

Dominic Walsh Dance Theater

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2010-2011 Season Announced!

HOUSTON—Dominic Walsh Dance Theater is thrilled to announce its 2010-2011 season that will offer audiences a sampling of the finest in contemporary ballet with four mixed repertory programs. To please every taste, Dominic Walsh Dance Theater is offering electrifying U.S. and world premieres from Walsh, along with international icons Jiří Kylián and Mats Ek. With an entertaining mix of dance, theater, visual art, literature, and live music, these innovative performances will stimulate all of the senses.

To whet the appetite, the company will offer free performances of *Fall for Dominic Walsh Dance Theater* at Miller Outdoor Theatre on September 10 and 11, 2010 at 8:00 PM. This mixed rep program will feature audience favorites from past seasons including Walsh's smash hit *I Napoletani*.

Dominic Walsh Dance Theater will then return to its regular home at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, Zilkha Hall on October 21-23, 2010 at 7:30 PM with a mixed repertory program. The centerpiece of this tantalizing program will be the Houston premiere of an intense duet from *27'52"* by Jiří Kylián. Kylián is one of the most prominent contemporary choreographers in the world today and adding another of his works to our repertoire, his *Double*

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You was added in 2008, is a major coup for a relatively young company. 27'52" (the title refers to the exact length of the full piece) was created in 2002 and is made up of three abstract duets. It is one of the most recent Kylián ballets being performed in the U.S. today. "Kylián is a craftsman who continues to explore the depths of his own heart and mind, therefore creating work with a strong and powerful aesthetic as well as abstract emotional content. In addition to how profound I believe his work to be, the physical vocabulary of movement and what he is able to create is astounding in its intricacy and simplicity," says Walsh.



This program will also include the U.S. premiere of Walsh's *Medea*, a new creation that premiered at the Gala di Danza in Naples, Italy in December 2009. Set to *Medea in Corinto* by Giuseppe Simone Mayr, this work was created on three principal women from Teatro di San Carlo. Based on one of the most horrific acts in ancient mythology, Walsh uses these figures to demonstrate three archetypal behaviors of a woman's suffering and the journey towards her commitment to avenge herself. The October program will close with a revival of Walsh's *Terminus* which is set to a score composed and performed live by Two Star Symphony. Walsh created this work in 2008 as part of the company's *E_Merging II* program. With this program, Dominic Walsh Dance Theater built on its long tradition of collaboration by working with local visual artists to produce unique works that meld different disciplines into coherent pieces. *Terminus* focuses on the evolution of ballet philosophies that have inspired Walsh's choreography and is set against a video/painting installation created by Houston artist Nicola Parente.

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The season will continue on February 10-12, 2011 at 7:30 PM with a mixed bill featuring the U.S. premiere of *Pas de Dans* by Mats Ek. Ek is a leading Swedish choreographer, dancer, and stage director who has been hailed as one of Europe's most creative and influential dance-makers.

His work was presented in Houston at last year's Dance Salad Festival, but Dominic Walsh Dance Theater will be the first U.S. company to obtain the right to perform it. *Pas de Dans* is a work for two couples set to traditional Swedish folk music and is a perfect demonstration of this iconic choreographer's charm and wit. "To dance Ek's work is a major accomplishment for any dancer. It is technically challenging and specific, heady, intellectual and outrageous, yet with heart and humor around every unexpected corner. His work demonstrates the essence of theater in all of its sublime qualities," states Walsh.

This thoughtfully-crafted program will close with the world premiere of a narrative, one act work by Walsh based on Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Walsh will collaborate with local writer Addie Tsai on this work. Contrary to its popularized versions in film and theatre, *Frankenstein* is the story of abandonment through narcissism, one of the fundamental psychological archetypes of our time. Walsh and Tsai are both drawn to similar psychological facets of the Frankenstein/monster profile, yet come from different points of view that will give a more enriched narrative and body of movement to the Frankenstein myth. Because there is such an intense knowledge of Frankenstein in our cultural consciousness, Walsh's use of abstract and psychological narrative (combined with movement) will be a most compelling fit for the complexity of the true Frankenstein story.

Then on May 5-7, 2011 at 7:30 PM, the company will present an "All Walsh" mixed repertory program featuring the Houston premiere of his *Time out of Line* that will incorporate sound design, visual art aspects, and video work. "There is a growing global movement of mixed media in which I have a great interest. I have always been fascinated with the power of collaboration

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and the merging of the arts to take disciplines into new realms,” says Walsh. With each performance of *Time out of Line*, Walsh will create a work of art on many different levels with live video feeds projected in a variety of locations in the theater and on the stage. The evening will also include the world premiere of his work set to *Clair de Lune*, along with reprises of favorites *The Dying Swan* and *For the Two of You*.

2010-2011 Season *Cultural Dining with Dominic Walsh Dance Theater*

To tempt the palette...*Fall for Dominic Walsh Dance Theater*

September 10 & 11, 2010 at 8:00 PM

FREE at Miller Outdoor Theatre, 100 Concert Drive, Houston, Texas

Subscription Series at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, Zilkha Hall, 800 Bagby Street, Houston, Texas

First Course **October 21-23, 2010 at 7:30 PM**

This tantalizing mixed bill features the Houston premiere of an intense duet from Jiří Kylián’s *27’52”* along with the U.S. premiere of Walsh’s *Medea* and a revival of his *Terminus* set to a live music by Two Star Symphony.

Second Course **February 10-12, 2011 at 7:30 PM**

Next on the menu is the U.S. premiere of Swedish choreographer Mats Ek’s *Pas de Dans*. We pair this charming work with the world premiere of Walsh’s *Victor Frankenstein* based on Mary Shelley’s classic novel and co-conceived by local writer Addie Tsai.

Third Course **May 5-7, 2011 at 7:30 PM**

The highlights of this satisfying program is the Houston premiere of Walsh’s inventive, multi-disciplinary *Time out of Line* and his world premiere work to *Clair de lune*.

Subscriptions for Dominic Walsh Dance Theater’s 2010-2011 season are available through www.dwdt.org or by calling 713-315-2525.



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***Photo credit** (top to bottom): Walsh's *I Napoletani* photo by Gabriella Nissen Photography. Kylián's *27'52"* photo by Daisy Komen Photography. Walsh's *Medea* photo by Maurizio De Nisi. Walsh's *Terminus* photo by Gabriella Nissen Photography. Ana Laguna and Mats Ek. Walsh's *The Afternoon of a Faun* photo by Gabriella Nissen Photography. Vaclav Kunes' *Small Hour* photo by Gabriella Nissen Photography.

As a principal dancer with Houston Ballet for over a decade, **Dominic Walsh** received national and international praise for his interpretations of both classical and contemporary roles. Walsh burst onto the choreographic scene when he won the prestigious Choo-San Goh Award in **1998**, **and he is now hailed as a leading** choreographer who is pushing the boundaries of ballet into new realms of theatricality. He won a second Choo-San Goh Award in 2007 and was one of only three choreographers to receive a 2008 Princess Grace Award.

Dominic Walsh Dance Theater, launched by Walsh in 2002, is also racking up accolades and honors. This contemporary ballet company has built a stellar reputation for taking the techniques and skills of classical ballet into more contemporary territory where sensuality and intimacy meet muscular fluidity. Today, the company's roster includes dancers of the highest caliber and its repertoire features inventive works by Walsh and such iconic choreographers as Mauro Bigonzetti, Jiří Kylián, and Matthew Bourne. In addition to producing a vibrant Houston season of performances and educational programs that enliven the senses, this dynamic company tours the U.S. and Europe. By bringing together the greatest choreographers, consummate dancers, musicians, designers and visual artists, Dominic Walsh Dance Theater is revolutionizing how you see, hear and feel ballet.

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