

**Melinda Ring** regularly collaborates with visual artists creating work for video, installation projects, and theaters as well. *Huh?* (2007), was made for Martin Kersels' sculpture *Rickety*. Originally commissioned by, and shown at The Tang Teaching Museum at Skidmore College, it was reprised at The Santa Monica Museum of Art in November 2008. Melinda is currently at work on two new projects, *Hmmm...*, which will premiere in April 2009 at The Kitchen in New York, and, *For the Birds*, a collaboration with Athens based artist Jennifer Nelson for The Box gallery in Los Angeles, opening in January 2009. Ring was born in Los Angeles, and moved to New York City in September 2001.

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**Special Projects** is a production company that supports the creation of dance and movement based art projects. It promotes dance performance as a visual event as well as a kinesthetic experience. Generating works for art spaces, visual art mediums, and specific sites, as well as theatrical venues, its aim is to challenge audiences to expand their expectations for dance performance.

**Melinda Ring** (Special Projects Artistic Director) is a choreographer whose work is informed as much by the concerns of experimental work in visual art, film, and theater, as it is by developments in new dance. More interested in continuing to question why and how to make dances than resolving the answer, Ring has produced works with titles like *Impossible Dance*, and *Huh?*. Commissioned and produced by The Tang Teaching Museum at Skidmore College in 2007, *Huh?* was presented again in November 2008 at the Santa Monica Museum of Art as part of Martin Kersels' *Heavyweight Champion*. Thanks to a Dance Theater Workshop Outer/Space Residency grant, and the Mabou Mines/Suite Resident Artist program, Ring spent fall '08 developing the dance, *Hmmm...*, which will premiere at The Kitchen in April 2009. *For the Birds*, a collaborative project with Athens based artist Jennifer Nelson opens at The Box gallery in Los Angeles, in January 2009. Ring is a graduate of Bennington College (MFA) and UCLA (BA). She moved from Los Angeles to New York City in September 2001.

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**Melinda Ring** regularly collaborates with visual artists creating work for video, installation projects, and theaters as well. *Huh?* (2007), was commissioned by The Tang Teaching Museum at Skidmore College, and was made for Martin Kersels' sculpture *Rickety*. It was presented again in November 2008 at the Santa Monica Museum of Art as part of Martin Kersels' *Heavyweight Champion*. *Beauport Cycle* (2004) was made specifically for his installation *Sleeper's Dream* at MASS MoCA. Ring choreographed a gestural language for *Definition* (2005), Tirtza Even and Brian Karl's multimedia installation, which showed at the Skirball Cultural Center (L.A.), The Jewish Museum (N.Y.), and The Contemporary Jewish Museum (S.F.). Selections from *Faux Pas* (2002–2006), an on-going project, have been presented by various New York City venues including; DTW, WAX, Mulberry Street Theater, The Flea Theater, Dumbo Dance Festival, the A.W.A.R.D. Show, Movement Research at the Judson Church, and BAX. Beyond Baroque, L.A., and the University of Colorado, Boulder presented full-length versions of *Faux Pas*.

Other evening-length works include: *Remote* (2002), *Party Scene (solo)* (2001), *Party Scene* (2000), *Impossible Dance #1 & Impossible Dance #2 (still life)* (1999), *My Dora Jarr* (1998) a performance/installation created with artist Liz Young, *Leaving Dora Jarr* (1998), *Re-establishing the Ground Plane* (1997), *Slow Dissolve: Meditations on the Film Sudden Impact* (1997), a duet with actor Tony Abatemarco, *Weather Condition Dances (glare, long rain, dense fog)* (1996).

Thanks to a 2007 – 2008 Dance Theater Workshop (DTW) Outer Space Residency grant, and a 2007 – 2008 Mabou Mines/Suite Residency, Ring is currently at work on her next project, *Hmmm...*, which will premiere at The Kitchen in April 2009. Work on a video/installation version of *Hmmm...* has been supported by the 2008 Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Swing Space program. *For the Birds*, a collaborative project with Athens based artist Jennifer Nelson opens at The Box gallery in Los Angeles, in January 2009.

For the Spring 2007 Movement Research Festival – “Reverence (Irreverence)” Ring curated *The Salon of Found (and Stolen) Dance*, an evening of live demonstrations, video footage, performance and conversation of, on and around the topics of appropriation, inspiration, transformation, and stealing.

She reprised the event at Farmlab in Los Angeles in September 2007. Her writing has been published in the Summer/Fall 2007 issue of Contact Quarterly Magazine, which focused on alternative formats for dance.

Ring was a 2005 - 2006 Movement Research artist-in-residence. She has had residencies at La Boca Performance Space at the Sunshine Mission shelter for women, in L.A., (1991–2000), Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, CA, (1999), and The Field's Artward Bound at the White Oak Plantation, Yulee, FL (2004). She served on the artist advisory councils for Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, and LACE. She has received several grants (1998, 96, 94) and a COLA fellowship (1999) from the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department. Her work has also been supported by the Puffin Foundation (2007), DTW (2007), Movement Research (2005), Meet the Composer (1998, 1995), the J. Paul Getty Center (1998), Audrey Skirball-Kenis Theater Projects (1997), California Arts Council (1996 - 1998), Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (1994), L.A. Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE) (1989), and Highways Performance Space (1996-2001) where she taught and presented many dances.

Ring has appeared in many of artist Paul McCarthy's videos and films; including *Picadilly Circus* (2003), *Bunker Basement* (2003), shown at Hauser & Wirth Gallery (London), and the Pirate Project (2005) shown at Whitechapel gallery (London), and Kunsthal Bern. In 2000 she worked with Martin Kersels' on his video *Pink Constellation* (2001), dancing on the ceiling and rolling down the walls of a teenage girl's bedroom à la Fred Astaire in "Royal Wedding." *Pink Constellation*, was shown at Deitch Projects (N.Y.), at ACME Gallery (L.A.) and is currently on view at Museum of Contemporary Art L.A. She recently worked with Kersels and Leslie Dick on *Ripcord*, a new video project which was shown at ACME Gallery in October 2008.

Ring began her career as a member of the Rudy Perez Performance Ensemble (1980-84). She is a graduate of Bennington College (MFA, 2001), and UCLA (BA, 1982). In 1988 and 1990, she studied with Min Tanaka in Japan.

Ring was born in Los Angeles, and moved to New York City September 2001.