



Agora

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sens Presents:

AGORA

Choreographer Noemie Lafrance's newest public work
re-opens the historic McCarren Park Pool site in September 2005

For the first time in over twenty years, the gigantic McCarren Park Pool facility, built in 1936 to serve the Greenpoint/Williamsburg community, is reopened to the public. The pool opens on **September 13th, 2005**, not for night swimming, but for **Noemie Lafrance's** much-anticipated dance performance, *Agora*. With *Agora*, Ms. Lafrance continues to create adventurous works in a variety of NYC landscapes. *Agora* invites the audience to visit and re-experience a moment in movement inside this monumental site, through a suspenseful, extravagant vision for dance/theater performance, where the past, present and future of this important WPA example of civic architecture meet.

Produced by **SENS/Noemie Lafrance**, *Agora* represents the cultural inauguration of this historic site into a vision of what it could become: a site for staging many future public works. **SENS Production** and **Ron Delsener Presents** are donating a total of \$250,000 for the project of making the McCarren Pool site safe for the public with the support of City Parks Foundation. Following the **SENS/Noemie Lafrance** opening performance of *Agora* in September, the prominent concert producer **Ron Delsener Presents** will organize a number of concerts during spring of 2006 using the McCarren Pool site.

After the *Agora* performance, **SENS/Noemie Lafrance** will continue to work with the **NYC Department of Parks and Recreation** to develop a series of site-specific performances and community events that will transform the pool space, temporarily, into a cultural venue for the community, "...until it becomes a pool again, or a pool and a cultural space combined, which are both much needed asset in the future development of our neighborhood," says Ms. Lafrance.

Agora is created in collaboration with lead dancers *Lily Baldwin, Reba Mehan, Elise Knudson, Ayelen Liberona* and *Will Rawls* along with 30 dancers and special apparitions from *Leigh Garrett, Miss Saturn, STREB* and *The Young Dance Collective*. The original multi-channel score is by longtime collaborator, *Brooks Williams*, with *Norm Scott*. Site-specific surround sound installation is by *Charles Morrow Productions*, and the lighting design based on the pool's original lighting for night swimming is by *Thomas Dunn*. Pedestrian costumes are designed by *Karen Young* with added elements by fashion designer and sponsor *Biche de Bere*; minimal objects, furniture and props design are by *Jeremy Lydic*. Production consultants are *The Usual Suspects*. Neighborhood contractor *W Wolf Design & Construction* is managing the site's construction work.

SENS is a nonprofit organization that creates and produces site-specific work in man-made landscapes using urban architecture as inspiration and setting. Previous works by **Noemie Lafrance** include *Noir* (2004), part of the Whitney Biennial, staged in the Essex Municipal Parking Garage, and *Descent* (2001-2003), performed in the stairwell of the City Court Building Clock Tower.

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WHAT: **AGORA**
Site-specific public work by **Noémie Lafrance**

WHEN: September 13 - 17 & 20 - 24 2005
EXTENSION September 27 - October 1

Tuesday - Saturday at 8:00 PM

*Please arrive by 7:30 PM for seating and wear comfortable shoes!
Late seating at discretion of house manager.*

TICKETS: Tickets : www.sensproduction.org
info 718-302-5024
press 718-916-0800

WHERE: The McCarren Park Pool in Greenpoint/Williamsburg, Brooklyn
(Main arch entrance)

(Lorimer Street between Driggs & Bayard)

TRANSPORTATION: *L train to Bedford Stop, walk north on Bedford, turn right on Lorimer Street; L train to Lorimer Stop, walk north on Lorimer Street.*

The performance of *Agora* is funded in parts by

The National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency), public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts (a state agency), Altria Group, Inc., The Rockefeller Foundation, The Rodney L. White Foundation, The Leon Levy Foundation, The Greenwall Foundation, The Arnhold Foundation

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