



For Immediate Release

**39 YEARS ON THE EDGE**  
**DANCE THEATER WORKSHOP CELEBRATES 39 YEARS AND THIRD  
SEASON IN NEW BUILDING WITH RANGE OF WORLD AND NEW YORK  
PREMIERES BY 12 DANCE AND THEATER COMPANIES**

Dance Theater Workshop—where dance is made and staged, where it is digitized in its technology lab, argued about in the DTW café, presented on video and exhibited in photographs in the theater’s gallery—opens its 2004 fall season on September 8. For the next four months, this 39-year-old beehive of creative and performance buzz will be home to 12 dance companies—from the known to the about-to-be-known—most presenting DTW-commissioned premieres to original music. And that’s just the tip of the iceberg.

“I like to think of DTW as a ‘21<sup>st</sup> century workshop’ for contemporary dance and movement-based theater,” said DTW Executive Director Marion Koltun Dienstag. “With the expanded facilities the new building offers both artists and audiences, we provide even greater possibilities for those who thrive on the creation and presentation of the kind of risky, provocative dance that’s part of the fall line-up.”

This year’s crop of artists incorporates movement, theater and spoken word to explore new possibilities for choreography and physical theater while integrating a range of dance styles, forms and techniques in radical and unexpected ways. The 12 companies to perform in the 200-seat Bessie Schönberg Theater are: 33 Fainting Spells (September 8–11), Gabri Christa DanzAisa, (September 15–18), Big Dance Theater (September 23–October 9), Everett Dance Theatre (October 14–16), Merián Soto Dance and Performance (October 20–30) and Marc Bamuthi Joseph (November 4–6). There will be shows by Risa Jaroslow & Dancers (November 10–13), Ellis Wood Dance (November 17–20), a shared program between Sam Kim and Luciana Achugar (December 1–4), Maria Hassabi (December 9–11) and David Parker and The Bang Group (December 15–22). Fresh Tracks takes place November 26–27. The artists for the fall season were selected by DTW’s Artistic Director Cathy Edwards.

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**33 FAINTING SPELLS, SEPTEMBER 8–11:** Celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Seattle-based 33 Fainting Spells will present the New York premiere of its most recent dance theater production, “Our Little Sunbeam.” The highly surprising work opposes the everyday despair expressed in Anton Chekhov’s rarely produced tragedy “Ivanov” against the ecstasy of the American astronauts in their first view of the earth from space. In addition to music by Neil Young, Led Zeppelin and Lou Reed, the work uses an original pop and rap score by co-Artistic Directors Dayna Hanson and Gaelen Hanson and guest artist Linas Phillips.

**GABRI CHRISTA DANZAISA, SEPTEMBER 15–18:** In “Dominata,” a world premiere, former Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane dancer Gabri Christa continues her vivid, multi-media exploration of contemporary Caribbean culture, diaspora rituals and community—this time from a New York City point of view. Against a background by Obie-Award winning video artist Marilyns Ernst, Latasha N. Nevada Diggs of Burnt Sugar Arkestra sings the stories of love and immigration enacted by four young male dancers, while four older men continue to play a game of dominoes, a favorite Caribbean pastime.

**BIG DANCE THEATER, SEPTEMBER 23–OCTOBER 9:** The unlikely pairing of the infamous Nixon tapes and Kaspar Hauser, the 19<sup>th</sup> century “wild child” of Germany, are the basis of Big Dance Theater’s “Plan B,” a New York City premiere. Melding dance, song and theater, and choreographed by Annie-B Parson and co-directed by Paul Lazar, the work examines corruption and power through the innocent eyes of Hauser, a child who mysteriously wandered into Nuremberg, apparently unaccustomed to civilization. The score is by Gary Lucas.

**EVERETT DANCE THEATRE, OCTOBER 14–16:** What is more American than home movies? A series of extraordinary, true family stories are spliced, intertwined and connected through dance, theater, song and video in Everett Dance Theatre’s “Home Movies,” a New York premiere. This 75-minute work, based on company members’ real family histories, gives life and new meaning to the American family as it exists in our present, multi-cultural world.

**MERIÁN SOTO DANCE AND PERFORMANCE, OCTOBER 20–30:** Merián Soto Dance and Performance will present the New York premiere of “La Máquina del Tiempo” (“The Time Machine”). Soto, who was born and raised in Puerto Rico, has long been using the sensuality and vitality of salsa dancing as a basis for her choreography. “La Máquina” celebrates the openness of salsa to the integration of other dance forms in an anarchical blend of post-modern, dance improvisation, ballroom, Orisha, hip-hop, swing and

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mambo. The work expresses the tension between exacting demands of formal dance structures and the flexible improvisational nature of salsa.

**MARC BAMUTHI JOSEPH, NOVEMBER 4–6:** Former Broadway child tap star and multi award-winning spoken-word artist Marc Bamuthi Joseph, two-time winner of the San Francisco Grand Poetry Slam Championship, makes his Dance Theater Workshop debut with the New York premiere of “Word Becomes Flesh.” Formed as a series of letters to his unborn (and now two-year-old) son, Joseph integrates original music, poetry, visual art, hip-hop, tap, modern and West African dance to document the pregnancy from the point of view of a young, single father.

**RISA JAROSLOW & DANCERS, NOVEMBER 10–13:** In her “Whole Sky,” Risa Jaroslow reaffirms her ongoing fascination with the workings of society. Featuring an original score performed live by composer Steve Elson and video projections by Barbara Bickart, “Sky,” a world premiere, integrates community members with Jaroslow’s own professional dancers.

**ELLIS WOOD DANCE, NOVEMBER 17–20:** As a performer, Ellis Wood, the daughter of former Martha Graham principals David and Marni Wood, hits the stage in a storm of unapologetic sensuality. “Hurricane Flora,” a world premiere, is a dramatic exploration of the duality of nature: its ability to simultaneously create and destroy, which Wood uses as a symbol of our potential to survive life-threatening adversity. The music is an original score by Daniel Bernard Roumain. In “A Spirit Serves a Small Breakfast,” a New York premiere, Wood presents the internal struggles of a small-town waitress as she tries to serve breakfast; and in “Timeless Red” a trio of women try to mediate between control and passivity. The sets for all three works are by architect Ed Rawlings, who designed the new DTW building.

**FRESH TRACKS, NOVEMBER 26–27:** Participants in this year’s Fresh Tracks, which offers a chance to catch a glimpse of the newest talent in the downtown zeitgeist, will be announced later this season. Stay tuned.

**SAM KIM/ LUCIANA ACHUGAR (SHARED PROGRAM), DECEMBER 1–4:** It’s two for one when Sam Kim and Luciana Achugar present a world premiere each as part of their DTW debuts. Kim’s work, “Vince and Alison,” is named for Vince Clarke and Alison Moyet, the founders of the pop band Yaz, whose music the choreographer describes as “some of the most perfect pop ever.” In “Vince and Alison,” Kim considers music as a buffer against alienation, as an opiate and as a means of declaring oneself. In “A Super Natural Return to

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Love,” Achugar uses six female dancers to suggest a Greek chorus, which she then uses to explore the oppression inherent in homogeneity.

**MARIA HASSABI, DECEMBER 9–11:** Using references from pop culture as the basis of “Dead is Dead,” Maria Hassabi searches out the quiet embedded in the chaos and randomness of our lives. The choreography in this world premiere calls upon the singular backgrounds of her six dancers. The music is by Spencer Sweeney.

**DAVID PARKER AND THE BANG GROUP, DECEMBER 15–22:** David Parker’s “Nut/cracked” is a 21<sup>st</sup> century vaudevillian take on the 19<sup>th</sup> century classic in which Parker’s off-the-wall wit cracks convention. The result: a reinvention of “The Nutcracker.” For movement, he calls upon tap dancing, singing, booty shaking, pointe work and the Hustle, and for the music he combines the nontraditional recordings of the Tchaikovsky score by, among others, Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller and Fred Waring, as well as the traditional orchestral suite. The hilarious 50-minute work will be presented in its entirety for the first time in New York this season at DTW.

**FAMILY MATTERS:** In addition to presenting work for adult audiences, DTW’s Family Matters shows offer a series of matinees for junior dance lovers: “It’s All Relative: KinFolk Tales and Trails” (September 18); “World Beats, Feats and Treats” (October 16) and “Femmes and Fellas” (November 20).

**ASSISTING CREATIVE ADVENTURES:** To help give once unimagined possibilities to these performances, DTW’s new building houses an Artists Resource Media Lab, where choreographers exploit its state-of-the-art facilities to bring their work into another dimension. Video recording, editing, compositing, DVD and CD-Rom producing, graphic, web and sound design and international communication are just some of the means. DTW’s two dance studios, wired so that rehearsals can be recorded and choreography easily edited, offer artists a chance to work in depth over time. With the DTW Gallery, which presents visual arts, media installations and digital presentations on one side and an open view of the comings and goings on West 19<sup>th</sup> Street on the other, the Lucky Star Café has become a kind of dance central station for the artists and the public, where thoughts and ideas are exchanged in a casual setting.

DTW’s helping arm to artists extends far beyond its West 19<sup>th</sup> Street headquarters. Among its myriad programs are: financial assistance to artists who locate and work in spaces outside Manhattan; group insurance to its member artists; rehearsal space in its two dance studios; membership in a credit union and a New York State touring and residency program.

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The evening curtains are at 7:30pm. There are also 2pm matinees of David Parker and The Bang Group's "Nut/cracked" on December 18 & 19. Family Matters programs are performed at 2pm. Tickets to all performances are \$20, except Big Dance Theater, Merián Soto Dance and Performance and David Parker and The Bang Group, which each cost \$25. Family Matters tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. By purchasing four tickets at once, those and all other tickets for the rest of the season are available at 40% off full price, as part of DTW's 4 for 40% Club. All tickets may be purchased at the box office, by calling 212-924-0077 or online at [www.dtw.org](http://www.dtw.org). Dance Theater Workshop is located at 219 West 19<sup>th</sup> Street, between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenues.

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**PLEASE SEE ATTACHED PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE.**

**BACKGROUND MATERIALS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.**



DTW's *Family Matters Series* is supported by Con Edison.

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**DANCE THEATER WORKSHOP**  
**219 WEST 19<sup>TH</sup> STREET**  
**NEW YORK, NY 10011**  
**TICKET INFORMATION: 212-924-0077**  
**CURTAIN TIME: 7:30PM (unless otherwise noted)**

**DANCE THEATER WORKSHOP FALL 2004 SEASON**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
SEPT 8–SEPT 11	33 FAINTING SPELLS	<i>OUR LITTLE SUNBEAM</i>
SEPT 15–SEPT 18	GABRI CHRISTA DANZAISA	<i>DOMINATA</i>
SEPT 23–SEPT 25 SEPT 29–OCT 2 OCT 6–OCT 9	BIG DANCE THEATER	<i>PLAN B</i>
OCT 14–OCT 16	EVERETT DANCE THEATRE	<i>HOME MOVIES</i>
OCT 20–OCT 23 OCT 27–OCT 30	MERIÁN SOTO DANCE AND PERFORMANCE	<i>LA MÁQUINA DEL TIEMPO</i>
NOV 4–NOV 6	MARC BAMUTHI JOSEPH	<i>WORD BECOMES FLESH</i>
NOV 10–NOV 13	RISA JAROSLOW & DANCERS	<i>WHOLE SKY</i>
NOV 17–NOV 20	ELLIS WOOD DANCE	<i>HURRICANE FLORA</i>
NOV 26–NOV 27	FRESH TRACKS	<i>PROGRAM TBA</i>
DEC 1–DEC 4 (Shared program)	SAM KIM LUCIANA ACHUGAR	<i>VINCE AND ALISON</i> <i>A SUPER NATURAL RETURN TO LOVE</i>
DEC 9–DEC 11	MARIA HASSABI	<i>DEAD IS DEAD</i>
DEC 15–DEC 22 (2pm matinee on Dec 18&19)	DAVID PARKER AND THE BANG GROUP	<i>NUT/CRACKED</i>

**FAMILY MATTERS SERIES AT 2PM**

SEPT 18	REBECCA STENN, KEELY GARFIELD, PEGGY PELOQUIN, RACHELLE GARNIEZ, MAURA N. DONOHUE	<i>IT'S ALL RELATIVE: KINFOLK TALES AND TRAILS</i>
OCT 16	AYODELE CASEL, BABA ISRAEL, DARRAH CARR DANCE, DAVID PARKER AND THE BANG GROUP, HAPPY HOUR, HT CHEN	<i>WORLD BEATS, FEATS AND TREATS</i>
NOV 20	JESSICA SMITH/ POW, HAPPY HOUR, ROKAFELLA & KWIKSTEP, FEMME NAMELESS, DAVID NEUMANN, ANN LIV YOUNG	<i>FEMMES AND FELLAS</i>

Tickets are all \$20, except Big Dance Theater, Merián Soto Dance and Performance, and David Parker and The Bang Group, each of which is \$25.  
 Please note: Program is subject to change

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