

DTSBDC

Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance Company

For immediate release
Feb. 1, 2016

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

DANA TAI SOON BURGESS TO PREMIERE NEW WORK AT NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY FEB. 28 Dance Company Announces 2016 Season

Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance Company (DTSBDC) will perform the world premiere of “The Foster Suite: The Remains of Loss and Longing,” at the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery on Feb. 28. The free performances, in the Robert and Arlene Kogod Courtyard, will take place at 2 and 6 p.m.

This new 25-minute work was commissioned by the National Portrait Gallery to coincide with its current exhibition, “Dark Fields of the Republic: Alexander Gardner Photographs, 1859-1872” (on view through March 13). The piece, with its focus on the Civil War and mourning, is set to songs by 19th century composer Stephen Foster, including such well known tunes as “Jeanie With the Light Brown Hair,” “Wilt Thou Be Gone, Love?” and “Sweetly She Sleeps, My Alice Fair.”

Inspired by Gardner’s photographs, Dana Tai Soon Burgess says the images “portray a nation in physical turmoil and moral conflict.” The postures and the clothing in the photographs led the choreographer to consider the postures and movements of the period.

“The Foster Suite” features nine dancers in costumes by Judy Hansen – black dresses for the women and abstracted black suits for the men – which are both reminiscent of the period and contemporary in nature.

Burgess was the Smithsonian’s first ever choreographer-in-residence at the National Portrait Gallery in 2013-2014. The Portrait Gallery is located at Eighth and F Streets, N.W. Seating for the Feb. 28 performance is limited and on a first-come basis.

DTSBDC is devoted to performing personal and culturally inspired choreography on universal topics such as identity and belonging that resonate with global audiences. Burgess has been described by Pulitzer Prize-winning Washington Post dance critic Sarah Kaufman as “not only a Washington prize, but a national dance treasure” and “poet laureate of Washington dance.”

Additional performances in 2016

From March 11-19, DTSBDC will travel to Cambodia as State Department Cultural Ambassadors. The company will perform “Mandala” and “Picasso Dances” and teach in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh, in partnership with Khmer Arts Dance Company.

Back in Washington, D.C., DTSBDC will perform at Flashpoint Gallery's Mead Theatre Lab on Aug. 5-6 and 12-13 as part of a performance/lecture series focused on the company's Asian-American-themed pieces including "ChinoLatino," "Charlie Chan and The Mystery of Love," "Hyphen," "Becoming American," "Tracings" and "Island." The discussion will include Burgess; Patty Chu, professor of literature at George Washington University; and Asian-American activist and philanthropist Rosetta Lai. Flashpoint is located at 916 G Street, N.W. Tickets are \$10 and available from dtsbdc.org

From Sept. 3-10, members of the company will travel to Indonesia as State Department Cultural Ambassadors. They will represent the U.S at the Solo International Performing Arts (SIPA) Festival, where they will perform "Mandala," "Confluence" and "Picasso Dances" and teach.

In the fall of 2016, DTSBDC will premiere a new work, "Dreamscapes," in collaboration with the Jung Society of Washington, D.C. The venue will be announced at a later date.

About Dana Tai Soon Burgess

Dana Tai Soon Burgess grew up in Santa Fe, the son of a Korean-American mother and Irish-German-Scotch father who were both artists. Throughout his career, he has explored this hyphenated cultural status in his choreography. Burgess, who began dancing when he was 16, went on to earn degrees in dance from the University of New Mexico and The George Washington University. Since founding DTSBDC in 1992, he has sought out dancers of diverse backgrounds. His experience in varied forms of movement – modern dance, ballet and martial arts – is reflected in such works as "Hyphen" and "Becoming American." Burgess serves as chair of G.W.'s Department of Theater and Dance and, for nearly two decades, as a State Department cultural ambassador.

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

###