

Spring **AE** 2003

## Scully Launches New Dance Endeavor The Line

BY MECCA BOS-WILLIAMS

**W**hen you're Patrick Scully, no distinction exists between business and pleasure.

Scully says he lives by this personal philosophy: "I am committed to living my life as freely, consciously, and creatively as possible, and in the process, creating space for others to do the same."

Anyone in the least familiar with Scully's history would suggest that he accomplished this goal with his former creation, Patrick's Cabaret.

Now, he's at it again.

Scully has decided to seed what he calls the dance equivalent of the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus. It's called The Gay Men's Chorus Line, or simply, The Line.

This new endeavor offers creative space to amateur dancers, or men who have just dreamed of dancing, but never had the time, space, or nerve to commit to it.

According to Scully, the impetus for The Line came to him in one of those Zen moments between sleep and consciousness.

just thought, yeah, why did nobody think of this before?"

While Scully leaves assessments of why gay men are drawn to dance to queer-studies experts, he believes it's undeniable that gay men are captivated by the art form, just as they often are enamored of choral music. But he is willing to divulge some of the history that brought him to dance.



In Scully's words, "I was on an airplane flying down to Rio back in November to see my boyfriend, and it just sort of came to me. I

"I went to high school during the Vietnam War," Scully notes. "And athletics was associated during that time with the military. In my high school, all of the coaches—it felt like they

run the teams like little military squads. So, to me, it felt like it was aligning myself with wanting to be in support of the war."

It wasn't until he discovered dance that Scully found an approach to being physical that fit his character.

As Scully observes, "It was a way for me to be in my body, be physical, and do it in a way that wasn't competitive."

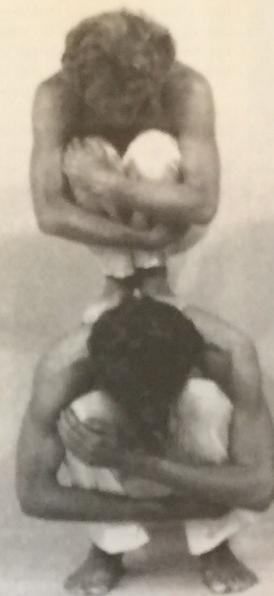
Scully's hunch that other men could benefit from that same kind of dance experience is turning out to be accurate. He already has men signed up to take part. He hopes the group will start out with about 20 members and grow to as many as 50 or more.

Even though he is an outstanding specimen of human physicality, Scully says that he is no stranger to body issues, and that he is sensitive to the human condition in this area. He conjectures that dancing not only is fully entwined with being in touch with one's body, but also is a potential outlet for exploring issues of image and self-esteem.

Everyone with a love for dance consider coming aboard, Scully invites. As he puts it, "All ages, all sizes, all abilities. It's not about having a dancer's body, whatever that would mean."

"Amateur means one who loves, and this is for the gay amateur dancer. What I'm interested in is a sense of dance where everybody's invited to think of themselves as a dancer and figure out how it is that they get to move."

PHOTOS BY JOHN HESPEL



Scully's plans for The Line include performances, commissions for local gay choreographers, and opportunities for guest artists to teach and perform, as well as collaboration with other dance companies and gay choruses. He does not envision the group performing much of his own choreography.

In addition to The Line, Scully continues organizing and annotating his paper, which he has been invited to donate to the Trotter Collection, a LGBT section of the Collections at the University of Minnesota Library. He also is writing a memoir of his years with Patrick's Cabaret, plus working on an installation/performance art hybrid to premiere in Germany.

While The Line aims to open that celebratory creative space for the advantage of others, he admits that he will reap even support from it as well. "In a world that is increasingly hostile, I need nice places to gather with like-minded spirits." \*

**The Line** will meet at the Downtown Minneapolis TWCA, 1130 Nicollet Mall, Wednesdays, 7-9 PM, beginning March 12. Participation is free for TWCA members, and \$50 for nonmembers. For more information, contact Scully at (612) 408-0408, or <Patrick@PatrickScully.org>.

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