

Dear Friends,

We are grateful for a year of immense changes in our lives. (Perhaps you may care to sit down...)

2009

Yes, it's true: we have taken the plunge and accepted full time faculty positions at the **University of Maryland/College Park**. An offer was made which we couldn't refuse—a low teaching load, support for our own creative work, and enthusiasm for our ideas of giving students professional level experiences outside of the university walls. So now you can address us as professors! We are still working with our company, still choreographing, still touring, but now we have access to beautiful studios, students who are eager and intelligent with whom we can work over a three-four year period, and health insurance!

This didn't stop us from crossing two oceans to create two new works this year—one in Korea, one in Slovakia:

The **Daejeon City Dance Company** commissioned **Kré Kré Kré (Yes! Yes! Yes!)**, which reconnected us with South Korea for a 3-week residency in May. The company has 40 fully employed dancers and gives 75 performances each year. These dancers have remarkably focused energy, thanks to artistic director Kim Mae Ja's interest in integrating their traditional Korean dance training with Western contemporary dance and martial arts. Kré Kré Kré became a 30-minute work for 20 performers that brought the house down.

In July, we created **A Curious Invasion/Medička Gardens** in **Bratislava, Slovakia**. A grant from the **Trust for Mutual Understanding** made this creative residency possible, during which we choreographed a 75-minute site work with company dancers Lindsay Gilmour and Tzveta Kassabova, special guest Paul Matteson and apprentice Mickey Mahar. 12 local emerging artists participated in the two-week project, during which we coached them in creating their own work which became part of the performance. As part of the residency, we also performed at the **Pohoda Open Air Festival**, in which thousands of people walked by, through, and around our site-adaptive performance. It was a total success and proved transformational for the organizers, who had only agreed to this with great trepidation.

Little by little, we ARE changing the world!

In September, Patrik was invited to an international conference in **Switzerland**.

How we managed all this during a summer in which we lost Sara's mother after a four-year period of intensive caretaking, as well as a dear friend in India, we'll never know. And then Sara herself sustained a severe injury during dress rehearsal in Bratislava, from which she is still recovering. It made moving and beginning the new job in Maryland all the more challenging, but of course nothing will stop us from forging ahead with new plans.

2010

In addition to a 12-performance, 8-venue spring tour of **Unmoored (Love Letters to New Orleans)** with PWDT and 12 UMCP dancers, (funded by an NEA grant and matched by the university) we have four new projects in the works, for which **WE ASK YOUR SUPPORT** once again to help make them possible:

A new company work for four long-legged ladies, (including the one and onlies Lindsay Gilmour and Tzveta Kassabova) to be created during a three-week NYSCA-supported creative residency in Ithaca, NY.

The Sky is Falling, The Sky is Falling, a spoken word/video evening conceived by Sara which will explore endless loss and longing through a multicultural lens of trauma and love affairs with God while in the Clark Kent garb of normalcy.

Kami: The Season of No Regrets, a collaboration with composer and Grand Master of the shakuhachi James Nyoraku Schlefer, to be premiered at the Tenri Cultural Institute in Manhattan next fall.

And while Sara choreographs a new group work in the fall of 2010 for the company and a student cast, Patrik will create a solo for Lauren Withhart's graduate thesis concert at UMCP in October.

In December and January we will be going to India to begin research on a new work. In March we have been invited to Dickinson College as well as to Cornell University and Ithaca College in April.....

As you can see, we have our work cut out for ourselves! We can't wait to tackle all these projects and hope very much that you'll participate in them as audience members and SPONSORS. Please act NOW and make these projects—which give so much to so many people all over the planet—a reality. They can only happen with your active (green) support.

Thank you + Best Wishes Always,

Sara + Patrik