

# Dominic Walsh Dance Theater

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## *2011-2012 Star-Studded Season*

HOUSTON—2011-2012 marks Dominic Walsh Dance Theater’s **tenth anniversary season!** To celebrate this milestone, the company has an exciting line-up of prized works by Walsh, brilliant pieces from the iconic choreographers in its repertoire, star dancers from around the world, and some of Houston’s most beloved ballerinas.

“As I have had the great opportunity to travel the world as a dancer and choreographer, I noticed our city did not have a company dedicated to current, international, world-class contemporary ballet, and Houston deserved that. I can not believe that we are now celebrating our tenth anniversary season as Dominic Walsh Dance Theater, and I am grateful to Houston for supporting us along the way,” states DWDT Founder and Artistic Director Dominic Walsh.

Throughout the 2011-2012 season, Dominic Walsh Dance Theater will highlight the iconic choreographers in its repertoire including Jiří Kylián, Mats Ek, Matthew Bourne, and Mauro Bigonzetti. Exceptional works by these masters will be paired with Walsh’s recent, award-winning creations along with brand new works including his world premiere narrative *Camille Claudel*. To really make this season sizzle, Houston will have the opportunity to see some of the best dance artists from around the world in the company’s repertoire. Since creating his first work for Houston Ballet in 1998, Walsh has been traveling the globe working with dozens of companies and hundreds of dancers. Now, Houston will have the chance to experience some of the extraordinary artists who have influenced Walsh through the collaborative spirit in which he works. But let’s not forget Houston’s own superstars. Throughout the season, DWDT will also have surprise, cameo appearances from Houston’s most celebrated ballerinas in Walsh’s unforgettable *The Dying Swan*. After Paris Opera Ballet Etoile Marie-Agnes Gillot asked to perform the work for an “Etoile” gala in Tokyo last summer, Walsh felt it would be the perfect way to pay tribute to some of our beloved hometown celebrities who we no longer have the privilege to see on stage anymore. These divas will interpret the solo, each with their signature qualities that made us love them then, and why we still miss them on the stage today.

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## **2011-2012 Tenth Anniversary Season**

***Fall for Dominic Walsh Dance Theater*** A dynamic program of audience favorites including Walsh's inventive *Time out of Line* that merges dance, visual art, and video.

**August 26, 2011 at 8:00 PM**

FREE at Miller Outdoor Theatre, 6000 Hermann Park Drive, Houston, Texas

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

**October 13, 14 & 15, 2011 at 7:30 PM**

This mixed bill follows Walsh's rise to becoming a leading choreographer with a revival of his *Katharsis* that premiered as part of the company's inaugural performance in 2003; the Houston premiere of *The Whistling* set to popular Cuban music of the 1940s and 1950s and winner of the most audience votes in Ballet Austin's 2010 New American Talent/Dance Competition; and an inventive world premiere. Rounding out this program is the U.S. premiere of duets from Italian choreographer Mauro Bigonzetti's *Certe Notti* and *Come Un Respiro* ballets (New York City Ballet and DWDT are the only American companies to perform his work), along with a surprise appearance by one of Houston's favorite ballerinas in Walsh's *The Dying Swan* solo.

**February 9, 10 & 11, 2012 at 7:30 PM**

The celebration continues with a mixed rep showcasing the stunning gala version of "27'52" by icon Jiří Kylián. No choreographer is more praised today than Kylián, the master of fusing classical and modern dance. This electrifying program also features the Texas premiere of Walsh's *Nessuno* that he created in 2011 as one of three finalists in Hubbard Street 2's Choreographic Competition; memorable duets from his award-winning *The Trilogy: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart* performed by Domenico Luciano with newcomer Stefania Figliossi and celebrated Japanese ballerina Hana Sakai; and a cameo by one of Houston's beloved ballerinas in his dramatic *The Dying Swan*.

**May 3, 4 & 5, 2012 at 7:30 PM**

This stellar season closes with the world premiere of Walsh's dance theater work about the life of Camille Claudel, an artist of exceptional and unusual talent who influenced the great Auguste Rodin. We pair this fascinating new work with Walsh's *The Itch*, a feisty duet he created for the 2002 International Ballet Competition; a reprise of Swedish choreographer Mats Ek's witty *Pas de Dans*; the White Swan pas de deux from Matthew Bourne's Tony award-winning *Swan Lake*; and, of course, an unforgettable interpretation of Walsh's *The Dying Swan* by one of this city's most celebrated ballerinas.

**Subscriptions for Dominic Walsh Dance Theater's 2011-2012 season** are available through [www.dwdt.org](http://www.dwdt.org) or by calling **713-315-2525**.

"Houston is full of great cultural gems, and that says something wonderful about the people who live here. We hope Houstonians will celebrate with us this season and be proud of the achievements that we have accomplished together," says Walsh.

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**Roster of Dancers for Dominic Walsh Dance Theater's 2011-2012 Season include:**

**Domenico Luciano:** DWDT lead dancer since 2005, international guest artist, Naples, Beijing, Rome, Florence, Tulsa, and Sarasota

**Stefania Figliossi:** English National Ballet, Aterballetto, international guest artist

**Kathryn Thomas:** Norwegian National Ballet, Ballet X

**Hana Sakai:** New National Theatre, Tokyo, international guest artist

**Ashley Gilfix:** Ballet Austin lead dancer

**Antonio Carmena:** Soloist with New York City Ballet

**Matthew Prescott:** Soloist with Lines, Wheeldon, Ballet X, Armitage Gone!, The Suzanne Farrell Ballet, Complexions, Joffrey Ballet, international guest artist

**Robert Dekkers:** Recently named a "25 To Watch" artist for 2011 by *DANCE Magazine*, leading dancer with Ballet Arizona

**Emily McLaughlin:** Ballet Austin II, Aspen Santa Fe guest artist

**Carl Coomer:** Lead dancer with Texas Ballet Theatre, former Soloist with Houston Ballet

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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 received 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. 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 Mats Ek, Jiří Kylián, and Matthew Bourne. 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.

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