

THEATRE PORT

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By Editors

Contemporary ballet company Dominic Walsh Dance Theater kicks off its tenth anniversary season with Fall for Dominic Walsh Dance Theater on **Friday, August 26, 2011, at 8:00 PM at Miller Outdoor Theatre located at 6000 Hermann Park Drive, Houston, TX 77030.**

This dynamic mixed repertory program features audience favorites including Walsh's Time out of Line, Medea, and Clair de Lune, along with Mats Ek's charming Pas de Dans. "With our unique mix of technical virtuosity, innovation, and collaboration, Dominic Walsh Dance Theater is one of this country's leading contemporary ballet companies. I hope those who have never seen us perform, as well as our fans, will come out and 'fall in love' with dance," says Founder/Artistic Director Dominic Walsh...

One of the highlights of this evening under the stars will be Mats Ek's Pas de Dans. 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. DWDT presented the company premiere of Pas de Dans in February 2011 to rave reviews and is the first company in the U.S. to obtain the right to perform one of Ek's pieces. Set to traditional Swedish folk music, Pas de Dans is a perfect demonstration of this iconic choreographer's charm and wit.

Fall for Dominic Walsh Dance Theater will also include Walsh's Clair de Lune set to Claude Debussy's most popular pieces and performed by DWDT Company Member Domenico Luciano, as well as Walsh's Medea, a work commissioned by Teatro San Carlo that premiered in Italy in 2009. Set to Medea in Corinto by Giovanni Simone Mayr, Walsh uses three women to characterize this horrific act from ancient mythology. Walsh's three women demonstrate different archetypal behaviors of a woman's suffering and the journey towards her commitment to avenge herself.

The evening will close with Walsh's multi-disciplinary Time out of Line that merges a technically charged, experimental movement vocabulary with visual art aspects, scenic design by Walsh and Nicola Parente, and video. "There is a growing global movement of mixed media in which I have a great interest, and I have always been fascinated with the power of collaboration," says Walsh. Time out of Line is set to Arcangelo Corelli's La Notte di Natale (Christmas Night) and features a key scene that incorporates painting on the floor. While executing Walsh's choreography, the dancers create a mix of color and pattern with their feet onto the covered floor. There is also a video element designed by Tim Thomson that demonstrates how we record time. With each performance of Time out of Line, a work of art is created on many different levels.

"This show has 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.

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 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 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, Matthew Bourne, and Mats Ek and its roster includes dancers of the highest caliber. 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.