

www.yourmotherdances.com



Your Mother Dances

Elizabeth Johnson, Artistic Director

**The *fun* in
dysfunctional**

April 27-28 -29

May 12 -13

Danceworks Studio Theater
Phone: (414) 277-8480

www.danceworks1661.org

YOUR MOTHER DANCES

THE FUN IN DYSFUNCTIONAL



Welcome to our third Milwaukee show! I can not believe a year has flown since we debuted here in this special space. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support and concert attendance as we embark on our second season—we are excited to keep sharing our work and unique aesthetic with the community and are grateful indeed to have carved our niche in the Milwaukee arts scene.

Tonight, we bring you unapologetic and outrageous work that shoots from the hip and the soul. It is in times of war, partisan politics, and national and personal tragedy that art has the power to reveal, magnify, and pass comment on both the darkest and noblest corners of the human experience. Dance has an inimitable capacity to embody the irony and humor of the choreographer's personal vision as well as become the greater physical metaphor for “what's goin' on.”

These five dances celebrate the paradoxical and poignant nature of our capacity for dysfunction. You will see a housewife's zany (and perhaps liberating) arc, look into the face (and under the dress) of “the other woman,” and peer into the madcap turbulent mind of a discomfited and ill disciplined soldier. Sprouting amid this chaos is the beauty of Bach's music and the lithe, classical lines of ballet which will later be distorted by two characters that have a hard time letting things (like their egos) go.

Any of this sound familiar? We hope that parts of your stories—the beautiful and the mad—will seep through these characters and out to you with vibrant energy knitting our experiences together, and helping us to laugh for a while. We all could use it.

Elizabeth Johnson

SPECIAL THANKS

We would also like to thank people who made this performance possible in many other ways: Kurt Hartwig and Bad Soviet Habits, UWM Dance Department, Jamie Johns, Kevin Schlei, Chris Burns, Paul Kosidowski, Sarah Wilbur, Deb Farris, Marcia Parsons, Clark Kaufman and Cate Deicher, Mary Berger, Wm. Robert Bucker, Lynn and George King, Jen and Eric Russell, Tracey Zenge, Catey Ott, Katie Sopoci, Paula Biasi, Melinda Galow, Maryhelen Wesner.

Please stay for a small reception on Friday April 27th
and a Post-show discussion on Saturday April 28th and May 12th

YMD

PROGRAM

Pre-Show Readings

From Erma Bombeck's books:

At Wit's End
The Grass is Always Greener Over the Septic Tank

Readers:

Ed Burgess
Kathi Kamm
Amy Gelfman
I. Michelle Lopez
Elizabeth Matz
George King
Katie Sopoci

Show Runs 65 minutes without intermission

HOUSEWIFE IN 3 MOVEMENTS (2006)

Choreography and Performance by Elizabeth Johnson
Costume: Elizabeth Johnson
Music: Carol Channing performing in *Free To Be You and Me*,
B52's *Housework* and *You Took Advantage of me* by Rogers and Hart
played by Jamie Johns

Many thanks to Sarah Wilbur for the privilege of making this piece for
the Danceworks Mixed 6 program. Your encouragement and feedback was so
appreciated and will be dearly missed.

BELLE INDIFFERENCE (2007) (LAST DANCE RODEO)

Choreography: Elizabeth Johnson in collaboration with the dancers
Costume: Elizabeth Johnson and cast
Music: *Don't Explain* Billie Holiday, *Moi, Je M'ennuie*
by Marlene Dietrich as sung by Arielle Dombasle
and *Last Dance Rodeo* by Jewel
Text written and read by Elizabeth Johnson
with contributions by Katie Sopoci and Kelly Anderson
Performed by Paula Biasi, Susie Carlson and Maryhelen Wesner

This dance is for SH without whom I would never have known what is true.

BASHIBAZOUK (1997)

Choreography by Sara Hook

Performance by Luc Vanier

Music by George Crumb: excerpts from Makrococosmos I,

Recorded by pianist John Toenjes

Bashibazouk, was commissioned by Independent Dancemakers Inc. and was premiered at The Ark Dance Studio, Duke University, Durham, NC in 1997.

Bashibazouk is a slang word meaning “someone who is ill tempered.”

The word is derived from the name of a Turkish sect of soldiers in the 17th Century who were infamous for their savagery and lack of discipline.

WOMEN IF POSSIBLE (2007)

Choreography: Luc Vanier

Costume: Elizabeth Johnson and Mary Berger

Music: Selections from Glen Gould Bach's *Goldberg Variations*

Performed by Melinda Galow and Maryhelen Wesner

Understudy: Kelly Boice

Women If Possible was first sketched out in 1991 and dedicated to my long time friend and dance partner Judy Shoaff. I decided to rework the piece anew, creating each section after a woman who had an impact on the work. With this in mind the work is still dedicated to Judy but the sections are named: Renee Wadleigh, Melinda Galow, Maryhelen Wesner, Laura Dean, Sara Hook, Elizabeth Johnson and Denise Mineau, who conveniently for this show happens to be my mother.

CRITICAL MASS (1999)

Choreographed by Sara Hook and David Parker

Music by Stephan Foster, Franz Schubert, W.A. Mozart, and William Bolcom

Costumes by Sara Hook and David Parker

Performed by Elizabeth Johnson and Luc Vanier

Critical Mass premiered at Dance Theater Workshop in New York City in 1999.

This work was made possible in part by a residency at the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities and a rehearsal space gift from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.



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ARTISTIC TEAM

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - Elizabeth Johnson attended high school at North Carolina School of the Arts, holds a B.F.A. in Dance from George Mason University, an M.F.A. in Performance and Choreography from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and a GLCMA certificate (Graduate Level Certified Movement Analyst) in Laban Movement Analysis from Columbia College Chicago. Her choreography has been seen 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. Ms. Johnson dances and tours nationally and internationally 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 and currently teaches 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. In Milwaukee, she also teaches at Danceworks and has taught guest classes for Wild Space Dance Company.

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - Luc Vanier is originally from Montreal, where he studied at L'Ecole Supérieur de Danse du Québec under former Paris Opera Star and National Ballet Director Daniel Seillier. In 1998, he retired from Ohio Ballet having danced roles such as the Workman in Kurt Jooss' Big City and the lead in Paul Taylor's Aureole. He both received his MFA from the University of Illinois and became a certified Alexander teacher in 2001. His latest interactive digital media works are "Frog" (2004), "Cat's Cradle" (2005) which both use Max/Msp/Jitter to listen and look at movement in order to interact with video and "Somewhere" (2006) - a 3D multimedia interactive post-modern musical theater piece on the Buddhist theme of Refuge - which was restaged for the DART Dance Company of Arizona State University. He just received a Graduate School Research Grant to help fund a collaborative work between Stephen Pevnick, Kurt Hartwig, John Toenjes and Rudi Strickler. This site specific installation entitled "E's of Water" is to be performed at the Kenilworth Square East this summer.

LIGHTING DESIGN/STAGE MANAGER - Jan Kellogg returns once again to Your Mother Dances having previously worked on How Embarrassing and In from the Chill. 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. 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 independent artists Sofi Askenazi, Janet Lilly, and Katie Sopoci.

David Parker (Co-Choreographer / Critical Mass) 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 / Bashibazouk and Co-Choreographer / Critical Mass) 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 / Belle Indifference) 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.

Susie Carlson (Dancer / Belle Indifference) Susie grew up near Minneapolis, MN and has been living in Milwaukee since 2000. In 2005, she received a B.F.A. in Dance from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She has danced with a number of local artists and been busy pursuing choreography, painting and fire dancing. A new work in collaboration with Amie Segal and David White will premiere this summer at Danceworks 'Art to Art' as well as at a self-produced show at the Kunzelmann-Esser Art Lofts

Melinda Galow (Dancer / Women if Possible) Melinda began her dance training with Kellar Dance Studio in Waukesha. She then studied for seven years as a pre-professional student with Milwaukee Ballet School, performing with the school and in student roles with the company. Melinda continued her training as a dance major on scholarship at the University of Iowa, where she frequently performed in dance department performances as well as with the university's touring dance company, Dancers In Company. After deciding to change her career path from dance to business, Melinda graduated with honors from UWM with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in marketing and works in account service and public relations for an advertising agency. Continuing her love of dance, Melinda performs with Elation Dance Theatre, takes classes at Danceworks, and is thrilled to be dancing with Your Mother Dances.

Maryhelen Wesner (Dancer / Belle Indifference and Women If Possible) trained at the Harid Conservatory of Boca Raton, Florida and has performed with the Marion Performing Ballet and Dance Alive of Florida, the Milwaukee Ballet, the Richmond Ballet of Virginia and Pulse Dance Collective where she also contributed choreography. In addition to her love of the art of movement, Maryhelen is also dedicated to the science of movement. She is a Physical Therapist at Froedtert Hospital after earning her Bachelor of Science degree in Sports Medicine and Exercise Physiology from Concordia University of Wisconsin and a Master of Physical Therapy degree from Carroll College. Maryhelen is pleased to join YMD and would like to thank all the artists for this wonderful experience. She also thanks Mark and Cosette for their love and support.

YOUR MOTHER DANCES AND YOU YEARN TO TELL HER HOW SORRY YOU ARE NOW FOR HOW YOU TREATED HER WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD

During our last show, your extra contributions helped make the show expenses a zero balance. As promised, we also used 10% of the donations to buy wish list rubber backed mats for the Happy Endings No Kill Animal Shelter of Milwaukee. Quite an achievement! One patron ended up with beautiful pictures of Simone Ferro in Bolero and two others have yet to claim their first and second prizes... We are convinced that childhood guilt has something to do with this. Help yourself and alleviate your guilt by providing for Your Mother. Save yourself some therapy by giving Your Mother the means to fulfill her vision. One of our next projects involves bringing part of David Parker's satiric "Nut/Cracked" from New York to Milwaukee. Your Mother is looking out for you – She will always forgive and love you.

We would like to thank YMD donors:

The Jewish Community Foundation, J. Ballard and J. Matzner, Cate Deicher and Clark K. Kaufmann, Johanna Engberg, Daniel Grego and Deb Loewen, Bill Kissinger and Pat Ring, Kristina Kramer, Jane Lewis, Richard and Meredith Lincoln, John and Kate Mann, Linda and Victor Nohl, Marcia Parsons, Thomas Thoreson, The Wesners, William and Jean Westerlund

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

THANKS FOR KEEPING YOUR MOTHER DANCING!