

# NEW YORK

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## MUSIC & DANCE

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### SPOTLIGHT

**Close Company** Everett Dance Theatre draws on its dancers' own lives.

If public radio's "This American Life" went into the dance business, it might turn out something like **Home Movies**, the latest work by the Everett Dance Theatre. "The stories try to just reveal all of our humanness," says Dorothy Jungels, who directs the Rhode Island company with her son Aaron. (It's a family business: Her daughter Rachael dances with the company, and another daughter, Therese, is the executive director.) The work, which runs at Dance Theatre Workshop this week, weaves together the Jungels family's home movies

along with those of other troupe members, dance, and a lot of true stories. They range from tragic to hilarious, spanning Providence neighborhoods, continents, and eras. Marvin Novogrodski talks about his grandparents' flight from Nazi-occupied Poland, and Sokeo Ros recounts his parents' escape from the Khmer Rouge (he was born in a refugee camp). Bravell Smith remembers his stint as a bouncer at a strip club called the Foxy Lady, and then there was the time Rachael, at 15, discovered her boyfriend was a pimp. ("We were very liberal and naïve," remembers her mom.) Dorothy describes coming up with the dance component as "the lengthiest process": After the dancers improvise before a video camera, sometimes for two hours at a stretch, she loads the recording into her iMac. "Then I skim through it to find out what is really dramatically appealing and pull that out," she explains. "You'd be surprised how long a minute improv takes to learn. It may take two or three rehearsal sessions to come back to the material they did so easily." (See "Dance.")



From the Everett Dance Theatre's *Home Movies*.