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ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHER

Christopher Caines began to make his own work in 1990; his early pieces included several site-specific pieces and interdisciplinary multimedia performance works. He founded the Christopher Caines Dance Company in 2000, and has since made more than 20 dances for the company. He is noted for his musicality and musicianship; he has been called "the most musically sophisticated choreographer under 45 in the United States" (Mindy Aloff, *Dance View Times*).

Caines's commissions for groups of student dancers and musicians include dances created as the Ruth Page Visiting Guest Artist in Dance at Harvard University (1999) and as a visiting faculty member at Princeton University and Swarthmore College (2001–02). In 2003 Caines made his first film choreography, for Basque director Arkaitz Bastera Zalbide; and since 2005 he has choreographed dances in Renaissance period style for the Actors Shakespeare Company of New Jersey's productions of *Romeo and Juliet*, *As You Like It*, and *The Merchant of Venice*.

Caines was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, and trained principally with Claire Mallardi, Hanya Holm, Mary Anthony, at the Merce Cunningham Studio (modern), and with Marie Pacquette and Nenette Charisse (ballet). His musical studies include tabla, frame drumming, both Western and Indian classical singing, and harmony and counterpoint at Mannes College. Early in his career, he danced for some 25 New York-based choreographers, including Rika Burnham, Robert Kovich, Ellen Cornfield, and Douglas Dunn, and he has also worked as an actor, director/dramaturg, lighting designer, singer, drummer, and composer for dance and theater.

Caines was a special researcher for the Balanchine Foundation's Popular Balanchine project, and his essays have appeared in the *International Encyclopedia of Dance* (Oxford University Press), the *International Dictionary of Modern Dance* (St. James Press), and *The Village Voice*, among other publications. His most recent writing, on Antony Tudor's *Lilac Garden*, will appear in *Reading Dance* (Random House), edited by Robert Gottlieb, in November 2008. Caines has received grants from Meet the Composer, The Field, and the Astral Foundation. He was a 2006 Guggenheim Foundation Fellow in Choreography.