

# Dominic Walsh Dance Theater

## Press/Public Contact Information:

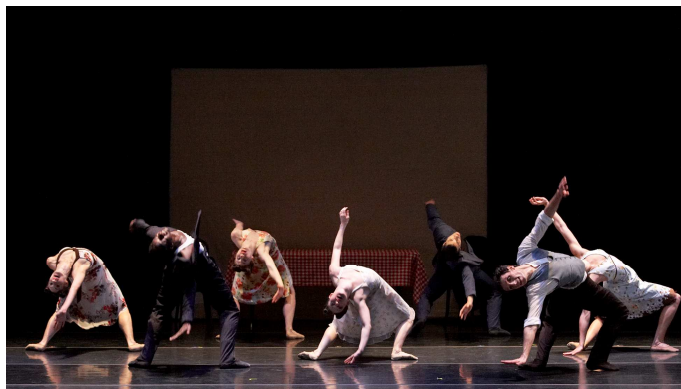
Leigh McBurnett

[lmcburnett@dwdt.org](mailto:lmcburnett@dwdt.org)

713-652-3938

[www.dwdt.org](http://www.dwdt.org)

## Free Performances at Miller Outdoor Theatre!



HOUSTON—Contemporary ballet company Dominic Walsh Dance Theater will kick-off its electrifying 2010-2011 season with *Fall for Dominic Walsh Dance Theater* on September 10 and 11, 2010, at 8:00 PM at Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park.

This dynamic mixed repertory program will feature audience favorites including: Matthew Bourne's White Swan duet from his Tony award-winning *Swan Lake*; Walsh's dramatic solo *The Dying Swan*; memorable duets from Walsh's smash hit *Romeo & Juliet*; *Small Hour*, a breathtaking duet by Czech choreographer Václav Kuneš; and Walsh's mysterious, yet whimsical *I Napoletani* which will leave you smiling and craving pizza!

"I hope those who have never seen the company perform, as well as our fans, will come out to celebrate the arrival of the fall season and 'fall in love' with contemporary ballet," says Founder/Artistic Director Dominic Walsh.

One of the highlights of the program will be DWDT Company Member Domenico Luciano dancing Bourne's *Swan Lake*. Luciano was selected as a "Standout" for 2009 by *Pointe Magazine* and also received the "Best Young Italian Dancer" award in 2010 for his sensuous performance of this role. And DWDT Company Member Rachel Meyer, who recently won a prestigious Princess Grace Award, will perform *The Dying Swan* and reprise her role as Lady Capulet in *Romeo & Juliet*.

The evening will close with Walsh's raucous *I Napoletani* created in 2007 and inspired by the vitality of Naples. This ballet opens with a tribute to Teatro San Carlo, one of the oldest theaters in Europe and the home of the first ballet school, set to Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*.

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After this mysterious glimpse at the evolution of dance and theater, Walsh transports us to a kitchen in Naples with the remainder of the ballet set to Neapolitan popular music from the late 1800s. Joining Luciano and Meyer in this romp through Naples will be returning company members Marissa Leigh Gomer, Felicia McBride, Ty Parmenter, Randolph Ward.

“Dominic has crafted a well designed program with something for everyone - humor, elegance, beauty, and innovation. Pack a picnic and bring the whole family for an evening guaranteed to entertain and inspire,” says DWDT Executive Director Leigh McBurnett.

**The performances of *Fall for Dominic Walsh Dance Theater* are free**, but tickets are required for reserved seats in the covered area. Tickets are available at the Miller Theatre Box Office on a first-come, first-served basis between 10:30 AM and 1:00 PM on the day of the performance. Remaining tickets are given out one hour before curtain. Please, four tickets per person. Hillside seating is not reserved. Blankets and lawn chairs welcome. *This program is sponsored in part by the City of Houston through the Miller Theatre Advisory Board, Inc.*

\*Photo credit: Dominic Walsh Dance Theater in Walsh’s *I Napoletani*. Photo by Gabriella Nissen Photography. To access high resolution images, visit “Press Room” at [www.dwdt.org](http://www.dwdt.org). Go to “Media Access” and enter User name = media and Password = 1highres1.

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. He won a second Choo-San Goh Award in 2007 and was one of only three choreographers to receive a 2008 Princess Grace Award. Walsh was recently named a winner of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago's 2010 National Choreographic Competition, and he was the Audience Choice and Judge’s Award winner in Ballet Austin’s 2010 New American Talent Choreographic Competition.

**Dominic Walsh Dance Theater**, launched by Walsh in 2002, is also racking up accolades and honors and was most recently named "Best Dance Company" by the *Houston Press*. Dominic Walsh Dance Theater has built a stellar reputation for taking the techniques and skills of classical ballet into more inventive territory. The company’s diverse repertoire features works by Walsh and such iconic choreographers as Mauro Bigonzetti, Jiří Kylián, and Matthew Bourne and its roster includes dancers of the highest caliber. Company member Rachel Meyer just won a 2010 Princess Grace Dance Fellowship and another, Domenico Luciano, was recently named Best Young Italian Dancer. In addition to producing a Houston season of performances and educational programs that enliven the senses, the company tours the U.S. and Europe. With its unique mix of innovation and collaboration, Dominic Walsh Dance Theater is one of this country’s leading contemporary ballet companies.