

For immediate release: July 25, 2012
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**DANA TAI SOON BURGESS & CO. CAPS 20TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON
WITH NEW WORK, SEPTEMBER PERFORMANCES**

Washington, DC – Dana Tai Soon Burgess & Co. will conclude its 20th anniversary season with a new work at its September performance. *Caverns* will have its world premiere Sept. 21-23, capping the company’s 20th anniversary year. It will be performed at 8 p.m. at The George Washington University Dorothy Betts Marvin Theatre, 800 21st St. NW, Washington, D.C., where Burgess launched his company two decades ago.

Unlike Burgess’s earlier works – which captured stories of characters or spirits on a journey – *Caverns* explores the topic of memory. “I’m intrigued by how we interact with and revisit memories at certain moments in our lives,” he said. “For me, these pockets, or caverns, of memory are a window into the subconscious. *Caverns* is a voyeuristic exploration of a woman remembering certain moments in a relationship.” The dark, pensive piece will be danced by Katia Chupashko Norri, Felipe Oyarzun and Connie Fink. It is set to Für Alina, a work for piano composed by the Estonian composer Arvo Pärt.

Called the “poet laureate of Washington dance” by Washington Post dance critic Sarah Kaufman, Burgess has built his group of dancers into the Washington area’s premier contemporary dance company.

The September performance will feature works from the company’s repertoire and will be followed by a panel discussion with founder/artistic director Burgess and the dancers. In addition to *Caverns*, the company will perform:

- *Charlie Chan and the Mystery of Love*, an autobiographic coming of age dance based on Burgess’s life. Featured dancers are Kelly Southall, Ricardo Alvarez, Tati Valle Riestra, Katia Chupashko Norri, Connie Lin Fink, Takako Hatthaway, Lucia Cisneros, Sarah Halzack and Yeon Jin Cho.
- *Becoming American*, which explores the experience of a Korean child uprooted from her birthplace when she is adopted by Caucasian American parents. The lead dancer is Katia Chupashko Norri, whose personal story is represented in the work.
- *Khaybet*, a solo dance performed by associate artistic director Connie Fink. The dance, which depicts a woman at the end of her life, was choreographed after Burgess participated in a cultural exchange to northern Pakistan.
- *Dariush* is a short, energetic solo featuring Katia Chupashko Norri which was created after the company visited the Middle East in 1999.

Tickets are \$15 for students, \$22 for artists and \$25 for general admission. For information contact (202) 297-2436 or <https://www.vendini.com/ticketsoftware.html?e=215e17d2520132523e74a9de1fc038bc&t=ti>.

20th Anniversary

Highlights of the 20th anniversary year have included:

- The creation of a new Dance Giving Circle to support the company’s work
- The annual spring performance of works from the company’s repertoire
- A tour to Jordan sponsored by the U.S. State Department
- A May performance at the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery
- Presentation of the Mayoral Certificate of Appreciation

Dana Tai Soon Burgess

Described by Washington Post dance critic Sarah Kaufman as “the area’s leading dance artist, consistently following his own path and producing distinctive, well-considered works,” Burgess moved from Santa Fe to the nation’s capital in 1988, founding the company four years later. His dancers come from Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Japan, Korea and China.

For two decades, Burgess has exposed local, national and international audiences to his unique fusion of contemporary dance, ballet lines, martial arts style and gesture and visual arts, receiving critical acclaim for synthesizing Eastern and Western aesthetics. In addition to performing locally at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Dance Place, Smithsonian Institution, Corcoran Gallery of Art and historic Lincoln Theatre, DTSB & Co. has performed at the Jack H. Skirball Center for the Performing Arts, La MaMa and Asia Society in New York City.

The choreographer also has served for 16 years as a U.S. State Department cultural ambassador, traveling with his company

to Chile, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Israel, Jordan, Korea, Latvia, Mexico, Mongolia, Panama, Peru and Venezuela, among other places.

Closer to home, Burgess is chair of George Washington University's Department of Theatre and Dance. He mentors local youth through his Asian American Youth Program for high school students at the District's School Without Walls, funded through the Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts. Burgess and his company have received numerous awards including the Mayor's Arts Awards.

For more information, visit www.dtsbco.com. Follow the company on Twitter @dtsbcodance or become a fan on Facebook.
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Photographs:

Chan photos by Lawrence Luk

http://www.dtsbco.com/gallery/oct2010performance/assets/dtsbco_charliechan_048.jpg

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Becoming American photos by Z. Shah

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Dana Tai Soon Burgess photo by Mary Noble Ours

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