



**PRIVATE LIVES OF DANCERS REVEALED IN
NEWEST DAVID GORDON WORK "PRIVATE LIVES OF DANCERS 2003"
AT THE JOYCE THEATER, FEBRUARY 18-23**

The New York premiere of David Gordon's "Private Lives of Dancers 2003" will be presented at The Joyce Theater, February 18-23. Almost two hours in length, the work will be performed by the Pick Up Performance Company.

A masterful and witty fusion of text and movement, "Private Lives" continues Gordon's four decade investigation over, under and through the slippery and, at times, invisible line that divides performance and life. For dialogue Gordon appropriated snatches of conversations overheard during rehearsal: bits and pieces about boyfriends, girlfriends, complaints about performing, mothers and wives. Recorded conversations between Ruth St. Denis and Ted Shawn; Merce Cunningham and John Cage; Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane, as well as Maude Lloyd and Nigel Gosling are integrated into the score.

Issues of rehearsing and performing are magically blurred, with the territory between reality and fantasy assured of poetic mystery. For instance: about "Private Lives," whose dancers are Tricia Brouk, María de Lourdes Dávila, Karen Graham, Valda Setterfield, Tadej Brdnik, Scott Cunningham and David Gordon, Gordon says it "...is not about these dancers but it couldn't have been made without them. These dancers represent fictional other dancers. Just like them. Or maybe it could have been made without them but it wouldn't have been the same. It might have been similar. But not as good." Performing also are the show's pianist (Alan Johnson) and its stage manager (Ed Fitzgerald). The music is by Michael Gordon, whom David Gordon clearly states is not a relative in real life, not "even a cousin." The lighting is, however, definitely by Jennifer Tipton.

Earlier versions of "Private Lives of Dancers" were presented at Danspace in January 2002, and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival this past summer. Alyce Dissette is the show's producer.

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Created in 1978 by David Gordon, The Pick Up Performance Company has performed throughout Europe, Asia, South America and across the United States introducing audiences to work that unites theater and dance in new ways. Gordon has received numerous commissions from major ballet and modern dance companies such as American Ballet Theatre, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Extemporary Dance Theatre of London, Groupe de Recherche Choréographique de l'Opéra de Paris and White Oak Dance Project. In theater, Gordon has received commissions from the Guthrie Theater, the American Conservatory, the Mark Taper Forum and the American Repertory Theatre. In New York City, the Pick Up Company has performed at BAM's Next Wave Festival; Serious Fun! at Alice Tully Hall; the John Jay Theater; The Joyce Theater; and at Dance Theater Workshop. In 1993 the Pick Up Performance Company expanded its mission to include the work of David Gordon's long time, yet informal collaborator, his son, playwright/director Ain Gordon. Ain Gordon's work, created both alone and in collaboration with other artists, has been produced in New York, Maryland, Washington, DC, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Ohio and in Sweden.

Curtain times for "Private Lives of Dancers 2003" at The Joyce Theater are Tuesday through Saturday evenings at 8 pm, and Sunday evening at 7:30pm. There will also be a 2pm matinee on Sunday. Tickets are \$38 (\$27 for members), and are available by calling 212-242-0800 or online at www.joyce.org. The Joyce Theater is located at 175 Eighth Avenue at 19th Street.

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Listing Editors, please note: On Monday, February 10 at 6pm, The Joyce will present Dance Talks at Joyce Soho located at 155 Mercer Street. (Call 212-334-7479 for reservations). David Gordon and his dancers will lead the discussion.

Leadership support for The Joyce Theater's 2002-2003 season has been received from the LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust.

This Joyce presentation is made possible, in part, with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, Natural Heritage Trust, under the auspices of Thomas K. Duane, and the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, and with private funds from The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Inc. to encourage the performance of New York City-based companies at The Joyce Theater.

Additional funding provided, in part, by the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, with lead funding from National Endowment for the Arts and Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Support also provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Philip Morris Companies Inc.

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