

A Heidi Latsky Dance and ALLIGERARTS production

# GIMP



PHOTO: ARTHUR FINK

## History

During fall 2006, Heidi Latsky began an intensive period of creation with bi-lateral amputee, Lisa Bufano, a Boston-based interdisciplinary artist and 2006-07 Franklin Furnace Fund for Performance Art Recipient. This marked a significant shift of focus for the company and a period of immense growth. The solo "Five Open Mouths" was the subject of a documentary and an NPR national piece.

The evening length GIMP premiered at North Fourth/VSA Arts of New Mexico in Albuquerque November 2008, followed by a NYC season at the Abrons Arts Center and performances at Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art. Excerpts of GIMP have been performed at: Kennedy Center, D.C.; Beloit College, WI; Boston University, MA; Judson Church and Dance Theater Workshop, NYC; Woodstock Playhouse, NY; Biograph/Victory Gardens Theater, Chicago; Hofstra University, NY; Rutgers University, NJ; The Society for Disability Studies Conference at NYU, NY; and Zagreb, Croatia. In 2008, Latsky was selected by The Society for Arts in Healthcare to present a paper on the GIMP project, and in April 2009 excerpts were presented at their annual conference.

GIMP has received support from the Manhattan Community Arts Fund supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and administered by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. Other supporters include: The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation, The Harkness Foundation for Dance, Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, Pentacle/ARC with funding from the LuEsther T. Mertz Advised Fund at The New York Community Trust, the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, The New York Community Trust, the Emma A. Shaefer Charitable Trust, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Mnuchin Foundation and the Candace Bergen Malle Foundation.

GIMP has been made possible by generous space grants from the Actors Temple Liz Gerring and Danspace Project; The Baryshnikov Center; Bikram Yoga NYC and The Abrons Arts Center.

GIMP is a Creative Capital Project.

### **GIMP: gimp (gimp)**

- 1. a ribbon like, braided fabric**
- 2. fighting spirit; vigor**
- 3. a lame person**
- 4. slang; a halting, lame walk**

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# About the Company

**HEIDI LATSKY** (Artistic Director/Choreographer/Performer, Heidi Latsky Dance, and GIMP), originally from Montreal, first received recognition as a celebrated principal dancer for the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company (1987-1993). Since then she has been a choreographer for stage, theater and film. Latsky has a BA in Psychology with Honors from Carleton University (1979). There, she received the Senate Medal for Outstanding Academic Achievement and The Ottawa Ladies College Scholarship. Other awards include the Scripps/ADF Primus-Tamaris Fellowship for Choreography and the McGinnis Lectureship Award from Point Park College. In 1996, she was chosen to represent Canada at the Suzanne Dellal International Dance Competition in Tel Aviv and at Danse a Lille, France. Latsky has toured extensively throughout the United States and Europe with her own company and as part of Goldhuber & Latsky (with former partner Lawrence Goldhuber). Her choreography has been commissioned by the Cannes International Dance Festival, The American Dance Festival, Danspace Project, Whitney Museum of Art, The Joyce Theater and other prestigious venues. Educational residencies include The American Dance Festival, Beloit College, Skidmore College, the University of Wisconsin at Madison and Milwaukee, Connecticut College and Purdue University. Latsky headed the Movement Department at The School for Film and Television from 1998-2005 where she developed her teaching practice-The Latsky Method. She is adjunct faculty at Hofstra and teaches every summer at STEPS, NYC. Latsky continues her work with Theater Director Mary Fulham, for whom she has received two Innovative Theater Award nominations. Her collaboration with the San Francisco based band, LUXURY, has been presented at various venues in NYC, including Club Mansion. This spring, dance artists Li Chaio Ping and Kitty Lunn will be premiering solos they commissioned from Latsky. She serves on the Artist Advisory Board of Danspace Project and was recently chosen by Creative Capital Foundation as one of four choreographers nationally to receive an award for her innovative work.

**HEIDI LATSKY DANCE (HLD)** is a New York-based modern dance company that has been in existence since 2001. The Company has enjoyed performances at venues including Bryn Mawr College, the Duke on 42nd Street (produced by the 92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Center), Central Park Summerstage, Symphony Space, Joe's Pub, and Roger Williams University (Rhode Island). The company was a recipient of a 2001 project residency through the

Joyce Theater Foundation and a 2006 rehearsal residency at the Baryshnikov Arts Center. In 2007, the company received a space grant from Liz Gerring and Danspace Project. In April 2008, the company was in residency at the Abrons Arts Center. The company currently is Company-in-Residence at the Actor's Temple. During fall 2006, Heidi Latsky began an intensive period of creation with bi-lateral amputee, Lisa Bufano, a Boston-based interdisciplinary artist and 2006-07 Franklin Furnace Fund for Performance Art Recipient. This marked a significant shift of focus for the company and a period of immense growth. The company received an ARC grant through Pentacle that includes mentoring Latsky for a period of 18 months. The company's world premiere of GIMP was at North Fourth/VSA Arts of New Mexico in Albuquerque fall 2008. Upcoming performances include Rutgers University, Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art and The Society for Arts in Healthcare's annual conference in Buffalo. Excerpts of GIMP have been performed at: Kennedy Center, D.C.; Boston University, MA; Judson Church and Dance Theater Workshop, NY; Woodstock Playhouse, NY; Biograph/Victory Gardens Theater, Chicago; Hofstra University, NY; Rutgers University, NJ; Dance New Amsterdam; Dance Theater Workshop; The Society for Disability Studies Conference at NYU, NY; The New York Realabilities Film Festival in NYC; and Zagreb, Croatia. In 2008, The company currently works with Hospital Audiences, Inc. and is developing an extensive outreach program. [www.thegimpproject.com](http://www.thegimpproject.com); [www.heidilatskydance.net](http://www.heidilatskydance.net)

**JEREMY ALLIGER/ALLIGER ARTS** (Producer), the Executive Producer of Alliger Arts, was the founder and Artistic and Executive Director of Dance Umbrella for 20 years, one of the most active producers of contemporary dance in the United States. He is currently producing Heidi Latsky's GIMP and the award winning one-man musical theater production *Coming up for Air: An AutoJAZZography.*, starring Stan Strickland. Jeremy is the Producer/Creator of *Cool Heat Urban Beat*, an international Jazz Tap/Hip Hop percussive touring show. He has produced more than 15 unique festival gatherings and touring productions, including the first-ever Aerial Dance Festival, Jazz Tap and Hip Hop festivals, the unprecedented International Festival of Wheelchair Dance, and the world premiere of Baryshnikov's *White Oak Dance Project*. He received the prestigious State of Massachusetts "Commonwealth Award," the National Disability Rights "Eagle" award and Emerson College's "Alumni Achievement"

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Award. He was a featured speaker at the Kennedy Center's National Forum on Careers in the Arts for People with Disabilities. He has served as a Panel Chair at the National Endowment for the Arts, the Boston Cultural Council, and as a panelist and artistic advisor for a very long list of organizations, including the MacArthur and Guggenheim Foundations. [alligerarts@gmail.com](mailto:alligerarts@gmail.com); [www.alligerarts.org](http://www.alligerarts.org).

**JEFFREY FREEZE** (Associate Director/Performer), began his career as a puppet, touring with Sesame Street Live. Since moving to New York in 1996, Freeze has worked with Michael Mao Dance, Phi Dance Theater, Sense Dance and Bruce Webber's No Chance Ensemble. He served as both choreographer and principal dancer for Infinity Dance Theater and played Snow Boy and Big Deal in Robert La Fosse's West Side Story tour. His Broadway debut was with Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake and his film debut was in Dirty Dancing.

**LEZLIE FRYE** (Performer) is an activist, performance artist, poet and scholar. She is a member of SINS Invalid, a San Francisco-based artist's collective exploring intersections of sexuality and dis/ability and of GIMP, an interdisciplinary dance project of Heidi Latsky Dance, based in New York. Frye aims to address intersecting forms of oppression and to locate critical resistance in the foxy bodies of cripples everywhere. She is currently a doctoral student in the American Studies Program, Department of Social and Cultural Analysis at New York University. Frye's academic work explores intersections of dis/ability, race, gender, sexuality and nation, with particular interest in art and aesthetics, citizenship and the politics of life and death. For info on performances, workshops, lectures and artist residencies, e-mail [lezliefrye@gmail.com](mailto:lezliefrye@gmail.com); or visit [gimpsgotgame.com](http://gimpsgotgame.com)

**LAWRENCE CARTER-LONG** (Performer) has performed with Heidi Latsky Dance in GIMP since 2007. He works as the Director of Advocacy for the Disabilities Network of NYC and is the founder and curator of the groundbreaking disTHIS! Film Series: disability through a whole new lens, which has been featured in The New York Times Sunday Style section. As a commentator, Lawrence has appeared on the BBC, CNN, NBC's Today Show and NPR, among other regional, national and international outlets. He is also a producer on WBAI's Largest Minority radio show.

A popular public speaker on a wide array of topics ranging from disability issues to animal advocacy to media literacy, Lawrence regularly facilitates workshops at colleges and conferences across the nation.

**CATHERINE LONG** (Performer) is a British Performance Artist from London. Central to her work is the individual and collective body, the subjective and objective experience with a focus on observation and perception. Her work explores and addresses issues of objectification, absence and presence, restriction and freedom, control, embodiment and symmetry. A key aim of her work is for people to gain insight into how perceptions of ourselves are shaped by our perceptions of others. Recent performances include Tate Modern, London (2007), Chisenhale Dance Space, London (2006), NottDance (2004), Community/Performance Conference in Rhode Island (2004), and Jerwood Space (2004). Catherine has been working with Heidi Latsky Dance in GIMP since April 2008. She has a BA (Honors) in Arts Therapies and is an artist in residence at the Institute for Cognitive Neuroscience in London.

**CHRISTINA BRIGGS** (Performer) has been dancing with Heidi Latsky since 2000, performing lead roles in Flat Line and Club Riot. She was born in Virginia, where she danced with the Richmond Ballet and earned a BFA in Dance and Choreography from Virginia Commonwealth University. Since moving to New York in 1996, she has danced for many choreographers, including Carrie Ahern, Pat Cremins, and Susan Osberg. Christina performs for children nationwide with the Hudson Vagabond Puppets, where she is also the Rehearsal Director. Christina is the Co-Director and Choreographer of Incidents Physical Theater, a company producing collaborative dance theater pieces. She has staged her choreography at the University of Florida, Gainesville and the College of Lake County and taught master classes at many universities, including Colorado State University, Frostburg State University, Montclair State University, Penn State University and the University of Colorado at Boulder. Christina is also a Pilates instructor, teaching privately and at Groundfloor Exercise since 1999. This year she joined the faculty of Hofstra University.

**NATE CRAWFORD** (Co-choreographer for Aerial Piece) was originally groomed as a gymnast. He competed for the University of Illinois at Chicago graduating with a

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Bachelors of Business Administration. After four years of working in a traditional management role, he decided to try performing for just one year. That was over ten years ago and Nate is still performing all around the world. Highlights have included a solo for the King of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur, TODAY Show performance with Anti-Gravity, opening cast of Mystic Rhythms at Tokyo Disney Sea, and hundreds of other wonderful moments. With over a decade of experience, Nate is most excited about performing with Jennifer. Her passion and determination is enough to invigorate even the most experienced veteran.

**JENNIFER BRICKER** (Co-choreographer for Aerial Piece/ Performer), despite being born without legs always had a passion for tumbling and gymnastics. Throughout her life she competed in power tumbling for four years, volleyball for two years, and softball for three years, none of which were handicapp sports. After graduating high school Jennifer decided to move to Orlando, Florida to work for Walt Disney World. After being in Florida almost a year Jen met Nate Crawford, little did she know he would be introducing her to a whole new life as an acrobat. Ever since Jen and Nate met they have been training and working on new acts to inspire and motivate.

**CHRISTOPHER ASH** (Lighting Design/Technical Director), has been a designer for lighting, scenery, and projections since 1997. In 2008 his career went international with the design of "Troia" for Anadolu Atesi in Istanbul, Turkey. He received an after dark award for lighting design in 2006 for "The Sweet Smell of Success", and was recently Jeff nominated for his design for "Wedding Play". His dance designs have been trumpeted by Hedy Weiss of the Chicago Sun Times stating "(Ahimsa)... a powerfully enigmatic ensemble work (with) moments of intense silence, all dramatically heightened by (Christopher Ash's) brilliant lighting." His set for "Frozen" was considered one of the best sets of the 2007 in Chicago by Robert Loerzel of the pioneer press. You can see more of his work at [www.ChristopherAsh.com](http://www.ChristopherAsh.com)

**CHRIS SCHWARTZ** and **CHRSTINA FRIK** (Costume Design) Dynamic Duo Beach wear designers for labels: Dotti and Beach Star. Their designs are featured at Macy's and Nordstoms. Ms. Schwartz has been a designer for over 30 years. Both enjoy being creative and get inspired by music and the arts.

**CARLOS ARIAS** (Additional Costume Design/ Photographer) Born in Barcelona, Carlos Arias took up photography as a very young man in Spain. Leaving his country and moving to London, he stopped completely photography and dedicated himself to the very fast and special world of fashion. Years later, having moved to New York, he took up photography again with great success and personal satisfaction. His work is part of many private collections in Europe and the USA. Some of his latest work, a collection of photographs of the Heidi Latsky Dance Company rehearsing GIMP, their latest work, is on exhibit now at the Abrons Art Center in NYC.

**STAN STRICKLAND** (Composer/Performer), Singer, saxophonist, flutist, actor Stan Strickland has performed throughout the United States, Europe, Scandinavia, the Caribbean, New Zealand and the former Soviet Union. In addition to numerous radio and television appearances, Stan has performed in many clubs and concert halls, including Jordan and Symphony Halls in Boston, Carnegie Recital Hall and Town Hall in New York, and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. His work has been featured on recordings by Bob Moses, Marty Erlich, Webster Lewis and Brute Force. Stan won a prestigious Boston Theater Award for best solo performance, for his Jazz Theater show, *Coming up for Air: An AutoJAZZography* Stan has performed and collaborated with over a dozen choreographers including Alvin Ailey, Jose Limon, and Bill T. Jones. Stan is profiled/featured, (along with Blair Underwood and Lamar Burton), in a film documentary entitled *Black Man Up*. He has performed at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival and at exclusive events for fashion icon Donna Karan. Stan has a M.A. degree from Lesley College in Expressive Arts Therapy where he is an adjunct professor. Stan is Co-Executive Director of Express Yourself, a multidisciplinary team of professional artists, working in partnership with adolescents in public mental health residential facilities to produce multimedia performances that celebrate the restorative powers of serious art making. Stan is also a full time professor at Berklee College of Music

**RANDALL WOOLF** (Composer) studied composition privately with David Del Tredici and Joseph Maneri, and at Harvard, where he earned a Ph.D. He is a member of the Common Sense Composers Collective. He is composer-in-residence for the Brooklyn Philharmonic, and with the String Orchestra of New York City. In 1997 he composed a

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new ballet of "Where the Wild Things Are", in collaboration with Maurice Sendak and Septime Webre. In 2003, he composed "Women At An Exhibition" for the Akron Art Museum and Symphony, with a video by Mary Harron (director of "American Psycho") and John C. Walsh. He composed an arrangement of Thelonious Monk's "Round Midnight" for the Kronos Quartet, who are playing it on tour. He works with John Cale (cofounder of the Velvet Underground) as an arranger, notably score for the cult classic "American Psycho. On October 11, 2008, Woolf's string quartet version of songs of Nico will on a festival curated by Cale at Royal Festival Hall in London. His works have been performed by Kathleen Supové, Jennifer Choi, Timothy Fain, Mary Rowell, Todd Reynolds, Ethel, Kronos Quartet, conductor and flutist Ransom Wilson, Present Music, Fulcrum Point, Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, Seattle Symphony, Paul Drescher Ensemble, Bang On A Can/SPIT Orchestra, California EAR Unit, and others. Current commissions include a concerto for beatboxing flutist Greg Pattillo, and a piece for Classical Jam.

**ORLANDO WELLS** (Violist), a native of Orange, NJ, Orlando Wells began studying the violin at the age of 9. While attending LaGuardia High School of Performing Arts, he picked up the viola. Mostly self-taught in High School, he graduated winning the Behrens Foundation and B'nai B'rith scholarships. Mr. Wells attended S.U.N.Y. Purchase, and Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers. His primary teachers have included Yuval Waldman and Michael Tree. Equally proficient on both the violin and the viola, he has held the principal viola chair with the Antara Chamber Orchestra, and the concertmaster chair with the Soulful Symphony in Baltimore, the Orchestra of the Bronx, and the Bronx Opera. He has appeared as a soloist with Antara, the Manhattan Virtuosi and the St. Peter by the Sea Orchestra. Mr. Wells also performs with The Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, SONYC Chamber Orchestra, The Ritz Chamber Players, Allentown Symphony, Sweet Plantain String Quartet, The Emerald Trio, and the Radio City Christmas Show Orchestra. Performing frequently on Broadway, he has played regularly with Phantom of the Opera, The Producers, Spamalot, Wicked, and was the violist on the first national tour of the Broadway show, Little Women. Most recently, he was the violinist/violist on the new Broadway show Crybaby. He has collaborated with musicians of many different genres and styles. Some of the artists he has worked with are, John Legend, Mariah Carrey, Rihanna, Kanye West, Marvin Hamlisch, the Akua Dixon Swing Quartet, and Sojourner

Strings. Mr. Wells has recorded with artists Joss Stone, Joe, and Alicia Keyes among others.

**CHRIS BRIERLEY** (Composer) is a graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester and was a founder-member of the Kreisler String Orchestra. The orchestra won first prize in the International Jeunesses Musicales String Orchestra Competition in Belgrade and collaborated with Brian Eno, John Cale, Youssou N'Dour and Michael Nyman. For the past ten years Chris has worked in Soho, London as a composer for film and commercials. His most recent score is for 'The Age of Stupid', the new film from Director Franny Armstrong, starring oscar-nominated Pete Postlethwaite, due for theatrical release in February 2009. Other credits include the feature-length documentaries 'Drowned Out' and 'Mclibel', which was broadcast nationally in the USA in 2006. Chris has a long-standing association as writer and performer with the Band of Holy Joy and is a visiting artist at Heart;N'Soul, a ground-breaking arts organisation based in London run by artists with learning disabilities.

**EVA MANTELL'S** (Visual Artist) artwork has been seen at The Whitney Museum, The Brooklyn Museum, P.S.1, The Jersey City Museum, and internationally at The Istanbul Biennale; Foto Antwerpen, Belgium; Art and Idea Gallery, Mexico City; Solar Art Center, Bolivia. She has created visuals for dance and theater productions including "Balletto Stiletto" and "Trophy Wife" at LaMama, E.T.C., and "Blood Cherries" at Dance Theater Workshop. Please visit [www.evamantell.com](http://www.evamantell.com).

**SXIP SHIREY** (Composer), just finished composing music and sound design for "Marsupial Girl" by playwright Lisa D'Amour, which was developed through collaboration between The Minneapolis Children's Theater and New Dramatists. As a member of The Daredevil Opera Company, Sxip has performed at The Sydney Opera House and The Adelaide Festival in Australia, The Kennedy Center in Washington D.C, The Edinburgh Festival in Scotland and at The New Victory Theater on Broadway with Anti-Gravity's Crash Test Dummies. Shirey and co-composer Rima Fand toured New England Universities with Erin Orr's puppet theater piece "Savage Nursery", which was developed with a grant from the Henson Foundation and developed at HERE. Fand, Orr and Shirey are currently developing a short piece to be performed at Saint Anne's Warehouse

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puppetry lab. Shirey's solo work is performed regularly at Joe's Pub at The Public Theater in NYC. Shirey toured as support act and host for The Dresden Dolls Fall 2006 tour. He has also performed at The Adelaide Fringe in Australia and at numerous underground parties in Brooklyn. Shirey's favorite piece in the last year was working with gay, lesbian and trans-gendered teens for a piece directed by Michelle Matlock through YES and Dance Theater Workshop.

**MARTY BELLER** (Composer) received a 2009 Grammy Award for his work on Here Come the 123's by They Might Be Giants. Marty has composed and performed with international dance companies Jennifer Muller/The Works, Heidi Latsky Dance, Sean Curran, Chet Walker/8and ah one, Julio Bocca/Ballet Argentino, Andrew Jannetti and Dancers. Composing credits include: the Emmy Award winning documentary The Cruise; Manhunters (A&E); Biography of Groucho Marx (A&E); Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege and Justice(CourtTV). Marty is the drummer for two time Grammy Award winner They Might Be Giants. He was the drummer for Steve Earle's 2008 Grammy winning album Washington Square Serenade. He has recorded and toured with Tony award winner Stew.

**FRANK PONZIO** (Music Director/Composer) has performed as soloist and band leader at venues such as the legendary Birdland, Town Hall, and Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall and has performed with a variety of artists, including Ben Vereen on Live with Regis and Kathie Lee, David Amram, Phil Donahue, Joe Beck, Nancy LaMott, and Baby Jane Dexter. He was music director at National Dance Institute, for three years and since 1997 has been involved in a program for wheelchair-bound students at PS 199 in New York. He was a vocal coach at the New School's Actors Studio (1994-97). Frank has written music for TV commercials as well as for plays and film, including the score to the movie The Silver Swing and the recently released feature film A Level Field. Recent recordings include Reflections of American Song on the CAP record label, Quando Swing, with vocalist Rosemary Loar, and A Song About Forever, the music of Kurt Weill.

Graphic Design by Alissa Levin, Point Five, NY.  
[www.point5.com](http://www.point5.com)