



For Immediate Release

**DANCE THEATER WORKSHOP SHOWS A SERIES OF
DIVERSE ARTISTS, NOVEMBER 10–DECEMBER 4**
***Risa Jaroslow & Dancers (November 10–13); Ellis Wood Dance
(November 17–20); Shared program with Sam Kim and Luciana
Achugar (December 1–4); Fresh Tracks (November 26–27)***

Diversity, thy name is Dance Theater Workshop, a point that will be underscored again over the next four weeks with performances by Risa Jaroslow & Dancers (November 10–13); Ellis Wood Dance (November 17–20); and a double feature of dances by Sam Kim and Luciana Achugar (December 1–4). All three shows feature live music. Also, look out for the ever-adventurous Fresh Tracks, which takes place November 26 and 27.

Risa Jaroslow & Dancers will present the world premiere of “Whole Sky,” a multimedia work reflecting Jaroslow’s ongoing concern with social issues, the workings of society and the place of the individual within it. Two years in the making, the work integrates Jaroslow’s own performers with non-dancers from New York community centers where the choreographer worked. “Whole Sky” has an original score played live by composer Steve Elson, and video projections by Barbara Bickart. The first version of the work was performed in St. Petersburg, Russia in July as part of the Open Look Festival.

Ellis Woods’s work often explores issues that confront contemporary women. In “Timeless Red” (1998), she presents a trio of women trying to mediate between control and passivity, while “Hurricane Flora,” a world premiere, dramatically explores the duality of nature—its ability to simultaneously create

MORE

**DANCE THEATER WORKSHOP
ADD ONE**

and destroy, which Wood uses as a symbol of our potential to survive life-threatening adversity. “Hurricane,” set to an original score by Daniel Bernard Roumain, will be accompanied live by Roumain on electric violin. The program also includes “Stella,” a new solo set to the music of Rufus Wainwright. A note: Ed Rawlings not only designed the new Dance Theater Workshop facility, but his work will be seen once again on DTW’s stage, as set designer for both “Timeless Red” and “Hurricane Flora.”

Sam Kim and Luciana Achugar, who had previously worked together, will share a program of world premieres. Kim’s dark humor cuts through “Nobody Understands Me,” which takes an unsentimental look at her experience as a “misunderstood” adolescent in the suburbs, who discovered alternative music as a way out. The music for “Nobody Understands Me” is by Yaz, Depeche Mode and Erasure. (Please note that Kim has changed the title from “Vince and Alison.”) Luciana Achugar, the daughter of exiled Uruguayan parents, will present “A Super Natural Return to Love,” which was inspired by her parents’ political activities. Evolved from a solo she had created on herself, the dance explores issues of power and powerlessness of women. The music, an original score by Gary Greenblatt and Pierre de Gaillande, will be played live.

This year’s Fresh Tracks stars—each of whom will present a new dance—features Allen Body Group (“Antigen”); Felicia Ballos (“Fragile Lodging”); Jonah Bokaer (“RSVP”); Jeremy Laverdure (“Esperanto”); Daniel Linehan (“Digested Noise”); and Yoko Sugimoto and Yuka Kikuchi (“Shaa Kha”).

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Risa Jaroslow & Dancers: Risa Jaroslow & Dancers has long integrated members of the community with the company’s professional dancers, utilizing their unique backgrounds. Committed to using live music, Jaroslow has worked with composers Peter Zummo, Steve Elson and most recently, Obie Award-winner Deidre Murray. Their collaboration, “Strings Attached,” was performed at The Duke as part of the 92nd Street Y’s Harkness Dance Festival and at Central Park Summerstage last July. Over the years, Risa Jaroslow & Dancers has

MORE

**DANCE THEATER WORKSHOP
ADD TWO**

performed in New York City at The Joyce Theater, as part of Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors and at Dance Theater Workshop. The company has also been seen in Cincinnati, Chicago, London, Paris, Utrecht, Holland and Munich. Risa Jaroslow & Dancers completed a twelve-year residency at University Settlement on the Lower East Side where Jaroslow founded Arts at University Settlement, a neighborhood arts program.

Risa Jaroslow: Risa Jaroslow graduated from Bennington College with a major in dance and came to New York in 1971. Her dance studies included work with Dan Wagoner and Viola Farber. Jaroslow has taught at various colleges and universities including Adelphi University, American University and Trinity College. In addition to creating her own choreography, Jaroslow has collaborated on work with Wendy Perron.

Ellis Wood Dance: Since its creation in 1998, Ellis Wood Dance has been developing community projects and presenting works that draw diverse audiences both in the United States and abroad. In New York City, it has performed at St. Mark's Church, Movement Research at the Judson Church, the Fire Island Festival, at the Fringe Festival in Toronto and at Dance Acadamien in Upsala, Sweden, among other venues. The all-female, nine-member company also has had residencies at The Yard, New York University, Columbia College, University of California at Berkeley and Rutgers University. Ellis Wood Dance has appeared on the Carpe Diem Series of the New Jersey Television Art Channel and twice on the PBS show "City Arts."

Ellis Wood: Ellis Wood graduated with a degree in dramatic art/dance from University of California-Berkeley in 1989 where she studied under her parents, former Martha Graham principals, Marni and David Wood. She also studied gymnastics since childhood. While at Berkeley, Wood received The Eisner Prize and The Florence Schwimley Award, both for dance, and the Athlete of the Decade for her gymnastic talents. Wood performed professionally with the companies of Stephen Petronio, Dan Wagoner and Bay Area Repertory Dance. She has also danced in works by Jeanine Durning, Ty Boomershine, Ariel Herrera and Cheng Chieh-Yu. Wood received a 2002 NYFA Fellowship in choreography, and was one of ten choreographers nominated for the "Emerging Choreographer Award" given by the Downtown Arts Festival and The Colbert Foundation. She presently teaches at 92nd St. Y, Dance Theater Workshop, Dance Space Center, Movement Research and has spent two consecutive spring semesters teaching at SUNY Brockport.

Sam Kim: A native of Minnesota, Sam Kim graduated summa cum laude from Barnard College in 1995 with a B.A. in English. As a dancer, Kim performed most recently with Sara Rudner, DD Dorvillier/Human Future Dance Corps,

MORE

**DANCE THEATER WORKSHOP
ADD THREE**

Susan Rethorst and Sarah Skaggs Dance. Her choreographic works, including the evening-long “Placid Baby” and “Valentine,” have been presented by Danspace Project at St. Mark’s Church, P.S. 122, The Kitchen, Dixon Place and Studio 303 in Montreal, among others.

Luciana Achugar: Luciana Achugar has worked with choreographers Jeremy Nelson, Luis Lara, Wil Swanson, Amanda Loulaki and Maria Hassabi in New York, and Marcelo Evelin in her native Uruguay. She has also collaborated with visual artists Marcos Rosales and Michael Mahalchick. Achugar’s collaborations with Levi Gonzalez were presented by Dixon Place, Movement Research at Judson Church, P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center, Dance-in-Progress at The Kitchen and Dance Theater Workshop’s Fresh Tracks and Splitstream series. Her work has appeared at the MELT Summer Dance Festival, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Danspace Project and the Festival Iberoamericano de Danza in Montevideo, Uruguay. From 2001–2003, Achugar was recognized as a Movement Research Artist-in-Residence. She graduated from California Institute of the Arts in 1995.

The evening curtains at Dance Theater Workshop are at 7:30pm; tickets to all performances cost \$20. Discounts are available through 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. Dance Theater Workshop is located at 219 West 19th Street, between 7th and 8th Avenues.

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“Whole Sky” was commissioned by the Bessie Schönberg/First Light commissioning program of Dance Theater Workshop. “Whole Sky” has been created with support from The Ford Foundation, The Trust for Mutual Understanding and The Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, and in partnership with Project YES, Lower East Side Girls Club, Voices of Women, Project FIND and the New York Society for the Deaf.

“Hurricane Flora” was commissioned by the Bessie Schönberg/First Light commissioning program and the Creative Residency program of Dance Theater Workshop with support from the Ford Foundation. “Hurricane Flora” has been made possible, in part, by funding received from The Jerome Foundation, The Leibowitz and Greenway Family Charitable Foundation and individual donations. “Hurricane Flora” was developed through the Artist-In-Residence program at Tribeca Performing Arts Center.

“Nobody Understands Me” and “A Super Natural Return to Love” were commissioned by the Bessie Schönberg/First Light commissioning program of Dance Theater Workshop with funds from the Jerome Foundation. “Nobody Understands Me” was created in part with a grant from the Bossak/Heilbron Charitable Foundation with additional support provided by Movement Research’s Artist in Residence program. “A Super Natural Return to Love” received additional support from Meet the Composer to underwrite music by Gary Greenblatt and Pierre de Gaillande.

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