



Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance Company

For immediate release
Sept. 9, 2013

Contact: Janice L. Kaplan, 202-277-5461
JaniceLKaplan@JaniceLKaplan.com

**DANA TAI SOON BURGESS DANCE COMPANY IS FIRST EVER
DANCE COMPANY IN RESIDENCE AT THE SMITHSONIAN**

Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance Company's 2013-2014 season features some of the most exciting performances in the company's 21-year history. Beginning in October and continuing through the spring, the company will be artists-in-residence at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery (NPG) – the first ever dance company in residence at the Smithsonian. In February, the company will perform at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

National Portrait Gallery

DTSB Dance Company will serve as NPG artists-in-residence in conjunction with the museum's "Dancing the Dream" exhibition (Oct. 4, 2013, through July 13, 2014), the Smithsonian's first exhibition to focus on dance in America. Fall rehearsals, which will be held at the museum on Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26 and Nov. 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. (as well as in March and April), will be open to the public and streamed live on the museum's Web site. Feedback from museum visitors and internet viewers will help shape two site-specific works. The first work, titled, "Homage," is inspired by the museum's collection and features a soundtrack of interviews and music associated with important moments in American dance history, starting with James Cagney performing in the 1942 film "Yankee Doodle Dandy." "Homage" will reflect the continuum of dance in the U.S. and honor American dance pioneers," said Burgess. "The piece pays homage to such artists as Shirley Temple, Martha Graham, John Travolta, Ted Shawn, Katherine Dunham, Liza Minnelli and Michio Ito, while at the same time keeping my own voice."

"Homage" will be performed in the museum's Robert and Arlene Kogod Courtyard on Nov. 16, 2013. A second piece will be performed in April 2014. The NPG is at 8th and F Streets, N.W.

"Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance Company's participation is an integral part of the exhibition experience," said curator Amy Henderson. "Dana is a great storyteller and the National Portrait Gallery is committed to telling great American stories. In Dana's case, that takes place through movement."

"Dancing the Dream" explores the relationship between the art of dance and the evolution of a modern American identity, telling stories of the generations of performers, choreographers, and impresarios who harnessed America's diversity and dynamism into styles that reverberated with the American experience. It will trace this story through images of performers such as Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, Michael Jackson, Savion Glover, Balanchine, Baryshnikov, Beyonce, Agnes deMille and Lady Gaga.

Burgess's portrait will hang in the gallery alongside modern-dance pioneers such as Isadora Duncan and Martha Graham and contemporary masters Twyla Tharp and Mark Morris, among others. This is not the first time his likeness has been on view in the museum. His portrait was one the works by Korean-American artist CYJO on view in the 2012 exhibition, "Asian American Portraits of Encounter."

John F. Kennedy Center

DTSB Dance Company will perform at The Kennedy Center (2700 F St. N.W., Washington, DC) on Feb. 7-8. The company will perform:

- "Homage"
- "Revenant Elegy," a site-specific work created in conjunction with the National Gallery of Art exhibition, 'Diaghilev and the Ballets Russes, 1909–1929: When Art Danced"
- "Leaving Pusan," repertory work inspired by the Burgess family's immigration to Hawaii

Asian American Youth Program

Burgess created the Asian American Youth Program to mentor District high school students of Asian heritage. With funding from the Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs and a partnership with the School Without Walls, Burgess and journalist Wilma Consul take students to cultural institutions, facilitate discussions about their racial and cultural identity and inspire the creation of a film documenting their experiences. The program aims to strengthen participants' relationships with their peers, enrich their view of Asian-American culture and increase their appreciation of dance.

About Dana Tai Soon Burgess

Described by Washington Post dance critic Sarah Kaufman as "not only a Washington prize, but a national dance treasure" and "poet laureate of Washington dance," Burgess has for two decades exposed local, national and international audiences to a unique fusion of contemporary dance, ballet lines, martial arts style and gesture and visual arts, receiving critical acclaim for synthesizing Eastern and Western aesthetics.

Having grown up in Santa Fe as the son of an Irish-Scottish-American father from upstate New York and a Korean-American mother from Hawaii, Burgess has a personal interest in issues of identity, immigration, belonging and cultural acceptance, as seen in such works as "Becoming American," "Hyphen," "Island," and "Chino Latino." His company includes dancers from diverse backgrounds – Bolivian, Colombian, Cuban, Irish, Korean, Japanese and Peruvian. In addition, Burgess 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.

Burgess has also performed and taught in Maryland, New Mexico, Tennessee, New York and Virginia. Closer to home, he is chair of George Washington University's Department of Theatre and Dance. Burgess and his company have received numerous awards including the Mayor's Arts Awards.

For more information, visit www.dtsbdc.org, follow the company on Twitter @dtsbcdance or become a friend on Facebook.

###

[Type text]

[Type text]

[Type text]

