



For Immediate Release

**CELEBRATING 20 YEARS — WITH ALL LIVE MUSIC**  
**DAVID DORFMAN DANCE AT THE JOYCE THEATER,**  
**MAY 31–JUNE 5 WITH TWO WORLD PREMIERES**

Older, wiser and even more rambunctiously inventive, David Dorfman takes on big issues (with a slight smile) during David Dorfman Dance’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at The Joyce Theater, May 31–June 5. Marking the company’s first performances at The Joyce in seven years and kicking off the theater’s summer season, the engagement features two world premieres including “Older Testaments,” set to an original score by Frank London, and the duet “approaching some calm.” All three dances, including last season’s hit, “Lightbulb Theory,” will be performed to live music.

“Older Testaments,” inspired by the centuries-old history of Arabs and Jews, both celebrates the kinship of the two seemingly disparate cultures and presents a sardonic and irreverently humorous look at the difficulties that divide them in their ongoing struggle for land. Using movement and music to pose questions about the relationship between ritual and dogma, antagonism, negotiation, ownership, cultural identity and communication, the dance incorporates Dorfman’s signature bold, athletic movement with suggestions of folk dance, gesture and bits of text. The klezmer score by London, a member of the Klezmatiks, will be played live by the trumpeter/composer and a brass band of three.

“approaching some calm” is a co-creation between Dorfman and his wife Lisa Race, with whom he also co-created their 4-year-old son Samson. Obviously, a lot has happened to the couple since 1994 when they created “approaching no calm.” The new work, which they consider its sequel, reflects the changes that their shared history has wrought, while still teeming with plenty of partnering, kinetically infectious movement and big, strong feelings—emotional and physical. The music by master accordionist Guy Klucevsek, which includes bits of Burt Bacharach, will be played live by the composer.

**MORE**

**DAVID DORFMAN DANCE  
ADD ONE**

Is it better if a lightbulb flickers before it goes out, or just goes out? In his meditative, but wacky “Lightbulb Theory,” Dorfman asks such challenging questions about death, which he answers in typically unorthodox ways. Infused with flashes of playfulness and surprise, the dance alternates between the literal and abstract in its poignant exploration of issues raised when struggling to deal with death. The haunting musical accompaniment is an original piano score by Michael Wall, who plays live at all shows.

Please note that Dorfman credits company dancers Jennifer Nugent, Paul Matteson, Joseph Poulson and Heather McArdle as choreographic collaborators for “Lightbulb Theory” and adds newer members—Shani Collins, Tzvetta Kassabova and Francis Stansky—to the list for “Older Testaments.”

Artistic Director David Dorfman, a native of Chicago, earned a B.S. in business administration from Washington University in St. Louis and an M.F.A. in dance from Connecticut College, where he has recently taken a position as associate professor of dance. He has performed internationally with Kei Takei's Moving Earth and Susan Marshall & Co. The recipient of several fellowships from both the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts, Dorfman has also been honored with an American Choreographer's Award, a 1996 New York Dance & Performance Award (Bessie) and a 2005 Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship. In addition to the dances he creates for his own company, recent commissions include works for Bedlam Dance Company in London, Seattle's d9 Dance Collective and the Prince Music Theater in Philadelphia for the original musical “Green Violin,” for which he won a 2003 Barrymore Award for best choreography.

In 1985, Dorfman created David Dorfman Dance, which has since performed extensively in New York City and throughout North and South America, Great Britain and Europe. The company, which frequently collaborates with contemporary composers and visual artists, has received seven Bessie Awards. In addition to performing in venues such as The Kitchen, Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Joyce Theater, Dance Theater Workshop, Danspace Project and P.S. 122, David Dorfman

**MORE**

**DAVID DORFMAN DANCE  
ADD TWO**

Dance also creates community-based works such as “Out of Season (The Athletes Project),” “Arts in Action (The No Roles Barred Project) as well as “Familiar Movements (The Family Project),” for which Dorfman received his Bessie Award.

Following its Joyce Theater engagement, David Dorfman Dance will perform at Summer Stages Dance in Concord, MA (July 14); Algonquin Arts Theatre in Manasquan, NJ (August 20); and Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT (September 23–24). In 2006, look for the company at the American Dance Festival in Durham, NC (June 12–14, 2006) and as part of the BAM’s Next Wave Festival in Brooklyn, NY (November 14–18, 2006) where the company will present the New York premiere of “underground.”

The evening curtain for David Dorfman Dance’s Joyce Theater season, Tuesday through Saturday, is at 8pm; on Sunday, the show begins at 7:30pm. There will also be 2pm matinees on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$38. All tickets are available at The Joyce Theater box office, by calling JoyceCharge at 212-242-0800 or online at [www.joyce.org](http://www.joyce.org). The Joyce Theater is located at 175 Eighth Avenue at 19<sup>th</sup> Street.

**###**

**Live music for this engagement is made possible by a grant from the American Music Center Live Music for Dance Program.**

**The production of “Older Testaments” was made possible by generous grants from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts with additional funding from the R.F. Johnson Faculty Development Fund (Connecticut College) and the Friends of David Dorfman Dance. The commissioned score was made possible by the American Music Center Live Music for Dance Program. Choreographic material for “Older Testaments” was developed, in part, during a residency at the Tisch Dance Summer Residency Program at New York University.**

**The production of “Lightbulb Theory” was made possible by generous grants from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts with additional funding from the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y New Works in Dance Fund and The Edith Meiser Foundation. “Lightbulb Theory” was first staged at George Mason University Center for the Arts in Fairfax, Virginia. Choreographic material for “Lightbulb Theory” was developed, in part, during residencies at the Tisch Dance Summer Residency Program at New York University, Cornish College for the Arts (Seattle) and George Mason University (Fairfax, VA).**

050605