

CITYDANCE ENSEMBLE, INC.
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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
1111 16TH STREET NW
SUITE 300
WASHINGTON, DC 20036
202.347.3909
202.833.2686 (FAX)

CITYDANCE CENTER
AT STRATHMORE
5301 TUCKERMAN LANE
N. BETHESDA, MD 20852
301.581.5204
301.581.5202 (FAX)

CITYDANCE CENTER
AT MT. VERNON SQUARE
801 K STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001
202.838.1841

CITYDANCE/MADEIRA
8328 GEORGETOWN PIKE
MCLEAN, VIRGINIA 22102

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Contact: Betsy Lundgren, Director of Marketing
Phone: 202.347.3909
Email: betsy@citydance.net
Web: www.citydance.net
Photos: Available upon request

Washington, DC's CityDance Ensemble makes New York City debut February 1-3 at Joyce SoHo with a contemporary concert of new works and celebrated masterpieces

Washington, DC—Performing its first New York City concert, **CityDance Ensemble**—a contemporary repertory dance company based in Washington, DC—takes the stage at **Joyce SoHo** this February as part of the theatre's new INBOUND Festival. With this series, Joyce SoHo selects and presents out-of-town companies to perform in the intimate 74-seat venue in the SoHo district of New York.

The concerts take place **Friday, February 1; Saturday, February 2** and **Sunday, February 3, 2008 at 8pm** at **Joyce SoHo**, 155 Mercer Street (between Houston/Prince), New York City, New York. Tickets are \$20 (or \$15 for students/seniors) and are available online at www.joyce.org, by phone at **212.352.3101**, or in person at Joyce SoHo one half hour before each performance. Seating is general admission.

CityDance Ensemble's concert will feature an eclectic mix of contemporary repertory by some of the leading choreographers of today's dance scene, a modern dance pioneer of the 1930s, and a group of up-and-coming choreographers who promise to lead dance into the future.

"One of the unique things about CityDance Ensemble as a repertory company is that we're able to present dances of multiple styles, genres, and time periods," notes CityDance Artistic Director **Paul Gordon Emerson**. "We place great importance in reviving historic works, and at the same time, we're always looking for the newest and most innovative next project. We're honored to have the opportunity to share this repertory with a New York audience."

Highlights of the concert include **Doug Varone's** *Eclipse*, an ideal piece to present in the intimate Joyce SoHo with its repetition of pushes and pulls set to the recurring sound of sirens

(more)

collected into a haunting composition by **Michael Gordon**. Infused with stirring choreography and arresting visual and auditory effects, *Eclipse* demands attention as it debates interdependency, vulnerability, and relationships. **Roger C. Jeffrey's** *Be Still...Listen*, a consistent audience favorite, is an unreserved women's quartet with stark angles, intriguing reactions, and labored emotions.

CityDance honors its commitment to reviving great works of modern dance by presenting **Jane Dudley's** *Harmonica Breakdown*, created in 1938 as a tribute to the challenges and accomplishments of the common man during the Depression. Reconstructed on CityDance by **Sheron Wray**, *Harmonica Breakdown* demonstrates the simple, clean, and exceptionally clear aesthetic that made modern dance both significant and sustainable.

The company presents another reconstruction with the late **Eric Hampton's** *Half a Life*, a 1996 trio that portrays an artist's reflection of his life, love, and frustration set to the music of Gustav Mahler and poems of Friedrich Ruckert.

Juilliard graduates **Kyra Jean Green**, **Idan Sharabi**, and **Harumi Terayama** make choreographic appearances on the program as well. *Bubbles*, by Green and Sharabi, is a quirky dissection of music and movement, with two dancers sharply examining the body in both motion and stillness. Terayama's *Contained Infinity* is an inquisitive ensemble work that positions subtle gestures against profound intention, quiet stillness against chaotic activity. This multimedia piece manipulates shadows on an oversized screen to capture the essence of one dancer trapped within the illusion of many.

Also on the program is Washington Ballet member **Jason Hartley's** *Nocturne Monologue*, an impassioned and athletic solo flavored with mystery, intrigue, and intense physicality. Completing the program is CityDance Rehearsal Director **Christopher K. Morgan's** *Rice*, a humorously poignant piece combining spoken word, choreography, and an evocative manipulation of rice.

About CityDance Ensemble, Inc.

CityDance Ensemble, Inc. is the Washington, DC-based parent organization to **CityDance Ensemble**, an award-winning contemporary repertory dance company; **Early Arts**, an arts outreach program for youth serving more than 25,000 students each year; **CityDance Centers**, two facilities committed to excellence in studio dance education for youth and adults; and **FilmWORKS**, a creator and presenter of dance-on-camera. The mission of CityDance Ensemble, Inc. is to advance the appreciation for and participation in the art of dance through excellence in performance, education, film, and artistic innovation.



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