



Letter from BAM's Executive Producer about DanceMotion USASM

April 22, 2009

During the past few years BAM has enjoyed tremendous growth and expansion. At home in Brooklyn, new programming initiatives like the Sounds Like Brooklyn Music Festival, the all-night Takeover events, and the Between the Lines humanities series have brought a new, spirited group of audience members through our doors.

We're also expanding our work geographically. This spring witnessed the inaugural season of The Bridge Project, a repertory company of British and American actors, under the direction of Sam Mendes, rehearsing and premiering original productions of classic plays here in Brooklyn and then launching them on an international tour. They are currently travelling through Auckland, Singapore, Madrid, Recklinghausen, London, and Epidaurus.

I'm proud of the ambitious spirit that is revealed behind these new programs, and eager to keep up the momentum of Global BAM. When we were notified of the US Department of State's new initiative, DanceMotion USASM, we hungrily pursued the opportunity to partner in a program that would introduce treasures of the American modern dance tradition with audiences overseas.

As a presenter, BAM proudly introduces our New York community to the most exciting work that is being created – nationally and internationally – in the global performing arts community. We're thrilled to now be part of a program that sends top-notch work that has originated in the US to our peers abroad.

American modern dance is one of our nation's great legacies and will be powerfully represented by these outstanding artists in world-wide tours during the 2010 season:

Evidence, A Dance Company, Ronald K. Brown, Artistic Director Region: Africa: Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa

Possessing a distinct talent for imparting history and culture through movement, Evidence, A Dance Company, is a treasure of the dance world. Ron Brown's kinetic choreography expresses profound emotions, with a sensitive connection to the wider cultural context from which (and in which) dance is created. The company is known globally for their exhilarating performances; it is a great pleasure to extend their renown even farther.

ODC/Dance; Brenda Way, Artistic Director Region: Southeast Asia: Burma, Indonesia, Thailand

Brenda Way's choreography is smart, well crafted, and athletic, and her career testifies to her accomplishments as a visionary achiever. Her work is informed by a compelling modern technique, resulting in works possessing inherent beauty. She is an American formalist leading an exemplary multi-cultural company of dancers.

Urban Bush Women, Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, Artistic Director Region: South America: Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela

Jawole Willa Jo Zollar and the Urban Bush Women produce and perform inspiring dance works that explode with the joy of living. Ms. Zollar's works communicate her artistic values with tremendous strength and power, and performances by the Urban Bush Women generate a great sense of community which palpably extends from the stage to the audience, resulting in positively electric performances.

We look forward to sharing news and information about DanceMotion USASM with you over the coming months.

Joseph V. Melillo
BAM Executive Producer

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