

Your Mother Dances

Elizabeth Johnson, Artistic Director



Friends, Lovers and Mothers

May 9-10-11

Danceworks Studio Theater
www.yourmotherdances.com

FRIENDS, LOVERS AND MOTHERS

Friends: We are so excited to present both old and new friends—women working tirelessly in the dance field teaching, making work, pushing boundaries, and changing paradigms. **Anna Sapozhnikov** and I have been collaborating since our time together in the graduate program at University of Illinois. I remember seeing her in our first grad composition class and thinking, “I want to hang with her—she is so creative and witty!” She calls me a contributor to her Moyamo Dance company, but the truth is she was generously presenting and supporting my work long before *Your Mother Dances* hit Milwaukee as an organized entity. **Erika Randall** is a treasure found—a new friend full of irrepressible passion and enthusiasm for dance. She filled Luc’s faculty position at U of I as we left for Milwaukee. Ironically, now that she’s in Boulder, it is our good fortune for our paths to finally intersect instead of fleetingly cross. **Sara Hook** is a friend and mentor to all of us—it is our privilege and pleasure to continue to enthusiastically promote her genius and her iconoclastic, complicated and sometimes bombastic characters.

Lovers: We’ll try not to be too provocative here. Obviously **Luc Vanier** and I fit the bill as we juggle our personal and artistic lives. We are dancing two works that share aspects of all love relationships: conflict and disappointment, passion and comfort. We could certainly say that Anna’s embodiment of Valeska Gert is that of an animated and fervent lover—gentlemen in the audience watch out!

Mothers: Sara Hook and I share this title and all its conflicts. Anna and Erika’s endearing “Sweetie Pie” treats their mother-daughter relationships with tenderness, frustration, and pie—an apt theme for Mother’s Day.

And finally, our Dakinis (no they’re not a new kind of swim suit) bring home imagery of all three. Consorts to the gods, they can be seen as friendly seductresses or fierce warriors, depending on how able one is to receive their message. I see **Marge Piercy** as one—an inevitable force to be reckoned with. Her poetry births feminine imagery in all its complicated facets—a task to which *Your Mother Dances* remains resolutely committed.

We hope you are moved, entertained, and challenged by all these works. We are honored by your presence, patronage, and support. On Mother’s Day weekend, please help us keep *Your Mother* dancing!

Elizabeth Johnson /Artistic Director

Please stay for a small reception on Friday May 9th
Show Runs 60 minutes without intermission

TAKE MY BOX (2005)

Choreography: Elizabeth Johnson

Music: I Have a Dream by ABBA, Lachrymosa from Mozart’s Requie

Performance by Elizabeth Johnson and Luc Vanier

SELF DEFENSE (2006)

Choreography and Performance: Erika Randall

Music: Introduction from “Stillness Speaks,” written and read by Eckhart Tolle

PROGRAM

VALESKA'S VITRIOL (1998)

Choreography: Sara Hook

Music: Sydney Torch

Performance: Anna Sapozhnikov

Sara Hook's **Valeska's Vitriol** is an homage to the late Valeska Gert, the cabaret performance artist of the Weimar period in Berlin, who was famous for her brash, satiric style and her fascination with the grotesque.

PROGRAM

REMINDE ME (REWORKED 2008)

Choreography and Performance: Elizabeth Johnson and Luc Vanier

Music: April Fooled Me by Jerome Kern/Dorothy Fields, Exactly Like You by Jimmy McHugh/Dorothy Fields, Remind Me by Jerome Kern/Dorothy Fields

Thanks to Becky Spice for her Dorothy Fields passion.

SWEETIE PIE (2006)

Choreography and Performance: Erika Randall and Anna Sapozhnikov

Music: Lee Holdridge, The Arcade Fire

Sound Design: Ken Beck

Dedicated to our mothers! Special thanks to Sara Hook and Twila Beahm.

CONSTRUCTED WOMAN UP ABOVE (ODE FOR A DAKINI) (PREMIERE)

Choreography: Elizabeth Johnson and cast

Music: From Raising Sand, Alison Krauss and Robert Plant: Rich Woman (Dorothy LaBostrie and McKinley Millet), Polly Come Home (Gene Clark), Nothin' (Townes Van Zandt), Sister Rosetta Goes Before Us (Sam Phillips)

Poems: "The friend" and "A work of artifice" by Marge Piercy

Copyright © 1982 by Marge Piercy and Middlemarsh, Inc.

From CIRCLES ON THE WATER, Alfred A. Knopf, 1982

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"What are big girls made of?" by Marge Piercy

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From WHAT ARE BIG GIRLS MADE OF?, Alfred A. Knopf, 1997

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"The primary emblem of the feminine in Tibetan Buddhism is the dakini, or 'sky-dancer,' a semi-wrathful spirit-woman who manifests in visions, dreams, and meditation experiences." Judith Simmer-Brown from her *Dakini's Warm Breath: The Feminine Principle in Tibetan Buddhism*

Thanks to Ms. Piercy for her raw inspiration. Gratitude, love and awe to my fierce and beautiful dakini dancers and to Ashley, the best understudy ever. Curling incense smoky love to spacious Luc who has room for all of me. For Shakti.

YMD

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 independent artists Sofi Askenazi, Janet Lilly, and Katie Sopoci.

GUEST ARTISTS

Sarah Hook (Choreographer / Valeska's Vitriol) 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.

Erika Randall (Co-Choreographer / Sweetie Pie - Dancer / Self Defense) is an Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado in Boulder. From 2004-2007, Ms. Randall was a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University Illinois. Erika received her MFA in choreography from The Ohio State University in 2003; she served as a guest lecturer there from 2003-2004. Working with partner in crime Anna Sapozhnikov on their collaborative duet company, Sweetie Pie Productions, Erika has found her perfect match for presenting theatrical and physical dance works. In 2004, Erika formed the nationally acclaimed Columbus Movement Movement (cm2) to support development and visibility of contemporary dance artists in Columbus, OH. Ms. Randall has most recently worked with Gabriel Masson, Sara Hook Dances, David Parker and the Bang Group, the Mark Morris Dance Group and Buglisi/Foreman Dance.

Anna Sapozhnikov (Co-Choreographer / Sweetie Pie - Dancer / Vitriol) is the founder and artistic director of MOYAMO DANCE. She is currently on adjunct dance faculty at the Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago as well as a Teaching Artist through Hubbard Street Dance Chicago's MAP Program. Anna has served on dance faculty at the Youth Performing Arts High School in Louisville, Kentucky from 2002-2005, as well as the Louisville Ballet School. Anna received her MFA in dance from the University of Illinois in Champaign, where she was also a Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance for the 2005-2006 school year. Her choreography has been produced in various venues throughout Chicago, the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts in Champaign, and the American College Dance Festival. Anna is the recipient of numerous grants from the Illinois Arts Council, the Kentucky Foundation for Women and the Kentucky Arts Council. Currently, Anna dances with Sara Hook Dances, Thread Meddle Outfit, and was a guest performer with New York City based David Parker & ¹ the Bang Group during their 2007 season.

Kelly Anderson (Dancer / ODE) is a BFA grad of UW-Milwaukee, where she has performed in the works of Janet Lilly, Ed Burgess, Andre Tyson, and Simone Ferro. In addition to dancing with Elizabeth Johnson's Your Mother Dances, she is a resident choreographer and company member of Danceworks Performance Company. She has also performed with local companies Wild Space Dance Company and Foot-hold Dance/Performance, and Gerald Casel Dance Company, based in NYC. Through UWM and local companies, she has worked with Sean Curran, Heidi Latsky, and Lisa Race. Kelly has recently returned from Portland, OR, where she was a guest performer in Suniti Dernovsek and David Stein's "Avian Fable". She is an active choreographer and has produced two independent concerts "Bad Meat" (with Jacob Neuman) and "Vacant" (with Kelly Zwiers). Kelly has participated in several of the choreographic DanceLab Summer Series concerts in the Danceworks studio theater. These include Mixed Six (2004), Art to Art (2005 and 2006) and the Danceworks Cabaret (2007). As an undergraduate, Kelly's work was selected to be presented at three ACDFAs festivals and two National Conferences of Undergraduate Research. Kelly has also organized and performed five variety show events in Milwaukee with Kelly Zwiers and John Bielecki and two in Portland, OR with John Bielecki and Suniti Dernovsek. She has been recently commissioned to choreograph on an independent dance production in NYC, and in July, her work will be presented at the Minneapolis Fringe Festival. Kelly will also be choreographing her first solo show "The Bra Project", which will be premiering in January 2009 at the Danceworks Studio Theatre.

Paula Biasi (Dancer / ODE) holds an MFA in dance from UW-Milwaukee and a BA in dance and holistic health 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, for choreographer Sofi Askenazi 2005-2007, and most currently performs with Your Mother Dances. Dance teaching experience includes modern technique and ballet at Lawrence University, working as an outreach instructor for Wildspace Dance Co. in Milwaukee public schools and also choreographing for the REP's Summer Theatre Conservatory and at the JCC. Paula is also a certified yoga teacher and shares her love of this practice as an instructor at UW-Milwaukee, Invivo Wellness, and Danceworks.

Susie Carlson (Dancer / ODE) is a dancer and fire performance artist living in Milwaukee, WI. Here she co-directs Arson Etiquette, a fire performance troupe, performs with the Dead Man's Carnival and also with Your Mother Dances. She teaches fire performance technique at Bucketworks and makes most of her living as a barista. She holds a B.F.A. in Dance from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. This is her fourth show with Your Mother Dances.

Michelle DiMeo (Dancer / ODE) holds a BFA in Dance from UW-Milwaukee where she had the opportunity to perform in works by Simone Ferro and Rep by Susan Marshall. Michelle has presented her own work in an independent dance concert co-produced with Emily Morrow and at Danceworks' 2006 Art to Art Summer Dance Series. She has extended her studies in Europe in classes throughout the Netherlands, workshops at Impulstanz International Dance Festival and the Geneva based Alias Company. She spent a year in Minneapolis exploring the dance scene taking class and attending workshops including an Action Theater Workshop with Sten Rudstrom and had the opportunity to perform choreography by Jolene Konkel and by Katie Sopoci for the Minnesota Fringe Festival. Locally Michelle has performed with Foothold, Danceworks' "Simone Ferro and Friends", and is in her third season with Wild Space Dance Company. She is honored to have the opportunity to be a part of Elizabeth's work and YMD.

Jaimi Patterson (Dancer / ODE) is graduating this month from the BFA Dance program at UW Milwaukee. She is also in her fourth year teaching at the Nancy Dianne's Studio of Dance in Menominee Falls. She plans on sticking around the Milwaukee area for a while and is excited to start work of her own and continuing to work with YMD. She will be performing as a soloist in Luc Vanier's "Triptych" project at Kenilworth Square in June and is very excited to continue dancing with YMD in David Parker's full length "Nut/Cracked" in December '08.

Katie Sopoci (Dancer / ODE) was with Your Mother Dances in the beginning and is glad to be back for her 3rd performance! Katie is a company member of Wild Space Dance Company, performed locally with Sofi Askenazi and has been dubbed "special, someone to track in 2007 and beyond" by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. As a Graduate student, she danced for Sara Baird of Anemone Dance Theater (NYC), Claire Byrne (NYC), Rodger Belman (formerly with Laura Dean), and Barbara Grubel. A former Minneapolitan, Katie had the honor to perform with Rosy Simas Dance Projects, Vox Medusa, Soft Eyed Collaborations, and The Minnesota Opera. Katie has presented her own work at Danceworks, the Milwaukee Art Museum, and the Minnesota Fringe Festival. She currently teaches at Carthage College in the Musical Theater Department, and at Lawrence University as a part of Wild Space's residency with the Theatre & Music Department. Katie holds a BA in Theatre/Dance and a Minor in Vocal Performance from Luther College and an MFA in Dance from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Besides dancing, Katie is also an avid hiker and singer.

Christal Wagner (Dancer / ODE) is a 2007 BFA graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Dance Program. Upon graduation she was offered a job as a company member in Danceworks Performing Company and was featured prominently in the recent Dance Magazine article highlighting Milwaukee Dance. During her studies at UWM, she has been selected to perform in guest artist pieces by Ron K. Brown, Claire Byrne, Daniel Gwirtzman, and Laura Dean. Christal danced in two duets at the end of her study at UWM faculty members Simone Ferro and Ed Burgess. Last year she got her first opportunity to premiere her well received "Sojorn" in Danceworks solo concert. She has been performing with Your Mother Dances since its beginning.

YOUR MOTHER DANCES

KEEPING THE CUTTING EDGE IN

AND OUT OF THE KITCHEN!

THANKS TO THESE DONORS:

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ANONYMOUS**

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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
Memo: YMD for checks / www.yourmotherdances.com

THANK YOU FOR KEEPING YOUR MOTHER DANCING!