



**December 14-15-16**

# **Your Mother Dances**

**Elizabeth Johnson, Artistic Director**

**EXTRAVAGANTLY  
EXTRAVAGANT  
WINTER  
EXTRAVAGANZA**

**Danceworks Studio Theater**  
**[www.yourmotherdances.com](http://www.yourmotherdances.com)**

# YOUR MOTHER DANCES EXTRAVAGANTLY EXTRAVAGANT WINTER EXTRAVAGANZA



**Extravagant:** 1. *Exceeding the bounds of reason, as actions, demands, opinions, or passions.* 2. *Going beyond what is deserved or justifiable.*

Well, that about covers it. What is extravagant for some is necessary for others. For me, dancing and making dances is a necessary extravagance and, at my age, indulging in that extravagance on my own terms is why Your Mother Dances exists. In this concert, each dance is extravagant in its own way. But, some things are true of all of them: they engage body (sometimes rigorously so), mind, emotions, and generously divulge the poetic and ridiculous inclinations of their makers.

In a culture and era when basic human needs and education have been boiled down to standardized tests measuring our children's math and science skills (or lack of), dancing seems just a little frivolous doesn't it? War, poverty, the decimation of our planet—how can we just dance when there are so many IMPORTANT things to do?

We at Your Mother Dances decided a while back to exceed these bounds of reason. Doing what we do really is going beyond what is justifiable to many nowadays. But for us, to live full and brimming over in our bodies and minds learning difficult sequences and complex rhythms, moving gracefully or awkwardly to beautiful or fun music, and mirroring emotions and experiences common to us all enlivens and increases our connection to each other—this quirky little dysfunctional family we have made—as well as generates empathy and understanding for others. Lying prone with someone else's thumb in your mouth can do that...

We live for this kind of extravagance. We hope you enjoy the breadth and scope of these pieces and we double-dog-dare you to indulge in the fun and merriment during the twilight of this difficult year in the world as well as locally.

C'mon, live a little...

Elizabeth Johnson

## SPECIAL THANKS

We would also like to thank people who made this performance possible in many other ways: UWM Department of Dance, Amber Sloan, David Parker and The Bang Group, Jan Kellogg, Deb Farris, Sarah WilSbur, Danceworks Staff, Clare Zempel, Sara Hook, Adrienne Reynolds, Du Bois Formal Wear, Kurt Hartwig, Deb Farris, Marcia Parsons, Clark Kaufman and Cate Deicher, Bad Soviet Habits, Mary Berger, Lynn and George King, Jen and Eric Russell, Paula Biasi, Maryhelen Wesner, Tracey Zenge, Kathi Kamm, Spatten Beer, Christine and Jerry at Cafe Brücke.

Please stay for a small reception on Friday Dec 14th  
and Post-show get togethers on Saturday Dec 15th and Sunday the 16th

**YMD**

**PROGRAM**

Show Runs 60 minutes without intermission

**FAN-D-D-DANGO (2003)**

Choreography and Performance by Elizabeth Johnson

Costume: Elizabeth Johnson

Music: Fandango del Ventorr by Rodrigo

**TANGO (2006)**

Choreography: Cate Deicher

Music: Tango by Igor Stravinsky

Performance by Elizabeth Johnson and Luc Vanier

**I AM FOR NOW, MAYBE NOT LATER (2006)**

Choreography and Performance by Monica Rodero and Dan Schuchart

Music: Alarm Will Sound by Aphex Twin

**RUE (1998)**

Choreography by Sara Hook

Music: Du bist die Ruh by Schubert

Performance by Elizabeth Johnson

**NUT/CRACKED (2003)**

Choreography by David Parker

Music: Tchaikovsky...

Video	David Parker and Jeff Kazin
Toe tap	Christal Wagner
Sunglasses	Paula Biasi, Ed Burgess, Steven Moses, Jaimi Patterson, Luc Vanier, Christal Wagner
Bubble Wrap	Elizabeth Johnson, Luc Vanier
Tree	Ed Burgess
Mirlitons	Company
Russian disco	Company
Chinese	Paula Biasi, Christal Wagner, Luc Vanier
Spanish	Ed Burgess
Dolls	Paula Biasi, Elizabeth Johnson, Christal Wagner
Rose Trio	Elizabeth Johnson, Christal Wagner, Luc Vanier
Tarentella	Ed Burgess
Thumbs	Elizabeth Johnson, Luc Vanier
Coda	Company

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# ARTISTIC TEAM

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - Elizabeth Johnson's** choreography has been produced in New York City, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Louisville, New Haven, CT, the Krannert Center for the Arts in Urbana, and has been selected for Gala performance at the American College Dance Festival. Her education includes graduating high school from North Carolina School of the Arts where she trained with many notable teachers including Melissa Hayden, Duncan Noble, and Robert Lindgren. She earned a BFA in Dance from George Mason University, an MFA in Performance and Choreography from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and a GLCMA (Graduate Laban Certificate of Movement Analysis) in Laban Movement Analysis from Columbia College Chicago. Ms. Johnson dances and tours nationally and internationally as a guest artist with the New York City company David Parker and The Bang Group and also performs with Sara Hook Dances (NYC & IL), and Molly Rabinowitz Liquid Grip (NYC). She has served as dance faculty at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, UW Madison, and currently teaches technique and theory courses at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Ms. Johnson has conducted guest residencies at Texas Christian University and the Youth Performing Arts High School in Louisville, KY and teaches regularly at Danceworks in Milwaukee.

**ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - Luc Vanier's** an Assistant Professor in the Dance Department at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee's Peck School of the Arts. Originally from Montreal, he studied at L'Ecole Supérieur du Quebec under Daniel Seillier. In 1998, he retired from Ohio Ballet having danced a variety of roles such as the Workman in Kurt Jooss' Big City, the Third Song of Tudor's Dark Elegies, as well as the leads in Balanchine's Allegro Brillante and Paul Taylor's Aureole among others. His research on linking the Alexander Technique, developmental movement and Ballet is at the forefront of integrating somatic work into the dance class and has been presented at various conferences and workshops throughout the US, Russia and just recently, Australia. In Milwaukee, he choreographed Cat's Cradle with Kurt Hartwig, Somewhere with music from Christopher Burns, Frog with animation from Evan Mazureski and just last June, "e's of water," a multi-media site-specific dance-theater installation presented at the new PSOA/Kenilworth Square East building.

**LIGHTING DESIGN/STAGE MANAGER - Jan Kellogg** returns once again to Your Mother Dances having previously worked on How Embarrassing, In from the Chill and The Fun in Dysfunctional. She has been active as a lighting designer and stage manager with Danceworks Performance Company on such projects as The Wide Sky Dance Project, Living Breathless, Classic Examples, Lucky Seven, and 'til Death Do Us Part and recently took the position of Production Manager for the organization. With Wild Space Dance Company she has designed Various States of Undress, Dancing Aloud, Dance Imports, and Hand to Mouth (Angels Feed Me). She also designed Joe Egg at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Topdog/Underdog and the Red Pepper Jelly series at Renaissance Theaterworks, and The Zoo Story, Far Away, and Bash at Bialystock and Bloom. Other credits include Foothold Dance/Performance, Catey Ott Dance Collective, Theatre X, the UWM Dance Department, and work with

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# GUEST ARTISTS

**David Parker (Choreographer / Nut/Cracked)** founded his New York City-based dance company, The Bang Group in 1996 to pursue his interest in the percussive possibilities of the dancing body. His work is wide-rangingly anarchic and subversive but always tempered by an abiding love of formalism. Drawing from vaudeville, silent movie comedy, classical, modern, post-modern and tap dance forms, Parker's work has gained a reputation for rigor, humor and virtuosity throughout the United States, Canada and Europe. TBG is presented in New York City at such prestigious downtown venues as Dance Theater Workshop (5 full-evening productions) and Danspace Project at Saint Mark's Church (2 full-evening productions) and many others. Parker's work has received numerous awards including a New York Dance and Performance ("Bessie") Award for his long-term collaboration with Netherlands-based costume designers Melanie Rozema and Jeroen Teunissen. The company has been generously supported by the New York Foundation for the Arts, The Jerome Robbins Foundation, The Greenwall Foundation, 2wice Foundation, Netherland-America Foundation and by several private donors. Parker's comic/subversive neo-vaudeville Nutcracker entitled Nut/Cracked was a break-out hit in its first season at Dance Theater Workshop in 2004, was invited back by popular-demand for a second extended run and has toured widely throughout the United States and Europe for the past two years. Parker teaches dance composition at Barnard College and The Alvin Ailey School, serves on the board of directors of The Field and Danspace Project and is a member of the Bessie Awards Committee. He is delighted to be continuing his artistic collaboration with Elizabeth Johnson with whom he has the pleasure of working for the past five years.

**Ms. Hook, (Choreographer / Rue)** a former soloist with Nikolais Dance Theater, toured internationally and appeared on National TV in the 1987 Kennedy Center Honors. She has also performed with Murray Louis, Pearl Lang, Jean Erdman, and Stephan Koplowitz and is currently a guest artist with David Parker and The Bang Group. Professor Hook's company, Sara Hook Dances regularly appears in New York and other national venues. Recent company activities include appearances at Dancenow/NYC's DanceMOPoliton Series at Joe's Pub at the Public Theater and the Ft Worth Museum of Modern Art in Ft. Worth, Texas. Upcoming performances include the Family Matters Series at Dance Theater Workshop in New York and the Danceworks Performance Series in Milwaukee, WI. Her work also continues to be produced internationally with David Parker and the Bang Group in venues throughout North America and Europe. The first American representative to the International Choreographer's Residency Program at the American Dance Festival (ADF), Hook received a Scripps ADF Humphrey-Weidman-Limón Choreography Fellowship in 1995. She has toured widely as a guest artist/teacher and has set works at over a dozen universities nationally. Professor Hook was previously on the faculties of Princeton University and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, and a regular guest faculty of the Paul Taylor Summer Intensives in NYC. She holds an M.F.A. from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and a B.F.A. from the North Carolina School of the Arts; she is also a Certified Movement Analyst from the Laban Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies.

**Paula Biasi (Dancer / Nut/Cracked)** Paula Biasi holds an MFA in dance from UW-Milwaukee and a BA in dance from Arizona's Prescott College. Paula's been a mover and shaker her whole life and channels some of this energy through dancing. Past company experience includes performing with the Carpetbag Brigade Physical Theatre Group from 1999-2002, Wildspace Dance Company 2003-2006, Brooklyn, NY based Atlas Dance Company 2005, and most currently performs with Your Mother Dances and for local choreographer, Sofi Askenazi. Paula is pursuing her yoga teacher certification and shares her love of this practice as an instructor at various Milwaukee locations. She is also a certified Pilates instructor. Paula is trying her darndest, through all of these outlets, to make this world a more beautiful and peaceful place to be.

**Cate Deicher (Choreographer / Tango)** designs and teaches Laban-based courses at Columbia College, Chicago; the Milwaukee Institute for Art and Design; and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She is also a freelance writer, intermittent choreographer, and living-room dancer.

**Monica Rodero (Co-Choreographer / I Am for Now...)** earned her BFA in dance at UW-Milwaukee in 2003. Since graduation, Monica has received additional training by traveling through Europe to take classes and attend workshops and festivals such as the Impulstanz International Dance Festival in Vienna, Austria, where she studied with a variety of artists including a highlight experience with Nita Little. Monica is in her sixth season with Milwaukee's Wild Space Dance Company, is teaching yoga through the UWM Outreach Department and enjoys instructing children and adults of all ages. She has pursued producing and presenting her own work including the independent dance concert, Brush Up, co-produced with Daniel Schuchart in August 2004. One year later she was presented as an emerging artist in Art-to-Art, a concert on the Danceworks Presents: Summer Dance Series 2005. Two more collaborations with Dan Schuchart were presented last December on the UWM alumni concert, Dancemakers Redux, and more recently by Wild Space in Balancing Forces. The pair's most recent endeavors include curating interactive, multi-media events in the Kunzelmann-Esser Lofts and Gallery, and touring another of their independent dance concerts, I Am for Now, Maybe Not Later, to the Minnesota Fringe Festival in August 2007.

**Daniel Schuchart (Co-Choreographer / I Am for Now...)** is in his sixth season with Milwaukee-based Wild Space Dance Company. He is a graduate of UW-Milwaukee Peck School of the Arts with dual BFA degrees in dance and painting/drawing. Dan has performed in works by Janet Lilly, Ed Burgess, Simone Ferro, André Tyson, New York based Susan Marshall and Milwaukee's Danceworks Performance Company. Dan has also actively pursued creating and producing his own work including the independent dance concert, Brush Up, co-produced with Monica Rodero in 2004, and creating work for the collaborative Art-to-Art on the Danceworks Summer Series in 2005. He has had five works presented by Wild Space, most recently in Balancing Forces in 2007. Other collaborative work with Monica Rodero includes curating interactive, multi-media events in the Kunzelmann-Esser Lofts and Gallery, and touring their most recent independent concert, I Am for Now, Maybe Not Later, to the Minnesota Fringe Festival in August 2007. Daniel has also been continuing his studies in dance by traveling throughout the U.S. and Europe to take classes and attend workshops and festivals such as Impulstanz International Dance Festival in Vienna, Austria.

**Christal Wagner (Dancer / Nut/Cracked)** was raised in Ripon, Wisconsin and has loved dancing since the age of 5. In May 2007, she graduated from the University of Wisconsin –Milwaukee with her BFA in Dance. While at UWM, she danced works by Daniel Gwirtzman, Laura Dean, Ron K. Brown and Clare Byrne. In her last year, she also proudly danced duets by Simone Ferro and Ed Burgess. While maintaining honors at UWM, she has had the pleasure of working with Your Mother Dances since the company's Milwaukee debut. Also while at UWM, Christal was a member of the Panther Dance Team. Christal's senior thesis dance, "Alva's Baby's Blues," was selected for performance at the American College Dance Festival 2007, and more recently, she premiered "Sojourn" in Danceworks' "Army of One" concert which was featured in the Journal Sentinel review. She is a member of Danceworks Performance Company for their 07-08 season and plans to choreograph for Danceworks in collaboration with Present Music in the upcoming show "Having and Affair!"

## EXTRAVAGANT GUEST ARTIST

**Ed Burgess (Extra Special Guest / Nut/Cracked)** is one of the founding members of the Department of Dance at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where he is Professor of Dance in the Peck School of the Arts. He has lived and worked in Milwaukee since 1989, following years of touring with Jennifer Muller and the Works (NYC) and teaching internationally in Ireland, Norway and Taiwan. He has choreographed, directed or performed with Milwaukee Shakespeare Company, Wild Space Dance Company, Milwaukee Dance Theater, Milwaukee Ballet, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Danceworks Performance Group, Renaissance Theaterworks, Cleveland Playhouse, the Monomoy Theater on Cape Cod and The Hartt School in Hartford, CT. His interests range from original work in contemporary dance and performance art to theatre, cabaret, and musical theatre. Ed is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers. 2007-2008 projects include "Seascape", "A Christmas Carol", and "Armada" for Milwaukee Repertory Theater, and "Antigone" for Milwaukee Dance Theater.

# YOUR MOTHER DANCES AND

CHOREOGRAPHS, SEWS COSTUMES,  
MAKES PROPS, REHEARSES DANCERS,  
TEACHES CLASS, WRITES PUBLICITY,  
GIVES BODY WORK, LISTENS, DRIVES,  
LOVES, MOTHERS, SUPPORTS DANCE,  
AND RAISES MONEY TO PAY  
FOR HER DANCERS

CONSIDER BECOMING PART OF THE  
FAMILY

WE NEED OTHER MOTHERS, GRAND-  
MOTHERS, GREAT GRAND MOTHERS,  
ANCESTORS AND GOD MOTHER TO  
KEEP THE WORK GOING - WE NEED  
SKILLS, MONEY AND GOODWILL -  
FEEL FREE TO JOIN IN!

We would like to thank those who keep YMD dancing:

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Tax deductible contributions can be made to Bad Soviet Habits (our non-profit  
umbrella): Bad Soviet Habits / 2775 S. Logan Avenue / Milwaukee, WI 53207

# THANKS FOR KEEPING YOUR MOTHER DANCING!