

IN STEP WITH DTSB & CO.

The electronic newsletter for Dana Tai Soon Burgess & Co.

Winter 200



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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

This year the company celebrates its 15th anniversary. It is so exciting to have reached such an important milestone. The adage "how time flies" really applies here. Recently I was observing our beautiful company in rehearsal, and I was struck by the escalation of talent that has occurred over the last 15 years. Each generation of dancers has generously given beauty and emotional depth to the creative process. When I first launched the company as an offshoot of our youth program, I never dreamed that it could attain such a high level of artistry. I originally began choreographing to highlight the talent of our young dancers, and as they grew into mature artists, I was pushed to create better and better works. In a wonderful symbiosis, my dance family and I have grown stronger together.



Now that we have talented professional dancers such as Miyako Nitadori, Connie Lin Fink, Tati Valle Riestra, and Leonardo Torres who have been part of our family for more than five years, I see how a company's shared understanding of the creative process and dedication to a unique technical style can manifest itself as something quite special. And I am humbled by watching our mature dancers mentor and inform our newest company members. This synergy of an ever-evolving company pushes me to reinvestigate how to best teach repertoire while expanding the movement lexicon from which I choreograph. Dance is truly a field of mentorship, and the last 15 years are a wonderful testament to this. I hope that our audiences will share in my great pride when they attend our 15th anniversary events.

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We have planned an unprecedented anniversary season, comprising events in and around D.C. as well as tours to New York City, the Middle East, and South Asia. Underscoring the company's commitment to building cultural and ethnic connections, the events are designed to reach a variety of audiences, including children, families, Asian Americans, Latinos, and African Americans. Be sure to see the Calendar below and check our Web site at† <http://www.dtsbco.com> for updates.

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Dana Tai Soon Burgess

Dana Tai Soon Burgess
Artistic Director

photo credit: Mary Noble Ours

IN THE GREEN ROOM

Go behind the scenes with DTSB & Co. dancer Kelly Moss Southall.

One of DTSB & Co.'s newest dancers, Kelly is in his first year with the company. He graduated with honors from Ohio University, where he earned a BFA in dance performance and choreography. He has performed in works by Sean Curran, Azaguno African Drumming and Dance Ensemble, and the Shelter Repertory Dance Theatre. Kelly's choreography has been shown at the American College Dance Festival and at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada. After winning the Midwest Championships in Irish dance in 2001, he garnered an honorary placement at the 2002 World Irish Dancing Championships in Glasgow, Scotland. In 2005, Kelly was a technical production intern at Jacob's Pillow dance festival. Here he answers some of our burning questions about dance and life outside the studio.



Where were you born?
Chillicothe, Ohio

What is the first thing you do in the morning?
Turn on the computer, make hot tea, stretch for 15-20 minutes, and check e-mail.

Do you have a specialty in the kitchen?
No real specialties per se . . . though I am very good at modifying recipes to make them veggie/vegan friendly.

What do you like best about your work with the company?
What I enjoy most is the exploration I am going through as a new dancer with the company. I am in the midst of processing a new movement aesthetic, intense technical training, professional development, and a new city . . . I am loving every minute of it!

If you weren't in the dance field, what would you be?
A fashion or interior designer.

What about you would surprise people?
It would be too shocking! Here's one though . . . by the time I was one year old, I had survived a tornado and a severe case of osteomyelitis in my left shoulder.

What is your favorite quote? What is your favorite song?

What is your idea of the ultimate vacation?

I think about this often . . . and it changes often. Here's my current dream vacation: There is an Asian spa (Osmosis) in Northern California that specializes in cedar enzymatic baths. A weekend at the spa would be an amazing experience! I would then fly to Pennsylvania and spend a week or two at the Himalayan Institute studying yoga and finishing with some Pancha karma treatment to complete the total body rejuvenation vacation.

If you could have dinner with anyone, dead or alive, who would you choose?

I think I would enjoy having dinner with performance artist Laurie Anderson. There are, of course, many people, but others might be too awkward to spend an entire dinner with . . . Queen Elizabeth I, for example.

What is your most valued possession?

This is an interesting question. While I do enjoy being surrounded by things--- items I have purchased for myself or gifts, etc.---I'm not really overly attached to any of them. With that said, I think my life would crash if I lost the cell phone. There's a priceless network on it that has taken years to create!

photo credit: Jeff Watts

STAGE NOTES

DTSB & Co. is pleased to announce the selection of a **new president** for its board of directors. Having served on the board for the past three years, Jan Tievsky has acquired a thorough familiarity with the company and its future goals. Jan also brings valuable dance-related experience to her leadership position. Formerly artistic director of Glen Echo Dance Theater and head of dance education for the Maryland State Department of Education, Jan is currently a dance and theater teacher at the Georgetown Day Lower/Middle School campus and head of the Washington Area Independent School Dance Educators Association. "I am so excited to be working with our new president. Jan's energy and deep love of and commitment to dance make her an inspiring leader in our 15th anniversary season," says Dana Tai Soon Burgess. The company expresses its deep appreciation for the dedicated service of past president Amy Alipio, who will continue to serve as a director and contribute her expertise in media relations.

If you missed DTSB & Co.'s **cover feature** in the January issue of *Dance Spirit* magazine, don't fret. We have placed a PDF of the article on our Web site at <http://www.dtsbco.com> under Latest News. You can read all about the company's tour to Peru last summer and see gorgeous photos of the dancers in the studio, on the stage, and in the streets.



Speaking of the **Web site**, DTSB & Co. technical guru Laura McDonald has just redesigned it with a fresh and clean look to accompany the start of our 15th anniversary year. You will find informative text and striking images, all in an easy-to-navigate format. Be sure to check back often to get the latest updates on our anniversary season. You can also sign up to be the company's "friend" on our new MySpace page. Go to <http://www.myspace.com/dtsbco>.

Modern dance in the land of the ancient pyramids? Why, yes! With the support of the U.S. State Department, Dana Tai Soon Burgess will complete a **teaching residency in Egypt** from May 18 to June 3. Beginning in Alexandria at the city's famed library, Dana will discuss modern dance in general and his choreographic process specifically, using demonstrations. Then he will move on to Queen's School in Cairo, where he will lecture and teach master classes.

As you can see, the company's anniversary season includes international touring to far-flung locations. One of the biggest expenses associated with touring is the cost of plane tickets. If you are a business or leisure traveler who has accumulated many unused miles in your frequent-flyer program, consider donating some to DTSB & Co. For more information on **transferring miles**, please call 202-297-2436 or e-mail dtsbco@cs.com.

photo credit: Steve Vaccariello

TROUPE TRIVIA

What's playing on the company iPod?

When the dancers aren't immersed in their performance music, they are listening to an eclectic mix of tunes. Here are some of their current favorites. Perhaps these selections will give you some musical inspiration when you make your next playlist.

"Stay Illogical," Under the Influence of Giants
Morimur, Johann Sebastian Bach
"Fortress," † Pinback
Not Ready to Make Nice, Dixie Chicks
Divertimento in E, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
"Waterloo," ABBA
Sympathique, Pink Martini
"The Breeze," Quix*o*tic
"La Vie en Rose," Edith Piaf

CALENDAR

January-May 2007

Teaching residency

George Washington University
Washington, D.C.

February 2007

Teaching residency

Georgetown University
Washington, D.C.

February 24-March 31, 2007

Teaching residency

Georgetown Day High School
Washington, D.C.

March 23, 2007; 6:30 p.m.

Reception and small performance

Arts Club of Washington
2017 I Street, NW
Washington, D.C.

\$45

More information: 202-331-7282

<http://www.artsclubofwashington.org>

May 3, 2007; 8 p.m.

May 3, 2007; 8 p.m.

VIP reception

SomaFit
2121 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C.
Invitation only

May 4, 2007

Performance and master classes for children

Georgetown Day Middle School
Washington, D.C.

May 16, 2007; 6:30 p.m.

In the Works

Atlas Performing Arts Center
1333 H Street, NE
Washington, D.C.
Free
More information: 202-399-6763
Sponsored by the Washington Performing Arts Society

May 18-June 3, 2007

Teaching residency

Alexandria and Cairo, Egypt
Supported by the U.S. State Department

GET IN STEP!

Please support our 15th anniversary season by making a donation to DTSB & Co. You'll help us create beautiful works of art and bring them to more audiences around the world. And you'll receive a valuable tax deduction!

You can make an online donation at www.dtsbco.com or complete the coupon below.

Yes, I would like to make a donation to DTSB & Co.

Enclosed is my gift of

- \$50 In Step
- \$100 Apprentice
- \$500 Corps de Ballet
- \$1,000 Soloist
- \$2,500 Diva
- \$5,000 Impresario Magnifico
- \$_____ Other

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Please mail this coupon with your check (payable to Moving Forward) to DTSB & Co., 2745 Arizona Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20016.

Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

We are also part of the Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area, under Moving Forward: Contemporary Asian American Dance Company (#7626).

ABOUT DTSB & CO.

DTSB & Co. is a community-based, nonprofit arts organization that uses dance as a medium for enhancing social and cultural understanding. A resident company of the Joy of Motion Dance Center, DTSB & Co. is a part of Moving Forward: Contemporary Asian American Dance Company, which also houses the Moving Forward Youth Program.

Dana Tai Soon Burgess, Founder and Artistic Director
Jan Tievsky, President, Board of Directors

Institutional sponsors include the Dallas Morse Coors Foundation, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, the Philip L. Graham Fund, the Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation, the Morningstar Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the William Paley Foundation.

Individual supporters include Amy Alipio, Laurance Alvarado, Robin Berrington, Edith Brewster, Robert and Mary Buckley, Ian and Victoria Burgess, Alan Cariaso, Josue Castilleja, Shu-Ping Chan, Laura Chin and Peter Meyers, Franklin Fung Chow, Lily Chu, Paul S. Clark, Ziva Cohen, Carole K. Coleman, Jann Darsie, Robin Dinerman, Khai Dolinh, Arif Durrani, Theo-Dric Feng, Katherine C. Foster, Suzanne Goldhirsh, Betty Lee Hawks, Richard Hawks, Nicole Hollander, Morton Hollander, Lourdes Horton, Bing-Jib Huang, Carol Izumi, George Jackson, Tenny and Marilyn Johnson, Susan R. Jones, Ryan LaLonde, Christopher T. Li, George Liao, Marcia Lim, Silvio Lim, Michael C. Lin, Robert and Barbera Liotta, Andrew and Deborah Lipman, Robert H. Lott, Po-Wen Lu, Shiao-Wei Lu, Paul Matthews, Kathy McConnell, Ingrid and Tom McDonald, Laura McDonald, Aaron Modiano, Elvi Moore, Allan D. Moyer, Jane McGrath Neal, Sumiye Okuko, Mary Noble Ours, Dr. and Mrs. Huseyin Ozdeger, Diane and Arnold Polinger, Howard and Geraldine Polinger, Lynda M. Rock, Stuart Ross, Brooke Sabin, Wesley Stephen Scholz, Gerard Seally, Eileen Sherman, Prof. Eric S. Sirulnik, Steve Slaughter, Geoffrey Smith, Judith and Peter Storandt, Helen Sun, Polly Thibodeau, Jan and Seth Tievsky, Stacey A. Tompkins and Jay J. Chin, Eser Tuncata, Alan and Sandy

Tievsky, Stacey A. Tompkins and Jay J. Chin, Eser Tuncata, Alan and Sandy Wade, Meera Wolf, Evelyn D. Woolston-May, Holly Worthington, Denise Wu, and Joanne Yamauchi.

Visit us online at www.dtsbco.com, where you'll find more information about the company and stunning visuals of the dancers in performance, including both photos and streaming media.

If you have any comments about the content of this newsletter, please contact the editor, Brooke Sabin, at brooke_sabin@hotmail.com.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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