



SAT, 07/09/2011 - 8:00PM - SUN, 07/10/2011  
- 7:00PM

## [Dance] Relationships in Odysseus and Icarus

WHERE | Dance Place  
3225 8th St NE  
Washington, DC

LINK | [http \(http://http://hldance.org/relationshipsicarus\)](http://http://hldance.org/relationshipsicarus)



Human Landscape Dance's work has always concerned human relationships, whether that between babies in the womb (Leaving Home '07), between parents and children (Coming Unstuck '07, Falling Behind '08), between couples (Closet Dances '09), or between friends (January Night '10). With that in mind, Greek myths are a natural draw. They are archetypal stories, stories that reflect some of our deepest yearnings: The Odyssey, yearning for home; Icarus, the desire to abandon caution in the pursuit of happiness; etc. Yet they each depict powerful relationships: Odysseus and his wife and son, Icarus and his father. They are stories about human emotions, set in superhuman situations. They depict that which we cling to when our worlds have gone mad--each other.

My treatments of these myths emphasize the human aspect. In "Icarus and Daedalus," Icarus, played by Amanda Abrams, climbs, with effort, across the shoulders of her father (played by three dancers, Malcolm Shute, Alexander Short, and Mary Szegda). Even though she reaches for the sky, she is tied to the ground. In this case, Abrams grounds upon her father, carried by hand, supported from behind, given wings by the sweat of her parents. Despite his care, Daedalus, like any father, cannot always be there to catch his child as she falls.

"Odysseus Comes Home," takes place after the heroic action of The Odyssey. Having beaten the cyclops and slain all of the suitors, Odysseus, Alexander Short, must relearn how to get along with his estranged wife. Having remained chaste and vigilant for 20 years, Penelope, Amanda Abrams, must get to know her husband all over again. The bedsheet becomes a barrier, stretched between their bodies like a rope, or covering one, but not both. Their bodies align at right angles, so that they continually miss each other's arms.

"Odysseus Comes Home" and "Icarus and Daedalus" (expanded) premiere Saturday July 9 at 8pm and Sunday July 10 at 7pm at The Washington DC/Philadelphia Exchange at Dance Place, 3225 8th St NE, Washington DC. This is a shared performance with Anne-Marie Mulgrew and Dancers Co of Philadelphia, which premieres "SALT," a dreamscape meditation on the sensations, memories, and rituals associated with salt. It features a portable set of galvanized silver tubs, 100 lbs of salt on stage and drifting from piping, video clips, an eclectic sound score, and seven

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