

DTSBDC

Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance Company

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

WASHINGTON, DC – Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance Company’s 2014-2015 season features an international tour, a photo exhibition sponsored by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, a museum residency and collaboration with NASA.

State Department Ambassador

From Sept. 14-22, members of DTSB Dance Company will travel on behalf of the U.S. State Department to Suriname, where they will represent the United States at the Moengo Festival of Theatre and Dance and teach master classes in American modern dance. The choreographer has served for 18 years as a U.S. State Department cultural ambassador, traveling with his company to the British Virgin Islands, 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.)

Photo Exhibition and Dance Performance

An exhibition, “Ancestry, Artistry, Choreography: Tracing a Korean American Journey,” will be on view from Nov. 7 to Dec. 19 at the Korean Cultural Center, 2370 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC. An opening reception on Nov. 7 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. will feature a performance by DTSB Dance Company. Sponsored by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, the exhibition features photographs and video of the dance company over its 22-year history. During that time 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. The exhibit reflects how being a Korean-American has influenced the choreographer’s work, including such pieces as “Tracings” and “Charlie Chan and the Mystery of Love.”

The Kreeger Museum Residency

Beginning in January, DTSB Dance Company will be artists-in-residence at The Kreeger Museum, 2401 Foxhall Rd., N.W., Washington, DC. The company will hold public rehearsals on Saturdays, Jan. 24, Feb. 21 and March 14 in the Kreeger Museum’s Great Hall. Using several paintings by Pablo Picasso from the museum’s permanent collection as inspiration, the choreographer will create a new dance, which will debut at the museum on Thursday, March 26. (In 2013-

2014, Burgess was the Smithsonian's first choreographer-in-residence and created two new works in conjunction with the National Portrait Gallery's "Dancing the Dream" exhibition.)

NASA Collaboration

In the coming year, Burgess will also create a major new work about the connection between human beings and the cosmos. The dance will incorporate video and images supplied by NASA and a sound score that includes interviews with astronauts, scientists and historians. Tapping into NASA's discoveries and cutting-edge research, the choreographer will examine such topics as space exploration, our understanding of the stars, the role of creativity in science and art, and the importance of the stars to different cultures throughout history. Burgess's research will take him to the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, and the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. A world premiere of the new work will take place in the fall of 2015 at the John. F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.; the new dance also will be performed at NASA sites around the country.

About Dana Tai Soon Burgess

Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance Company is Washington, D.C.'s premier contemporary dance company, founded in 1992. 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."

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 has been displayed at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery, alongside modern dance pioneers such as Isadora Duncan and Martha Graham and contemporary masters Twyla Tharp and Mark Morris, and as part of the exhibit, "[Asian American Portraits of Encounter.](#)"

For more information, visit www.dtsbdc.org, follow the company on Twitter @dtsbdc or become a friend on Facebook, <http://www.facebook.com/DTSBDC>.

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