



Dana Tai Soon Burgess & Co.'s New Work Explores Hyphenated America

Set design includes rare short films
by famed artist Nam June Paik

Washington, D.C. — **The region's premier contemporary dance troupe, Dana Tai Soon Burgess & Co. performs October 24-25, 2008, at 8 p.m., at George Washington University's Lisner Auditorium in the world premiere of *Hyphen*.**

"The piece looks at the experience of being a hyphenated American—Asian Americans but also other ethnic Americans

and multi-racial Americans," says artistic director and choreographer Dana Tai Soon Burgess. "Does the hyphen connect or separate our hybrid identities? There's definitely a struggle going on; commonality is a difficult process in a multifaceted America."

Members of the dance company, many of whom are Asian Americans, Latin Americans, and Irish Americans, held discussions about what the hyphen meant in their lives. Snippets of these discussions will be woven into the performance's sound design.

The set design includes short black-and-white "Fluxus films" by famed video artist Nam June Paik, a Korean American. Paik was the founder of video art and the first Asian American artist at the heart of the avant-garde Fluxus movement of the late 1950s and early 1960s, a movement that included Yoko Ono and John Cage. The works used for *Hyphen* are the little-seen early Paik classics *Cinema Metaphysique*, *Button Happening*, and *Hand and Face*. "They resonate with questions about identity," says Burgess.

The program also includes the Washington premiere of Burgess's *Meditations*, as well as *Khaybet* and *Chino Latino*.

Ticket information will be forthcoming.
Visit the company online at www.dtsbco.com.



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