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**What:** "Undercurrents and Exchange" and "The Drifting Encyclopedia" by **Zach Morris** and **Tom Pearson/Third Rail Projects**

**Where:** World Financial Center, 220 Vesey Street

**Web:** <http://www.rivertorivernyc.com/events/eventDetail.php?eventID=3372>

**Performance:**

Location: World Financial Center Winter Garden

Dates/Times:

Monday-Friday, July 12–16 & July 19–23, 12:00–12:10pm & 1:00–1:10pm (repeat)

Friday, July 23, 7:00–8:00pm (full-length performance)

**Exhibition:**

Location: World Financial Center Courtyard Gallery

Dates: July 12–September 3, 2010

Hours: Monday-Friday, 12 p.m.-4 p.m.

**WITH DANCE AND ART, THIRD RAIL PROJECTS TAKES**

**RIVER TO RIVER FESTIVAL AUDIENCES ON**

**SUMMER-LONG EXPEDITION AT WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER**

*Presented by Arts World Financial Center as part of the River To River Festival,*

*"Undercurrents & Exchange" will unfold over ten days from July 12 -23;*

*"The Drifting Encyclopedia" will be on display from July 12-September 3*

[www.RiverToRiverNYC.com](http://www.RiverToRiverNYC.com) -- 888-391-FEST

New York, NY (June 24, 2010) – Through a two-week performance series entitled **Undercurrents & Exchange**, and an immersive installation art exhibit entitled **The Drifting Encyclopedia**, Bessie award-winning choreographers and artists Zach Morris and Tom Pearson of **Third Rail Projects** embark on a summer-long expedition grappling with and unearthing improbable connections, personal mythologies, and the conundrum of love in America.

The free production and exhibit are part of the River To River Festival, New York's largest free summer arts festival. Named "one of the city's most compelling summer series" by *The New York Times*, the Festival draws hundreds of thousands of people each year to venues throughout Lower Manhattan.

For ten weekdays beginning July 12th, the lunchtime bustle of the World Financial Center Winter Garden will be interrupted by a new dance every day -- a series of mysterious ten-minute performances involving a band of neo-vaudevillians replete with steamer trunks, sideshow flair, and costumes inspired by the Winter Garden's architecture: dresses that mimic the grand staircase, parasols made of palm fronds, and corsets that transform into sailing ships.

An anachronistic retelling of the true story of a performing trio of sisters who find themselves stranded in Lower Manhattan, their implausible predicament, and tumultuous relationships, each performance evokes images of transition, displacement, and curiosity among the Winter Garden's majestic marble and palms.

The intriguing daily episodes are all part of *Undercurrents & Exchange*, a new site-specific work by Third Rail Projects, which will culminate when all ten segments are performed collectively on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, revealing an underlying and surprising common thread.

Curious onlookers and audience members can further explore the story of these strange sisters, as well as other questionable historical accounts and American oddities, in the *The Drifting Encyclopedia*, an exhibit in WFC's Courtyard Gallery. Part Victorian cabinet of curiosities and part roadside attraction, this immersive art installation invites viewers into a museum-like dreamscape which houses exhibits that echo the theme of unlikely connections and contemplates the actual, illusory, and anomalous nature of love.

Audience members will also be able to follow each day's developments on the company's blog at <http://thirdrailprojects.blogspot.com>.

*Undercurrents & Exchange* was created by Zach Morris and Tom Pearson and features additional choreography by Marissa Nielsen-Pincus, Tara O'Con, and Jennine Willett, with performances by guest artists. *The Drifting Encyclopedia* was created by Zach Morris in collaboration with Elizabeth Carena, Tom Pearson, and Kryssy Wright.

"We are thrilled to return to the Winter Garden this summer with a work that draws connections between the undercurrents of our personal and collective stories," said Tom Pearson, Co-Director of Third Rail Projects. "We are looking at the connections between people and between people and place, at the Winter Garden and the myriad populations who pass in and out of these types of interstitial spaces in Lower Manhattan."

"Third Rail Projects has found such a playful and original way to engage with the Winter Garden," said Debra Simon, Artistic Director of Arts World Financial Center. "Anyone with ten minutes to spare will be able to watch a strange, exotic dance performance unfold each day, building up to a spectacular full-length performance that will tie everything together."

#### **About Third Rail Projects**

Third Rail Projects, led by Zach Morris, Tom Pearson, and Jennine Willett, is dedicated to reframing dance and performance and bringing art to the public through an array of media and within a variety of contexts including site-specific performances, dance theater, installation art, video and multi-media projects, and immersive performance environments. Collectively, Third Rail artists have been granted commissions, support, and residencies from presenters, organizations, and foundations including: Arts World Financial Center, Danspace Project, Lincoln Center

for the Performing Arts, the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, the Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation, Abrons Arts Center, the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, Dance New Amsterdam, , Dance Theater Workshop, Topaz Arts, La Mama ETC, 92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Center, The American Music Center, The Lucky Star Foundation, and Materials for the Arts, among many others. Third Rail artists have also received numerous awards including two 2008 New York Dance and Performance (Bessie) Awards for *Vanishing Point*, a 2001 New York International Fringe Festival Award for Choreography from the Present Company, and others.

For more information please visit [www.thirdrailprojects.com](http://www.thirdrailprojects.com).

**About Arts World Financial Center**

Now in its 22nd season, Arts World Financial Center is the East Coast's largest presenter of free, year-round performing and visual arts. A leading showcase for visual and performing arts, the organization makes the artistic process accessible in a free, open and interactive manner to workers, residents and the broader public of cultural consumers.

**About River to River Festival**

The River To River Festival is presented by a collaboration of Lower Manhattan's major cultural event producers including the Alliance for Downtown New York, Arts World Financial Center, Battery Park City Authority, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and The Seaport. Co-presenters for the 2010 season are the Joyce Theater and IMG Artists. All partners are firmly committed to using the arts as a tool for economic revitalization and the development of new audiences for the arts.

Free admission to River To River® events is underwritten by a wide range of funders led by the Festival's Founding Sponsor, American Express.

Major support is provided by the Festival's Producing Partners, including NBC Local Media New York and WNYC New York Public Radio. Vital support comes from our Supporting Funders, including Century 21 Department Stores, EmblemHealth, JetBlue Airways, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, Target, and The Village Voice. Participating Funders are CB Richard Ellis, The Moody's Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, New York Marriott Downtown, New York State Council on the Arts, New York Stock Exchange Foundation, Pace University, and TKTS Seaport.

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