



Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance Company

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**DANA TAI SOON BURGESS DANCE COMPANY IN RESIDENCE  
THIS SPRING AT NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY**

As the Smithsonian's first ever choreographer-in-residence, Dana Tai Soon Burgess will create a new work for the Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance Company at the National Portrait Gallery this spring in conjunction with the museum's "Dancing the Dream" exhibition. "Dancing the Dream" explores the relationship between the art of dance and the evolution of a modern American identity. It is on view through July 13.

Burgess has been 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."

The new piece, which is inspired by early modern dance masters and contemporary movement trends, will debut at the National Portrait Gallery's Robert and Arlene Kogod Courtyard on April 19 at 1 and 2:30 p.m. Open rehearsals, which provide a window into the choreographer's process, will be held in the museum galleries on March 22 and 29, April 5 and 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and April 14 from 4 to 7 p.m.. The museum is located at 8th and F Streets, N.W. For information on the free rehearsals and performances, visit [www.npg.si.edu](http://www.npg.si.edu) or call 202-633-1000.

An earlier commissioned work, "Homage," was performed at the National Portrait Gallery in the fall and at The John F. Kennedy Center earlier this month. It features a soundtrack of interviews and music associated with important moments and figures in American dance such as James Cagney, Shirley Temple, Martha Graham, John Travolta, Ted Shawn, Katherine Dunham, Liza Minnelli and Michio Ito.

**Spring Tour**

In March, Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance Company will travel to the British Virgin Islands on behalf of the U.S. State Department. During their visit, the company will perform and teach at H. Lavity Stoutt Community College and teach throughout the community. In September, the company will travel to Suriname on behalf of the State Department. Burgess has served for 18 years as a U.S. State Department cultural ambassador, traveling with his company to Chile, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Israel, the West Bank, Jordan, Korea, Latvia, Mexico, Mongolia, Pakistan, Panama, Peru and Venezuela, among other places. The company includes dancers from diverse backgrounds – Colombian, Chilean, Filipino, Irish, Korean and Peruvian. In addition, Burgess's works have been performed in more than 200 American cities.

**About Dana Tai Soon Burgess**

For more than two decades Burgess has 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-German-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.”

Burgess has performed and taught in Maryland, New Mexico, Tennessee, New York and Virginia. Closer to home, he is chair of The George Washington University’s Department of Theatre and Dance and founder of the DTSB Dance Company’s Asian American Youth Program, which mentors D.C. high school students of Asian heritage. Burgess and his company have received numerous awards including the Mayor’s Arts Awards.

Burgess’s portrait hangs in the “Dancing the Dream” exhibition 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 National Portrait Gallery. His portrait was one of the works by Korean-American artist CYJO on view in the 2012 exhibition, “Asian American Portraits of Encounter.”

For more information, visit [www.dtsbdc.org](http://www.dtsbdc.org), follow the company on Twitter @dtsbdc or become a friend on Facebook.

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