

[THE VIEW FROM HERE]  
My Washington



## Dana Tai Soon Burgess

[Choreographer, Cultural Ambassador, Globe Trotter]

The Washington Post called him “a national dance treasure.” And, indeed, Burgess has led his eponymous D.C.-based troupe in acclaimed performances on city stages, inside the White House and around the world for the State Department. This month, his choreography’s at The Kennedy Center, and his photo’s at the National Portrait Gallery. See [dtsbdc.org](http://dtsbdc.org).—BS

### What makes D.C. a good place for dance?

It’s an international city with a thriving arts scene and a true sense of community. The opportunities for dance projects seem limitless, in both traditional venues like The Kennedy Center and nontraditional locations like the National Portrait Gallery and The Kreeger Museum.

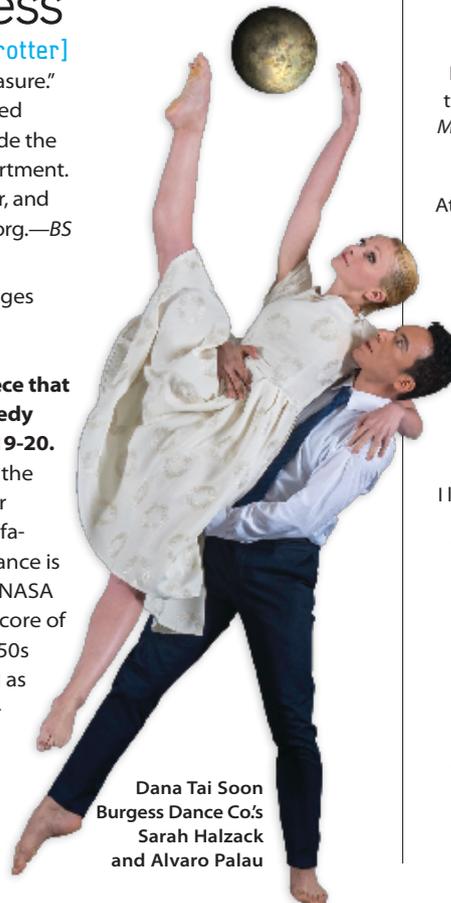
### Why is dance important?

It’s humanity’s fundamental language. We all intrinsically recognize the postures of sadness, anger and happiness. This art form has the ability to move us emotion-

ally and to build bridges around the world.

### Tell us about the piece that debuts at The Kennedy Center September 19-20.

“We choose to go to the moon” is named after President Kennedy’s famous speech. This dance is a collaboration with NASA and has a nostalgic score of songs from the late ‘50s and early ‘60s as well as sound bites from scientists. The Kennedy generation’s dreams and hopes about space continue to influence us today.



Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance Co’s Sarah Halzack and Alvaro Palau

### What was it like to meet President Obama?

He has a wonderful stately presence and great empathy. He gave me and my partner a huge hug. And he was fabulous to Katia Norri, who performed my work that evening. She was a little nervous, but President Obama joked with her and wished her the best of luck.

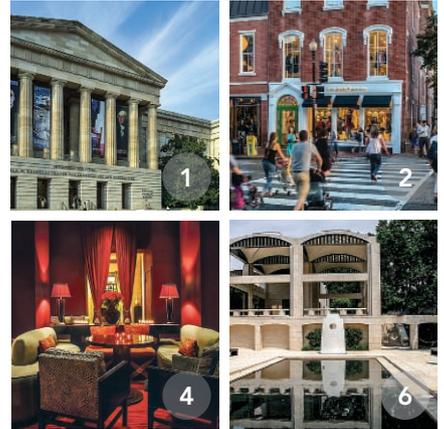
### When you travel, what are your must-take items?

I can stay on tour for weeks with just a backpack. Everything I take is small but useful: a first-aid kit, a sewing kit, and, most important, a scarf. In the Andes, it staved off the cold, and in Petra, protected me from the sun.

### So, where next for you?

Southeast Asia. I’m inspired by the music and dance traditions of Bali and Java.

## A PERFECT DAY



Dana Tai Soon Burgess shares his favorite things to do and see in the capital city.

1

The National Portrait Gallery displays presidential portraits as well as contemporary shows like “Eye Pop: The Celebrity Gaze.” [Look for the photo of Burgess. Hint: It’s near the painting of Brad Pitt.]  
8th & F sts. NW, [npg.si.edu](http://npg.si.edu)

2

I head to Georgetown to shop for everything from antiques to clothes and shoes.  
M St. & Wisconsin Ave. NW, [georgetowndc.com](http://georgetowndc.com)

3

At Dumbarton Oaks, I admire the collection of Pre-Columbian art, then explore the gorgeous gardens.  
1703 32nd St. NW, [doaks.org](http://doaks.org)

4

Le Bar at Sofitel has great service and a relaxing patio in the heart of the city.  
806 15th St. NW, [sofitel.com](http://sofitel.com)

5

I like to meet up with friends at Bistrot Lepic, a cozy restaurant in upper Georgetown. There’s a second-floor wine bar and live jazz on Mondays and Wednesdays.  
1736 Wisconsin Ave. NW, [bistrotlepic.com](http://bistrotlepic.com)

6

The Kreeger Museum is an architectural jewel box housing gems by Picasso, Miro, Dégas and Monet.  
2401 Foxhall Rd. NW, [kreegermuseum.org](http://kreegermuseum.org)

Discover more at  
[wheretraveler.com](http://wheretraveler.com)

(FROM TOP) MARY NOBLE OURS; JEFF WATTS; BOTH COURTESY DANA TAI SOON BURGESS DANCE COMPANY; (SIDEBAR, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) TIMOTHY HURSELY; COURTESY SMITHSONIAN; SAM KITTNER; COURTESY GEORGETOWN BID; ERICH KEEL; COURTESY KREEGER MUSEUM; COURTESY SOFITEL WASHINGTON DC; LAFAYETTE SQUARE