



Shawn Short, Founder/Producing Artistic Director

Presenter Information Kit 2011– 2012 Season

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Dissonance Dance Theatre

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2011-12 SEASON

PRESENTER INFORMATION KIT

ABOUT DISSONANCE DANCE THEATRE



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Summer 2011

Dear Promising Presenter,

Experience the beauty and heartfelt energy of Dissonance Dance Theatre. More than merely a dance company performing dance, Dissonance is an experience. It is through the art of dance that Dissonance challenges what audiences assume about the human experience, cultivates future audiences, and develops progressive contemporary and classically trained artists. Founded in 2007, Dissonance Dance Theatre is dedicated to preserving and creating contemporary dances that maintain the strength and integrity of classical forms while expressing universal themes with broad appeal in Washington, DC and beyond.

Through a variety of performance units and programs, our cutting-edge works highlight present-day ideas and concepts. In many cases, Dissonance is able to custom-design performances to meet your specifications. Moreover, Dissonance Dance Theatre is available for residencies at high schools and institutions of higher learning.

I invite you to learn more about our company and our work. It is my hope that you will include Dissonance Dance Theatre as part of an upcoming performing arts series.

Thank you kindly for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours in Dance,

Shawn Short
 Founder/Producing Artistic Director
 202-540-8338 office

www.ddtdc.com

2011-12 SEASON

PRESENTER INFORMATION KIT

ABOUT DISSONANCE DANCE THEATRE



Left: Founder/Dancer Shawn Short, 2008



Right: Dissonance Dance Theatre, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, 2009

Dissonance Dance Theatre is a Washington, DC-based professional dance company. Founded in 2007 by Artistic Director Shawn Short, the company consists of 8 members and 4 apprentices. Known for our theatrical presence and exceptional artistry, Dissonance evokes emotional experiences in the audiences we touch. Our cutting-edge repertoire features works that are socially and visually appealing to audiences while remaining true to our mission; challenging audience's assumptions about the human experience through dance.

Now in its fifth year of operation, Dissonance Dance Theatre has achieved many milestones, some of which are highlighted below:

- Debut in New York City at the Brooklyn Arts Exchange in 2009
- Recognition as one of "Top 5 Performances to Watch" by the Capital Fringe Festival in 2007
- Fiscal sponsorship from the New York Foundation for the Arts beginning in 2009
- Nomination for four 2009 Dance Metro DC Dance Awards
- Presenter at jury paneled showcases throughout the DC area

Dissonance is committed to achieving our goals of providing quality dance entertainment built on the classics of ballet, jazz, and modern, and to creating a new dance language that reflects concert dance in the 21st Century. As a result of our diverse repertoire, Dissonance is able to tackle most choreographic challenges and looks forward to new and exciting collaborations regionally, nationally and internationally.

2011-12 SEASON

REVIEWS AND TESTIMONIALS



Review of Dissonance Dance Theatre's Performance in Catholic University's Collaboration:
Silent Explosions, Invisible Leaps: Music, Dance, and Film Create a Ruckus

"The Dresser was also impressed with the choreography of Shawn Short and associated dancers for John Maggi's composition "The Ballet Master's Dream" danced by Nicolette Jenkins and Dedrick Makle and for Simpson's "The Lunny Musician" danced by Tisa D. Herbert and Prentice Whitlow. The Dresser felt the choreographer had a charming sense of the absurd and made good use of the limited time to show the prowess of his dancers."

- Karren LaLonde Alenier, *In the Realm of Silent Film and Dreams--Snark Ensemble, Terry Riley*
 March 31, 2009

The **Washington Post** describes Dissonance Dance Theatre as "Ambitious and Evoking"

"Incredibly connected emotional/physical choreography with stunning and engaging performers" – **Artists' Bloc**

"Washington DC is a vibrant city full of wonderful art, provided you know where to look for it. One place you should be looking is at Dissonance Dance Theatre under the direction of Shawn Short. Shawn is a very innovative choreographer, and he holds a wealth of knowledge about the performing arts. I had the honor of working for him as a dancer in his company and am so thankful for the experience. I learned so much from Shawn and had a wonderful time working with Dissonance Dance Theatre."

- Shannon Castle, dancer, **Garth Fagan Dance**

"It's one thing to be able to explain something but it takes a good instructor to make their students see...that's what Shawn does." - Sedrick Moody, Student, **Workshop Participant**

"I really want to thank you for everything your training has made me so confident in dance calls. I love you!
 - Patrick Cragin, performer, **National Touring Cast of Grease**

2011-12 SEASON

PERFORMANCE PRESENTATION



FULL-LENGTH PERFORMANCES (90 Minutes with Intermission)

Dissonance Dance Theatre's performances are mixed-repertoire events that combine selections performed by the company's featured soloists, duos and small ensembles and works drawn from varied genres of dance. In 2011-12, the following full-length programs will be offered:

PROGRAM A (FALL 2011)*

Unrest	(Choreographed by Shawn Short Music: Shelia Chandra)
Rapture	(Choreographed by Ryan Tuerk Music: Mozart)
Caught	(Choreographed by Shawn Short Music: Various Artists)
Violin Sonata	(Choreographed by Shawn Short Music: Beethoven)
Go Crazy	(Choreographed by Shawn Short Music: Vjuan Allure)
Moments in Springtime	(Choreographed by Shawn Short Music: Bach)
Utopia Fallen	(Choreographed by Shawn Short Music: Traditional)

PROGRAM B (SPRING 2012)*

Pulse	(Choreographed by Shawn Short (NEW WORK))
Turbulence	(Choreographed by Shawn Short Music: Holts)
Fried	(Choreographed By Shawn Short (NEW WORK))
Reflect	(Choreographed by Shawn Short (NEW WORK))
Burn	(Choreographed by Shawn Short (NEW WORK))

**Subject to change*

2011-12 SEASON

FULL-LENGTH PERFORMANCE IMAGES



From top left to right: Caught, Unrest, Rapture, Moments in Springtime, Violin Sonata, Gimme Tens

“Dissonance Dance Theatre was a great company to work with. Shawn and his company were professional, easy to work with, flexible AND they SOLD OUT their great show and sold the most ticket sales for dance in our festival!”

Paul Douglas Michnewicz , *Atlas’s INTERSECTIONS Festival*
Atlas Performing Arts Complex, Washington, D.C.

2011-12 SEASON

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS



MASTER CLASSES, DANCE THEATRE, SPECIALTY WORKSHOPS

Dissonance Dance Theatre's educational classes, workshops and lecture-demonstrations are designed to appeal to our youngest demographic, ages 18-40.

Our research indicates that this demographic seeks:

- 1) A quality artistic experience to share with their friends and/or their children
- 2) A high-quality performance experience that educates audiences about the art form in an engaging and enjoyable way

Dissonance Dance Theatre designed the following presentations to suit a broad range of preferences.

Master Classes

Master classes run 90 minutes and can be tailored to any level of classically trained contemporary dancer – from beginner to professional. Master classes are led by Artistic Director Shawn Short and may include occasional assistance from company members. To ensure a professional level of instruction, the maximum number of participating students per master class is 25. **Level: Varies/Maximum 25 participants**

Dance Theatre

Dissonance believes in the marriage between theatre and dance. In today's entertainment industry, artists who possess an understanding of their Internal Monologue can become theatrical catalysts in any production, and are in high demand. Choreographer and Artistic Director Shawn Short will lead dancers through a 90-minute class that combines acting techniques and contemporary choreography. **Level: Intermediate/ Maximum 20 participants**

Specialty Workshops *(please inquire)*

Specialty workshops are conducted through our Nuts & Bolts Series. Without the intricate details delivered by nuts & bolts, no building could maintain its structure. Dissonance presents dance essential workshops designed to improve today's contemporary dance artist—from the novice to the professional. Our class offerings include, but are not limited to: Dance Conditioning Basic 101, Turns and Leaps, Men DANCE! **Level: Varies/ Maximum 20 participants**

"Thank you so much for allowing my daughter to be part of your workshop. Dedication, discipline and determination is key for our youth. Please continue to keep us in mind for future workshops." — *LaShawn Lewis, Proud Parent of Jakai'la Lewis, Student of Dissonance's Summer Contemporary Ballet Program*

Dissonance Dance Theatre: 2011-12 Season Presenter Information Kit
"Empowering Audiences through Dance"

2011-12 SEASON

REPERTOIRE

(Subject to Change)



Unrest (2010) [5:00]
Choreography: Shawn Short
Music: Shelia Chandra

Allegro meets irritability in this dance composition that speaks to the sensation of being constantly “on edge” and how this behavior manifests itself.



Rapture (2010) [9:00]
Choreography: Ryan Tuerk
Music: Mozart

Immersed in the score of Mozart's Requiem, symbolism-driven work speaks to the book of revelations and the day of Rapture and humanism.



Caught (2008) [12:00]
Choreography: Shawn Short
Music: Vanessa Mae

One woman and her tale of love's challenges, struggles and subtle beauty.

"Shawn's choreography is powerful and sensual yet driven by narrative. A joy to see..."

- Colin Hovde Artists' Bloc



Violin Sonata (2010) [11:30]
Choreography: Shawn Short
Music: Beethoven

A lovely choreographic interpretation of Beethoven's famous Violin Sonata #9 in A, through this work, classical structure marries contemporary themes.



Moments in Springtime (2009) [4:50]

Choreography: Shawn Short

Music: Bach

Light and airy movements dance through space in this humorous duet soaked in the newness of love.



Gimmie Tens! (2008) [8:00]

Choreography: Shawn Short

Music: Vjuan Allure

Pop, dip and spin! Gimmie Tens is an ode to the black and latin gay subculture fused with jazz dance idioms to create an entertaining dance work for the entire family.



Utopia Fallen (2008) [7:00]

Choreography: Shawn Short

Music: Traditional

A dance theatre work examining the inner emotional workings a person goes through after experiencing a strange love affair.



NEW WORKS: Rapid 2011 [90 minutes with intermission]

Collectively, these new works create Short's world premiere of Rapid.

Inspired by the world of cinema and movie score, Rapid is a collection

of classical ballet based dance works bonded by contemporary style.

Through speed, drama and intensity, Rapid demonstrates the sophistication that is achieved when theatrical merit and polished dancer bodies marry for audience enjoyment.

Music: Various Artists

ABOUT SHAWN SHORT

FOUNDER AND PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Shawn has studied with nationally and internationally acclaimed artists including faculty and dancers from Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, Lines Ballet, Washington Ballet, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Dance Institute of Washington, Dance Alloy, Philadanco, Towson University, Baltimore and Duke Ellington School of Performing Arts. As a student of ballet pedagogy, Shawn studied with John White, Margarita De Saa and the Washington School of Ballet Director Kee Juan Han. Shawn holds a BFA in Musical Theatre with a minor in Theatre Management from Howard University. Presently, he is Professor of Ballet at Catholic University of America and a 2013 MFA Candidate in Dance at University Of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Shawn is also a fiscally sponsored artist through the New York Foundation for the Arts.

Shawn's performance credits include work with K2 Dance, Adrian Bolton Dance, El Tearto de Danza Contemporeanea El Salvador, and Bolton/Smith. He has also served as a guest artist with Dance Alloy in Pennsylvania.

In 2008, Catholic University of America's Benjamin T. Rome School of Music commissioned Shawn to choreograph an evening worked called "Mother's Blood" to a musical score composed by Dr. Andrew Simpson.

Shawn has choreographed for The Dance Institute of Washington and The Washington Ballet School of Ballet at THEARC. His has presented his works at the Capital Fringe Festival, Greater Washington Urban League National Conference, Southeastern University, Artists' Bloc 12X6 Series, Harke Theatre, Jack Guidone Theatre Space, Lang Theatre, Atlas Theatre Complex Lab II Theatre, THEARC Theatre, Joe's Movement Emporium, DC Parks and Recreation, and Brooklyn Arts Exchange. Shawn was the Resident Choreographer for the Kelsey Collie Children's Theatre for six years.

2011-12 SEASON

TECHNICAL RIDER OVERVIEW **FOR ENSEMBLE PRESENTATIONS**

SUBJECT TO CHANGE (as of May 1, 2011)

The following are space, technical and other production requirements for an engagement with Dissonance Dance Theatre (Dissonance). If production requirements are incompatible with the physical limitations of your venue, workable solutions may be possible by communicating well in advance of the performance.

Full details are provided in a separate Tech Rider available upon request.

The theatre(s) and other spaces provided by the Presenter for all performance and other activities during the engagement must conform to commonly accepted industry standards of safe and sanitary conditions. Personnel needed for the engagement will be determined by the nature of the theatre or other facility, Dissonance's schedule, repertory for engagement, and commitments made by the Presenter.

Company Availability

Dissonance is available for performances during our production calendar, mid-August through May of the following year.

Rehearsal Time Requirements

The company needs a four-hour spacing rehearsal on stage in the performance space. In addition, the company needs a two-hour pre-performance warm-up on stage before each performance. For the rehearsals, the dance floor must be ready in the condition described above ("Stage Requirements) . Additional rehearsal and lighting time is necessary for performances in proscenium theatres. For details, refer to the separate tech rider and lighting plot available upon request.

Facility Availability

The theatre and stage (including rehearsal studio, off stage areas and dressing rooms) must be clear of other equipment, and made available for the sole use of Dissonance from four (4) hours prior the scheduled in-theatre service until two (2) hours after the service. All necessary house and/or rental equipment shall be installed and in working order before the start of load-in. "Pre-hang" prior to company arrival is ideal.

Stage Requirements

A proscenium stage is preferred, and stage surfaces meet one of the following options:

- a sprung dance floor with marley covering that is smooth and free from buckles or ridges, and be a minimum of twenty-five (25) feet wide by twenty-five (25) feet deep (dimensions apply to both performances and classes)
- a smooth, finished and unbroken wood surface, free of cracks, breaks, splinters, nails, and screws or other impediments that may disrupt safe work of dancers

Under no circumstances will Dissonance perform on a floor laid directly over concrete, stone or tile.



Temperature and Climate Control

Air conditioned or heated areas must be kept at a constant temperature of 72 degrees Fahrenheit. Due to the increased risk of injury, dancers may not perform in spaces cooler than 72 degrees Fahrenheit.

Dressing Rooms and Restrooms

Dissonance requires at least two (2) dressing rooms for our exclusive use. These rooms must accommodate 12 dancers: 8 women and 4 men. They must be clean, well-heated/cooled (pending the climate) and ventilated, well lighted, equipped with mirrors, dressing tables, chairs and clothing racks.

Restroom facilities must be easily accessible, clean, and sanitary with hot and cold running water, sinks, toilets, and separate shower facilities for men and women.

Technical Rehearsal

Scheduled technical rehearsal timeframe(s) is/are required prior to performances. Depending on the space, the length of time will vary. Full details are provided in a separate Tech Rider available upon request.

Sound

Dissonance performs to recorded music. Audio systems must be able to play CDs and I-Pods and operate under separate controls. Speakers projecting into front-of-house and monitors projecting onto the stage must have clear and audible sound. If the size of the venue requires greater amplification, suitable sound equipment along with technical support must be provided by the Presenter.

Lighting

The lighting equipment along with a technician must be provided by the Presenter. When performing in a hall or studio, the company uses white wash light. When performing in a proscenium or black box theatre, the company requires two (2) top washes, two (2) front washes, two (2) high side washes from each side, four (4) dance booms on each side of the stage, and six (6) focusable specials. Real plots are provided by technicians after the final tech rehearsal. Light board and operator space must be located where the operator will have an unobstructed view of the stage.

Staff

Presenter is responsible for providing the following staff:

- One (1) or two (2) front-of-house staff
- Two (2) or three (3) ticketing agents
- Four (4) adequate, able-bodied, and sober stagehands for load in, focus, tech, and load out