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CityDance Celebrates: Women in the Arts

CityDance Ensemble takes the stage at the Music Center at Strathmore to honor women in contemporary dance

North Bethesda, MD—**CityDance Ensemble** returns to the Music Center at Strathmore on Friday, June 15 to present **CityDance Celebrates: Women in the Arts**, a signature evening of “power, passion, and purpose” honoring the art and artistry of women in contemporary dance and music. Staged as a part of **Strathmore Celebrates: Women in the Arts**, the company brings to the program two world premieres, two company premieres, and the return of some of the most celebrated dances in the company’s repertory.

The concert takes place **Friday, June 15 at 8pm** in the **Music Center at Strathmore**, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda, MD. Tickets are priced at \$100 (includes VIP seating and post-concert reception), \$35, \$20, and \$15 (for students and seniors over 65). Tickets are available online at www.strathmore.org or by phone at **301.581.5100**.

The concert program includes *Dust Bowl Ballads*, a choreographic masterpiece created in 1941 by dance legend **Sophie Maslow** to remember and honor the American experience during the Dust Bowl years of the 1930s. This piece highlights the deep history of contemporary dance and the leading role that women in the field have played in it. Bringing us into the 21st century of contemporary dance, 2006 Juilliard graduates **Harumi Terayama** and **Kyra Jean Green** (also a CityDance Ensemble company member) showcase the choreographic talent that promises to lead dance forward as a fresh and vital force.

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CityDance Ensemble's Rehearsal Director **Meisha Bosma**, a *Dance Magazine* 2007 "Top 25 To Watch" honoree, and **Susan Shields**, a White Oak Dance Project veteran, bring their choreographic vision to the stage in two world premieres. Ms. Bosma's piece, *Souvenir*, is a dance-theater piece that explores the mysterious nature of souvenirs as they are pulled out of hiding to make us remember what we often forget. Ms. Shields' *White* is a female quartet that draws on the themes and lines of classical ballet while emphasizing patterns, shapes, and movement that contain a decidedly contemporary twist.

In this concert, CityDance Ensemble also honors its founder, **Tara Pierson Dunning**, with the restaging of her *Endless Cycle*, the first work ever created for CityDance. Ms. Dunning, who wrote of *Endless Cycle* that it was a work made to celebrate the strength and power of female movement, forged the company with Associate Artistic Director **Teri Jo Brown** and Executive (and now Artistic) Director **Paul Gordon Emerson** in the fall of 1996.

"This concert is a fitting capstone to our own celebration of CityDance's 10-year anniversary," notes Mr. Emerson. "Tara had a clear, strong, and elegant vision for the company, both in education and in performance, and it's a vision we have never veered away from. It has proven to have exactly the breadth and depth necessary to start a pick-up company rehearsing in the late night hours after work that is able to grow into one of the few full-time salaried companies in Washington a decade later, with an outreach program touching more than 25,000 lives every year."

The program also includes *Han*, a signature work by Mr. Emerson inspired by the company's tour last summer to Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina.

About CityDance Ensemble, Inc.

CityDance Ensemble, Inc. is the 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 Education Centers**, facilities committed to excellence in dance training 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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