

# Dominic Walsh Dance Theater

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## Stellar 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season Continues!

HOUSTON—Contemporary ballet company Dominic Walsh Dance Theater (DWDT) will keep its tenth anniversary party going with a *Winter Mixed Rep* program on **February 9, 10 and 11, 2012 at 7:30 PM at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, Zilkha Hall** located at 800 Bagby Street in Houston, Texas. This celebratory program features prized works by Walsh, a brilliant piece from one of the most iconic choreographers in the company's repertoire, star dancers from around the world, and one of Houston's beloved ballerinas.



This mixed rep features a revival of the **gala version of Jiří Kylián's 27'52"**. No choreographer is more praised today than Kylián, the master of fusing classical and modern dance. Born in Prague, Kylián served as artistic director of the prestigious Nederlands Dans Theater (NDT) from 1975 to 1999, and brought unprecedented recognition and success to this Dutch company.

After stepping down as artistic director, he remained with NDT as chief choreographer and artistic adviser until bidding a final farewell to the company in 2009. "Jiří's work has an aesthetic that simply resonates with me. There is a refined use of classical vocabulary that is combined with an earthy, grounded, and weighted contemporary quality. This gives his work an emotional and psychological significance," states DWDT Founder and Artistic Director Dominic Walsh.

*27'52"* (a reference to its full 27 minute and 52 second running time) was created in 2002 for three couples and is the most recent Kylián work being performed in the U.S. today. *27'52"* has been described as "unmistakably Kylián," full of dazzling detail and deeply moving partner work. The piece is accompanied by poetic texts that blend eastern spirituality with western notions and the music is also a mix of cultures. Dirk Haubrich based his electronic composition on lyrical motifs by Gustav Mahler.

“Dancing 27’52” last season was an experience that I will always cherish due to the profound physical and psychological levels the duet took me to. I am very much looking forward to the company revisiting this wonderful piece and having another opportunity to share the masterful work of Jiří Kylián with our audiences,” says Walsh.

Audiences will also have the opportunity to see the **Texas premiere of Walsh’s *Nessuno***, a work he created in 2010 as one of three finalists of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago’s National Choreographic Competition. *Nessuno* is a thought-provoking work that travels through three chapters, each representing the non-sequential states of being when one discovers a place of belonging. “I think of the first chapter like a sort of divinity of placement in a time and location, and how one would fit into that environment,” notes Walsh. Walsh continues, “The second represents a kind of joy, youth, and playfulness within that discovered place, and the third continues the journey of maturation, fullness of ones self and this is represented in the elegance and intricacy of the movement and music.” Hubbard Street 2 premiered *Nessuno* in Germany to rave reviews, and we are thrilled to share it with Houston.



This electrifying program also includes **Duets from Walsh’s award-winning *The Trilogy: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*** that features set design by Houston artist Libbie Masterson. DWDT Company Member Domenico Luciano will reprise his role as “Mozart” and perform stunning duets with Italian dancer Stefania Figliossi, who wowed audiences in DWDT’s season opener. Luciano will also perform a duet from *Wolfgang* with extraordinary **Japanese ballerina Hana Sakai.**

Sakai is regarded as one of the most prominent and popular ballet dancers in Japan, and she currently dances with New National Theatre, Tokyo (NNTT). Walsh has a long history with Sakai and NNTT, first dancing as a guest artist with her in NNTT’s *Manon* in 2003. He then created *Orfeo ed Euridice* for NNTT in 2007, a full-length ballet that featured Sakai as Euridice. Sakai made her American debut with DWDT in 2008, dancing a pas de deux from *Orfeo ed Euridice* with Walsh.

She then went on to dance in Walsh's *Wolfgang* when NNTT performed the ballet in 2010. Luciano danced the title role with Sakai in Tokyo and of the pairing, Walsh says: "Hana and Domenico were exceptional together and brought an undiscovered depth of character to the duet. We are honored to have Hana come to dance once again in Houston, and I am thrilled to have her join us for our tenth anniversary season performances."

In addition, Walsh will contribute a new work to this *Winter Mixed Rep*. He will once again use various compositions by Arcangelo Corelli as a base for his soundscape. (His *Time out of Line* from 2011 was also created to a Corelli score.) "For me, Baroque music provides my imagination with a variety of tools to envision weights and various densities through space that lays a groundwork for some emotional or psychological narrative. I look for imagery that illuminates some part of the human experience and, often, Corelli can assist in that mystery in my work," says Walsh. Walsh thinks of this new work as fragmented chapters from an unknown story, vignettes of a moment, day or life-span with emphasis on its beginnings and ends.

But, let's not forget Houston's own superstars. Throughout the season, DWDT will also have surprise, cameo appearances from some of Houston's most beloved ballerinas. As part of this Winter Mixed Rep, the company is proud to present long-time **Houston Ballet dancer Tyann Clement in Walsh's theatrical *The Dying Swan*** solo. After seventeen years with Houston Ballet, Clement retired in December 2008 as the Snow Queen in *The Nutcracker*, a role she and Walsh (as her Cavalier) danced together many times during his last few years at Houston Ballet.



"Tyann was a dancer of great energy, pure heart, and a willingness to dive deep into the interpretations of her roles," says Walsh. Clement also danced in the debut of Dominic Walsh Dance Theater in February 2003, so it is most fitting for her to be the featured ballerina in *The Dying Swan*. "She was a leading ballerina with Houston Ballet who demonstrated an unusual versatility in her work—excelling in both the classical and contemporary pieces—which I always find interesting in any artist," states Walsh.

The mystique, yet somber depiction of the character in Walsh's *The Dying Swan* is gloomy but enticing as you are left wanting more. You want to know what is going to happen next, or why she is in such a somber state. "I can assure you, Tyann's "Swan" will have grace and heart of the utmost authenticity," says Walsh.

"With an entertaining and thought-provoking mix of dance works performed by acclaimed dancers from around the globe, this innovative program will stimulate all of your senses," says DWDT Executive Director Leigh McBurnett.

**Tickets for Dominic Walsh Dance Theater's *Winter Mixed Rep* are available for \$25, \$40, and \$52 through [www.dwdt.org](http://www.dwdt.org) or by calling 713-315-2525.** A VIP Opening Night package, including priority seating and an exclusive post-show cocktail reception with the performers at Artista is available for \$85.

**PLEASE NOTE: 27'52" CONTAINS NUDITY.**

**\*Photo credit** (top to bottom): Dominic Walsh in Jiří Kylián's *27'52"* photo by Gabriella Nissen Photography. Hana Sakai and Domenico Luciano in Dominic Walsh's *Wolfgang* photo by Takashi Shikama. Tyann Clement and Ian Casady in Dominic Walsh's *The Miller's Daughter* photo by Leticia London.

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 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 from around the world, most recently being named "Best Dance Company" by the *Houston Press*. This contemporary ballet company has built an international reputation for taking the techniques and skills of classical ballet into groundbreaking territory. The company's roster includes dancers of the highest caliber and its repertoire features inventive works by Walsh and such superstar choreographers as Mauro Bigonzetti, Jiří Kylián, Matthew Bourne, and Mats Ek. In addition to producing a Houston season of performances and educational programs that enliven the senses, this dynamic company tours the U.S. and Europe. With a unique mix of technical virtuosity, innovation, and collaboration, Dominic Walsh Dance Theater is one of this country's leading contemporary ballet companies.