

Master teacher of Butoh to perform, lecture during April residency at Alfred University

3/29/10

Diego Pinon, a master teacher, choreographer, and performer in the Japanese dance form Butoh, will be at Alfred University in April for a residency that will include a lecture, a short workshop, and several intensive workshops, all open to students, faculty, staff, and community members. Admission to all events is free. Pinon's lecture will take place in Room 301, Miller Performing Arts Center, on Thursday, April 8 at 5 p.m. He will teach a short workshop on Friday, April 9, from 11:20 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. in Room 300, Miller Performing Arts Center. There will be intensive, four-to-five-hour workshops on Saturday, April 10, and Sunday, April 11, starting at 11 a.m., also in Room 300, Miller Performing Arts Center. The intensive workshops have limited space; please contact dance faculty member Robert Bingham at binghamr@alfred.edu if you are interested in participating or have any questions. Pinon is among the most well-regarded and sought-after performers, directors, and teachers of Butoh, a contemporary dance form that originated in Japan in the 1950s. He has studied extensively and performed with many of the masters of Butoh, including Kazuo Ohno, one of the founders of the form. Pinon's in-depth study and practice of Butoh has included delving into his personal and cultural heritage. Pinon is a native of Mexico, with a background in modern dance and theater. He incorporates Mesoamerican ritual practice and philosophy into his approach to teaching and dancemaking. He calls this approach Butoh Ritual Mexicano, which has aesthetic ends, though he says the largest purpose is "touching, if only for a moment, the inexplicable matter of the human soul." While based in Tlalpujagua, Mexico, Pinon regularly teaches, lectures, performs, and choreographs ensemble works throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Europe. Since the early 1900s, he has spent a substantial amount of time in Japan.