

DANA TAI SOON BURGESS DANCE COMPANY



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DANA TAI SOON BURGESS DANCE COMPANY 25TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON FEATURES PORTRAIT GALLERY SALONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance Company’s 25th anniversary season continues with a series of free salons at the National Portrait Gallery, where Burgess is the Smithsonian’s first choreographer-in-residence. Each salon will feature a dance performance and discussion in the museum’s new international gallery. The gallery’s inaugural exhibition, “Portraits of the World: Switzerland” (on view through Nov. 12) features a portrait of Italian dancer Giulia Leonardi by Swiss painter Ferdinand Hodler titled “Femme en Extase,” (Woman in Ecstasy) and other related artworks. In conjunction with the exhibition, Burgess will create a new solo dance inspired by the Hodler painting.

The salons will take place in the new gallery on March 3, 10 and 17 at 2 and 4 pm. Seating is on a first-come basis. The discussion will focus on modern dance pioneers, including Martha Graham, Michio Ito, Isadora Duncan, Ruth St. Denis and Ted Shawn, whose portraits are also on view in the gallery. Burgess will talk about the relationship of the early American moderns’ interest in the rediscovery of the ancient cultures of the Middle and Far East which was a trend at the turn of the last century.

Members of Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance Company will perform excerpts from “Confluence,” one of the company’s new dances inspired by the National Portrait Gallery collection, and rarely seen solo dances by choreographer Ito. The series grows out of a long tradition of salons in which dance is performed and discussed in intimate settings.

Smithsonian Residency

“Dana’s work is bringing both modern dance and visual art to a broader audience and ultimately enriching the life of the museum and its many visitors,” said Portrait Gallery director Kim Sajet. Burgess has a long history of partnering with museums including the National Gallery of Art, Corcoran Gallery and The Kreeger Museum.

The National Portrait Gallery is located at Eighth and F Streets N.W. Visit npg.si.edu.

Anniversary Year

The 25th anniversary will culminate in a performance at The Kennedy Center’s Terrace Theater June 15-17 featuring three dances: “Confluence,” “After 1001 Nights” and “I Am Vertical.”

“Over the past 25 years, I’ve seen Dana and his company grow into what *Washington Post* dance critic Sarah Kaufman has called ‘not only a Washington prize,

but a national dance treasure,” said DTSBDC Board President Bonnie Kogod. “The son of a Irish-German-Scottish father and Korean-American mother, Dana’s choreography focuses on such topics as identity, heritage, belonging, and what it means to be a hyphenated American – themes that are both personal and universal, and that have renewed relevance given the current political conversation in this country.”

About Dana Tai Soon Burgess

Washington, D.C.’s foremost modern dance choreographer, Burgess has been described by Pulitzer Prize-winning *Washington Post* dance critic Sarah Kaufman as “poet laureate of Washington dance.” As a U.S. Department of State Cultural Ambassador, Burgess and his company have toured to more than 30 countries over more than two decades. They have also performed across the U.S., including at the White House at the request of former President and Mrs. Obama. The company manages the dance program at Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia; offers a summer dance Intensive at Georgetown Day School in the District; and public classes at Glen Echo Park in Bethesda, Maryland. For more information visit dtsbdc.org or 202-497-2436.

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