

**DOCUMENTING «PROCESS IN THE PROCESS» OF BEBE MILLER'S *PREY*
(ABSTRACT)**

by

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«Unpretentious,» «postmodern,» «both electric and soulful» 1 describes the work of Brooklyn-based artist Bebe Miller. Her choreographic process is one in which repeating a movement over and over is integral to understanding the relationship the dancer has to the movement; and that the movement has to the dancer. In her formative years as a choreographer Bebe began answering the question: «What is dance?» She answers her own question by «...still finding physical challenges...enjoyable of being in the moment. I almost didn't trust it...I found a whole other process in the process.» Today, Bebe embraces those ideas and continues to push the boundaries in her relationship to movement. «There are depths to go...Stay with a gesture and stay with it for fifteen minutes and find where do I space out? Why do I space out?...I'm more interested in the relative space between people and how that gets smashed.»² «For me, process is the point» she stated in a May 2000 interview.³ As a post modern Bebe has broken through barriers and embraced art-making techniques that involve dancers, music, improvisation, time, and «catching.»

As dance documentarians capturing Bebe's process as well as her movement, Mila Parrish, CD-ROM designer, and Valarie Mockabee, Professional Notator candidate, struggled with choices in putting down the process and product during the rehearsals of *Prey*, Bebe's work she created at OSU from January 2000-May 2000. We created a CD-ROM to accompany the Labanotation score of *Prey* that documents in various media Bebe's choreographic process and resulting work.

We will present the Labanotation score and relevant information from the CD-ROM in a formal presentation that will address our solutions to the problems that we encountered. As we guide the presentation through the CD-ROM, we will address step by step approaches to Bebe's choreographic process that are provided in a «Tasks and Solutions» section as educational tools for understanding the work and its creative processes. Bebe answers questions concerning *Prey* and her choreographic process in «Meet Bebe.» «Bebenotes» provides digitized video of Bebe teaching or talking about choices of performance alongside the Labanotation. Notation professionals and educators who are interested in improvisation, history, notation, choreographic process, and dance documentation will enjoy experiencing Bebe's creative/choreographic process through technology and learning her work through notation. Participants experiencing the CD-ROM and reading the Labanotation score will come to a rich understanding of Bebe Miller's process and resulting work.

A portion of this research was supported by a University Seed Grant, the Department of Dance, College of the Arts Level II Grant and Special Research Assignment, the Advanced Computing Center for Art and Design, and The Dance Preservation Fund at The Ohio State University.

The CD-ROM *Prey: An Innovation in Dance Documentation* is available from the Ohio State University Website for the Department of Dance : <http://www.dance.ohio-state.edu/>

NOTES

¹ Bremser, M. (Ed.). (1999). Fifty Contemporary Choreographers. Routledge.

² Miller, B. (2000). Remarks to Dance 659 at Ohio State University. March 8, 2000.

³ Miller, B. (2000). Interview with Mila Parrish and Valarie Mockabee at Ohio State University. May 14, 2000.