

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Ferris to host Peter Sparling Dance Company**

BIG RAPIDS – The Peter Sparling Dance Company will perform “Peninsula,” a multi-media travelogue highlighting the state of Michigan, on Saturday, April 23, at Ferris State University. This concluding presentation of the Arts and Lectures Series begins at 7 p.m. in Williams Auditorium.

“Peninsula” is a large-scale project spanning two years of “road trips” to diverse sites throughout the state and features a new musical score by Michigan composer Frank Pahl. Tickets are \$5 per person and may be purchased at the auditorium box office from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, or by calling 231-591-5600.

The trilogy features an overlay of live performance by six dancers with their images projected on a screen behind them. This larger-than-life image stream was taped at various sites throughout the state. "Part I: From Rust and Ruin" opens with the clamor and automated rhythms of the assembly plant, then spills out onto the Detroit streets.

"Part II: Crossing the 45th Parallel" features the natural beauty of such sites as Hartwick Pines State Park, Woolsey Memorial Airport and Sleeping Bear Dunes. "Part III: Sounding the Glacier" mines the remote reaches of the Upper Peninsula, showing the Quincy Mine Shaft in Hancock and the charcoal kiln at Fayette Historical Site.

Sparling, a professor and former chair of the University of Michigan Department of Dance, is artistic director and choreographer of the Ann Arbor-based company. A graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy and the Julliard School, he was a member of the Jose Limon Dance Company from 1971-73 and a principal dancer with the Martha Graham Dance Company from 1973-78.

He has held residencies at numerous American universities and schools in England, Australia, Portugal and Taiwan. Sparling received the 1998 Governor’s Michigan Artist Award and awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, Arts Foundation of Michigan and UM’s Rackham School for Graduate Studies.