be working with all of you!

The Steering Committee

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Performance and Website Questions

Q.1 Sound systems: How best to play music at my performance site?

One suggestion: rent portable speakers with chargeable batteries. No cables, cords or electrical outlets are needed. Just charge them up and they can play up to 6 hours. You can plug in a walkman-CD or iPod, and for extra money you can add wireless microphones. Party Rentals often rent sound systems like these. (In Minnesota the 2-speaker system cost \$160 to rent for the entire weekend so we used it for our dress rehearsal as well.)

Q.2 Yikes! Live-Streaming?

Good news!! Live-streaming is totally optional. A small number of sites will be live streaming from their performances, we will be selecting those sites based on their technological capabilities and will be contacting them soon. Remember, the most important thing is to get footage for the final film. If you would like to live stream, in addition to filming, please let the steering committee know and we will follow up with you with our information.

Q.3 Can we have a GoogleMap indicating where our performance site is on our webpage?

Yes! All you need to do is to GoogleMap your site and send the URL link to director.gsp@gmail.com

Q.4 Program notes?

If you are not going to hand out programs, no worries. If you are planning to hand out programs, and you would like some information about global water issues this will be up on the website soon..... Be sure to check the FOR CHOREOGRAPHERS page on the GWD website. There are many publicity aids available.

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Performance Details for our Choreographers

Three weeks from today is our performance. We can work miracles in three weeks! All of you are working from the top of your game, and the results are already beautiful. This performance is going to be marvelous and important. The Steering Committee is so honored to be working with all of you, in this global family of choreographers....

1. Must the music for Section III be played at our performance? We have live musicians.

The Steering Committee would really prefer that the music for the GWD Section III be played at the performance...this is to have the unity we are talking about on the global level. So if you are not planning to have a sound system, then please have a "ghetto-blasters" / "boom-box" with batteries which can play the music – so you know exactly the music cues, i.e. the length of the piece, the "thunder" and the ending unison sequence tempo and rhythm that starts at 7:05 in the music. By the way, it might be possible to ask the local radio station to play the music at a certain time – so that you can get several "ghetto-blasters" tuned into that station playing the music all synchronized! (At the very least, have one musician listening on a CD player or iPod at the time of your Section III performance, for the Feng Shui of the concept of connecting all our sites..)

2. You can have time between Sections II, III, and IV.

You may (or may not) want a transition time between your local dance Section II and the Global Section III. And, you may want some short applause time between Section III and Section IV where the audience joins in. Do the Sections in order, but use your own judgment about the best flow of your site's performance.

3. Insurance – what if the owners of my site require insurance?

Do this as soon as you can!! It is easy, but may take a few days. Just e-mail director.gsp@gmail.com (or through the “Contact Us” on the GWD website) and request a Certificate of Insurance. State precisely WHO needs it, and their address. If the names are not in English, please translate or explain the names in English (so our insurance guy knows what he is insuring.)

Example:

Concepcion Mystique

39 Rue de la Filbert

Your City, Country

Postal Code

Then tell us: "Concepcion Mystique" is the company that owns the building where there will be dancers on the balcony. Or, if it is a Government Department, tell us that.

4. What is the deadline to upload our video footage after our performance?

Please start uploading as soon as you can. Send your raw footage from your best camera first. You will have only two weeks to complete this task. We will let you know fairly soon where and how to upload your footage. If you upload your footage right away, TV stations may play it on the news that day. Depending on your computer, it may take a long time to upload; you can do this overnight. You will not need to download any software in order to upload your digital video. For those of you who will not have digital footage, only tapes, please let us know and we can work out a plan.

5. The Motif Score for Section III is now written out in English, and is available on the “For Choreographers” page under the heading GWD Final Motif Section III. Thank you to Tara Stepenberg and Antja Kennedy!

6. Fliers, Posters, and other publicity images of our performance.

Posters are NOT required for this performance. However, if you do make one, please send us yours, and it will go up on your webpage.

7. Live Streaming?

Live-streaming is NOT necessary and will not be done at all of the sites. Let us know if you really want to be one of the live-streaming sites. We will let you know the details of how to do this soon.

8. Next year?

Some people have asked what the date for next year’s GWD is. Saturday, June 23, 2012.

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5 days and counting....

**To all our glorious choreographers:
Everyone is busy and the momentum has grown. We are amazed at the beauty and power amassed in this dance! Here are just a few details:**

Video

Uploading Video Footage for Final Film

1. Send us the name and e-mail of your videographer. (Send to director.gsp@gmail.com or through CONTACT US on the GWD website)
2. They will receive an invitation/permission to upload their files to ShareFile.
3. They (and you) will receive from GWD a letter of detailed instructions.
4. The footage MUST be uploaded by July 7, 2011.

What if my video camera is not digital?

We will reimburse you for mailing us your original footage; we promise to copy it and mail it back to you immediately. Contact us at director.gsp@gmail.com or through CONTACT US on the GWD website.

How do we end the performance?

I'm not sure how to end the Audience Participation Section IV.

One suggestion: just start clapping, and everyone will join in. This signals the end. You can even designate one person who feels comfortable with groups to be the one who decides when it is time to end.

Live streaming

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You do NOT need to Live-Stream. For those who wish to, you can use a cell phone with a video camera (this can't be done by your videographer)

- 1. Please let us know if you plan to be live-streaming. Your local person doing the live-streaming can NOT be the same person as your videographer.**
- 2. Download Bambuser application onto your cell phone (go to your Cell Phone store to download the app; it is free and easier than downloading from the Internet)**
- 3. When you tell us you are live-streaming, we will assign you a user name such as GWDBoston or GWDEgypt and if you have more than one camera, GWDBoston2 and GWDBoston3. Your password must be *globalwater*.**
- 4. Important instructions and “helpful hints” will be mailed to you to give to your person who is Live-streaming.**

Surveys

Audience surveys are available if you choose to survey your audience. They were created by and for the European choreographers. Copies in English and German will be on the FOR CHOREOGRAPHERS page.

FYI:USA

Here is an event on same day as ours, at noon in the USA: Hands Across the Sands (<http://www.handsacrossthesand.com/>)

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Congratulations!

Global Water Dances Sent Many Ripples ~~~~~~

The Steering Committee wants to express its heartfelt recognition for your amazing accomplishments.

This is a quick Memo to acknowledge each and every one of you, our global family of choreographers. Whether you danced or whether you could not (for instance, due to a typhoon, Taipei had to postpone their performance one week) -- ALL of you are part of our Collective.

We can't wait to hear how it went for you! We will be gathering photos and stories, but for today, we just wanted to say:

Thank You, Global Water Dancers!

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We Did It!!

Congratulations on a very successful venture. The videotapes are coming in, and everyone seems very happy with their local and the global event.

There is now a feedback form linked to the "For Choreographers" page on the GWD website, as well as linked below in this email.

Please use the form to SUBMIT YOUR BEST PHOTOS (up to seven).

Please also FILL OUT THE FORM. Your answers will help us get grants and publicity for next time.

To answer the questions online, go to <http://www.formstack.com/forms/?1092280-3ehvuHRoF5>

If you want to answer from a mobile phone, use this link: <http://www.formstack.com/m/?1092280-3ehvuHRoF5>

Or go to the GWD webpage and follow the links:
<http://globalwaterdances.org/choreos/index.html>

Thank you!

GWD Steering Committee

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