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**CityDance Ensemble reveals a magical world of mischief, mystery, and surprises  
in its premiere performances of Rudyard Kipling's *Jungle Books***

Washington, DC— **CityDance Ensemble** breathes life into Rudyard Kipling's literary masterpiece *Jungle Books* on Friday, March 23 at the **Kennedy Center's Family Theater** for the premiere performance of this enchanting annual production for the young and young at heart. Telling the timeless stories of Mowgli, Shere Khan, Baloo, and other characters from the classic tales, CityDance Ensemble mixes original choreography with an original score to create a performance full of surprises, humor, and magic that will leave no doubt that *it's a jungle in there...*

The concert takes place **Friday, March 23 at 6pm** in the **Family Theater, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts**, 2700 F Street, NW, Washington, DC. The performance is part of the Kennedy Center's **Millenium Stage** series and is free to the public. Tickets are not required; seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

“Creating this new production of *Jungle Books* has been one of the highlights of CityDance's first decade,” comments CityDance **Artistic Director Paul Gordon Emerson**. “It's the perfect way to celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The opportunity to premiere this work at the Kennedy Center as part of the Millennium Stage series, and to do so at a rare performance in the Family Theater, is an ideal way to invite children and adults to experience for the first time the stories of *Jungle Books*

**(more)**

through dance, movement, and music. The powerful ideas and themes of Kipling's stories come alive on stage and we are eager to begin what we hope will be an enduring annual event. ”

*Jungle Books* will feature original choreography by **Paul Gordon Emerson**, company member **Kyra Green**, and DC-based dancers and choreographers **Joseph Nontanovan** (Artistic Director of Culture Shock DC), **Vladimir Angelov** and **Meisha Bosma** (CityDance Rehearsal Director). Composers **Matthew Jones**, **Clifton Brockington**, **Saleem Wayne Waters**, and **Vasily Popov** created the original score and will perform live for this premiere performance.

With new sets that will transform the stage into an Indian jungle and original costumes and masks that will mold the dancers into Kipling's characters, CityDance Ensemble will leap, pounce, and prance its way through several segments of the original novel in this hour-long performance.

CityDance will present its second annual production of *Jungle Books* in December 2007 in the **Lansburgh Theatre** at Shakespeare Theatre's Harman Center for the Arts, where the company takes up residence for four weeks each season beginning in Fall 2007. *Jungle Books* will be the company's annual holiday presentation.

CityDance Ensemble's performance of *Jungle Books* is made possible by the DC Commission for Arts and Humanities.

#### **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 Centers**, two in-studio education centers 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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