

THE MAN IN MOTION: 25 YEARS OF GENIUS

GET READY FOR THE BALLS TO FLY! Headlining FirstWorks spring 2010 season on March 13, Michael Moschen, "genius juggler", returns to Providence to masterfully wield crystal balls, rings, hoops and spheres in an amazing array of illusionist feats.

HIS PERFORMANCE IS MESMERIZING visual entertainment, and for those looking for something beyond the circus, Michael Moschen is also widely respected in the higher circles of intelligentsia. In addition to performing, Moschen is deeply involved in understanding and sharing the physical and mathematical principles that underlie his work, and is the only variety artist ever to be awarded the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship, known as the "Genius Grant".

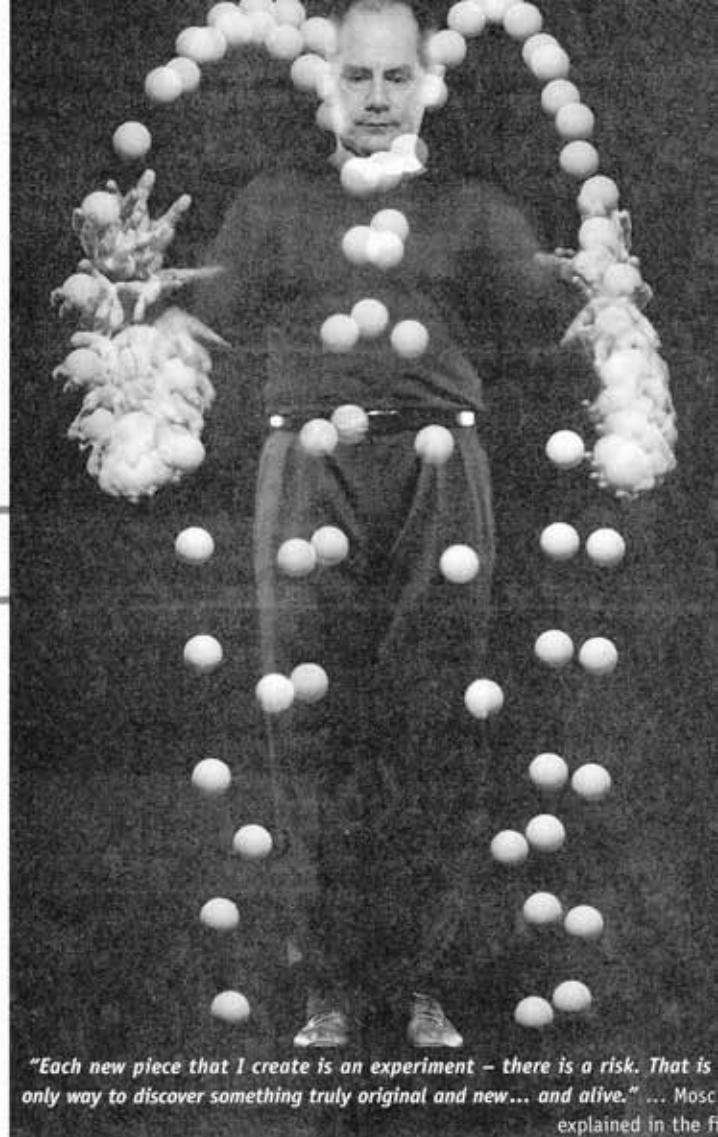
This honor led to a profile of his life and work in the PBS series "Great Performances". The episode was titled "In Motion with Michael Moschen". It's an arty film, where the street form of juggling quickly gives way to object-oriented dance (complete with spandex costumes!)

"Each new piece that I create is an experiment – there is a risk. That is the only way to discover something truly original and new... and alive." Moschen explained in the film.

"In Motion with Michael Moschen" will be screened on March 11 as part of a FirstWorks residency the artist will conduct for students at Brown University through their Creative Arts Council.

On the lighter side of his curriculum vitae, Moschen's crystal ball skills landed his fine hands a gig playing stunt-double for the fabulously androgynous David Bowie in Jim Henson's 1986 musical fantasy "Labyrinth". Working blind from behind Bowie's back during filming, Moschen's magical slight of hand stems from his technique of using open hands, which creates the illusion that the objects he so skillfully manipulates actually follow their own impulses. The technique is popularly known as contact juggling, but Moschen prefers the term "dynamic manipulation".

Growing public interest in the art form landed Moschen TV appearances on a spectrum of shows ranging from children's programming to late night, including: "The Tonight Show", "The



"Each new piece that I create is an experiment – there is a risk. That is the only way to discover something truly original and new... and alive." ... Moschen explained in the film

David Letterman Show", Penn & Teller's "Sin City Spectacular", "Sesame Street", and the A&E special, "The Mystery of Genius".

In the meantime, Moschen has performed throughout Europe, Asia, and North and South America. He was commissioned by Cirque du Soleil to create and stage a new work for their Las Vegas show, and has been featured at international theatre and dance festivals in Hong Kong, Perth, Edinburgh and Barcelona. Festival appearances in the United States include: Spoleto USA, the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Next Wave Festival, the Lincoln Center's Serious Fun Festival, the 75th Annual New Yorker Magazine Festival and the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. Now, Moschen returns to perform in Providence for the first time since 2007.

This special performance of illusions in motion marks the start of a new partnership between FirstWorks, the presenting arts organization and a revitalized Veterans Memorial Auditorium.

"Michael Moschen exemplifies the artistic excellence born from consistently pushing creative boundaries, said Kathleen Pletcher, FirstWorks' executive artistic director. "Providence thrives on this energy, and FirstWorks looks forward to connecting even wider audiences to it at Vets in the coming season."

Tickets are \$18-32, and are available through: www.first-works.org and the Veterans Memorial Auditorium (VMA) Box Office: 401.421.ARTS.