



NEW WORKS AT DANCE THEATER WORKSHOP
PREMIERES BY AMANDA LOULAKI & SHORT MEAN LADY
(MARCH 2–5); YIN MEI (MARCH 9–12); PLUS SHARED PROGRAM
WITH MOB PRODUCTIONS & ROBBINSCHILDS (MARCH 16–19)

How much do artists' native cultures continue to influence their work after becoming expatriates? Premieres at Dance Theater Workshop by Amanda Loulaki (March 2–5) and Yin Mei (March 9–12) will suggest diverse possibilities. From the home front will be a shared program of new works by American-born and bred Mollie O'Brien, Sonya Robbins and Layla Childs (March 16–19).

Amanda Loulaki: Chaos rules in Amanda Loulaki's "La la la la, Resistance (The Island of Breezes)," a quintet the Crete-born artist created in collaboration with her four-member company, Short Mean Lady. In "Resistance," a world premiere, Loulaki hints at both individual experiences and world events by using intense, physical movements echoed in brief glimpses of black and white images in Jason Akira Somma's stark video installation. Moments of irony and sarcasm surface in the complexity of political and emotional references. Georgios Kontos's accompanying score combines music with an original sound collage.

Yin Mei: Having grown up during China's Cultural Revolution, Yin Mei emerged with a singular choreographic style, which preserves traditional Chinese ideas of space and movement and incorporates them within the rubric of contemporary dance theater. Guided by the principles of the I Ching, an ancient Chinese system of divination, Mei attempts to resolve her dark childhood memories of the Revolution and come to terms with the duality of good and evil

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in “Nomad: The River,” a world premiere. To universalize and communicate this search for spiritual understanding, Mei turns toward her experiences visiting China’s Yellow River and India’s Ganges River—two bodies of water simultaneously perceived as sacred and destructive. The work for five dancers, including Mei, is accompanied by Christopher Salter’s sound and media design.

MOB Productions & robbinschilds: Presenting a shared program of world premieres are MOB Productions and robbinschilds. Created by Mollie O’Brien with her company, MOB Productions, “This is what I would have felt” confronts feelings of alienation and miscommunication. Four women inhabit the stage, repeatedly attempting to find connection among themselves. The work is set to Shawn Onsgard’s live, original wind and string score. Sonya Robbins and Layla Childs’s “half space” suggests the ethereal imprint left behind by visitors in public places. With intricate, discrete movements, five dancers navigate through piles of banquet chairs, an angled carpet runner and a large, low-hanging chandelier—all reminiscent of a hotel. The original score combines Dan Crane’s songs with sound recordings manipulated by Rosten Woo.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Amanda Loulaki & Short Mean Lady: Founded in 2001 by Amanda Loulaki, the project-based company has performed in venues throughout New York City, including Danspace Project at St. Mark’s Church, Dixon Place, The Kitchen, Dance Theater Workshop and Movement Research at Judson Church. Internationally, the company has been seen at the 11th Biennale for Young Creators in Athens, Greece and the International Contemporary Dance Platform in Hania, Crete.

Amanda Loulaki: Born in Iraklion, Crete in 1968, Amanda Loulaki earned a B.A. in education from Crete’s Department of Pedagogy in 1990. She moved to New York in 1994 when she received a Fulbright Scholarship to study at the Merce Cunningham Dance Studio. Loulaki has performed with Victoria Marks, Yin Mei, Yasmeen Godder, Sigal Bergman, Karl Anderson, Clarinda Mac Low, Veronique Guiland, Nina Winthrop and White Oak Dance Project, as well as in improvisation projects by Jeremy Nelson, Luis Lara and Bill Young. She has also collaborated with Curt Haworth and visual artists Kana & Olympios, and programmed the Improvisation Festival/NY. Loulaki has served on panels for

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Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church, P.S. 1 and Movement Research at Judson Church. Programming director at Movement Research since 1998, she was also an artist in residence from 2001 to 2002.

Yin Mei: A native of China, whose formative years during the Cultural Revolution continue to shape her choreography, Yin Mei began her professional dance career by studying traditional Chinese dance. In 1985, she moved to the United States to break away from the dance form's limitations and began to concentrate on modern dance. A graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts with both B.A. and M.F.A. degrees, her contemporary dance theater works resonate with elements of traditional Chinese dance movement and spatial ideas. Mei premiered her most recent work, "Asunder," at Danspace Project in 2001, subsequently touring the dance to 11 cities throughout the United States. Her work has also been presented throughout New York in venues such as Dance Theater Workshop, Movement Research, the Knitting Factory, the Asia Society and Mulberry Street Theatre, as well as at the Lincoln Center Out-Of-Doors Festival and as part of City Center's Fall for Dance Festival. National and international performances include: Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Bard College, the Kohler Arts Center in Wisconsin, University of California at Santa Cruz, Theater X in Tokyo, the Hong Kong Town Hall Theatre, the BBB festival in Potsdam, Germany and the Indonesian Dance Festival in Jakarta. Mei was one of ten international choreographers chosen to participate in the American Dance Festival's 50th anniversary.

MOB Productions: Since 1995, Mollie O'Brien has been performing throughout New York with her company, now called MOB Productions. In addition to appearing at New York venues such as Dance Theater Workshop, Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church, Movement Research and Brooklyn Arts Exchange, the company has performed in the Philadelphia Fringe Festival, Studio 303 in Montreal and the Toronto Fringe Festival.

Mollie O'Brien: A native of Ohio, Mollie O'Brien trained for five years at the School of Cleveland Ballet, and in 1995, graduated from The Ohio State University with a B.F.A. in dance. Her dance studies included work with Nicole Slowinska, Vicki Blaine, Martha Meyers, Christine Wright and Zvi Gotheiner. O'Brien's performances at numerous New York venues include full-evening works at Joyce SoHo, the Cunningham Studio and Williamsburg Arts Nexus. Her recent work has included "Triptych" for frequent collaborators Jennifer Dignan and Gina Jacobs Thomas; and "Swimming Lessons," a solo for herself. O'Brien was awarded residencies at Virginia's Workspace for Choreographers in 1997, 2000, 2003 and 2004. She also teaches choreography to cancer survivors at

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The Creative Center, works with the Dancer's Forum and created and taught a workshop for dance majors planning to move to New York City.

robbinschilds: Based on a common interest in dance and installation pieces, frequent collaborators Sonya Robbins and Layla Childs created robbinschilds in 2001. The company's most recent production was "Broque," a quartet performed at Triskelion Arts.

Sonya Robbins & Layla Childs: While studying dance at Bard College, San Francisco-born Sonya Robbins met Layla Childs, a native of New York City, and the pair began collaborating on dance projects. Both graduated from Bard with B.A. degrees in choreography, and in 1998, Robbins and Childs co-founded the New York-based Kick Stand Dance collective with three other choreographers they had met at Bard (Cary Baker, Abby Bender and Anna Luckey). The group, which has created works for various New York venues and showcases, opened Triskelion Arts in 2000 as a performance and rehearsal space for both themselves and other local artists.

The evening curtain at Dance Theater Workshop is at 7:30pm. Tickets to Amanda Loulaki & Short Mean Lady, Yin Mei and the shared program with MOB Productions and robbinschilds are \$20. All tickets, including 4 for 40% Club discounts, may be purchased at the box office, by calling 212-924-0077 or online at www.dtw.org. Dance Theater Workshop is located at 219 West 19th Street, between 7th and 8th Avenues.

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