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CityDance Ensemble premieres this season's *In the Studio* series with *Eclipse*, a concert of new works and celebrated repertory at the Music Center at Strathmore

N. Bethesda, MD—On October 27 & 28, **CityDance Ensemble** presents the first performance of this season's *In the Studio* series with a concert titled *Eclipse*. The concert draws its name from **Doug Varone's** daring, poignant trio by the same name, but reaches beyond the dance to explore the idea of bringing art between dancer and audience in a way that alters one's expected perspective. Such is the goal of this concert and all of CityDance's *In the Studio* concerts—a pursuit made most appropriately in the intimate, face-to-face setting of the Music Center at Strathmore's Room 405.

The concert takes place **Saturday, October 27 at 8pm** and **Sunday, October 28, 2007 at 7pm** in **Room 405** at the **Music Center at Strathmore**, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda, MD. Tickets are priced at \$15 and are available in person at the Strathmore Ticket Office (5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda, MD), online at www.strathmore.org, or by phone at **301.581.5100**. Seating is general admission. A post-performance discussion with the dancers and selected choreographers will follow the Saturday evening performance.

CityDance Ensemble's *In the Studio* concerts present dance at an uncommon level of intensity and closeness, enveloping the audience in an experience where every seat feels like the front row. By adding risers, wings, and lighting, CityDance transforms the spacious and elegant studio into an accessible and inviting blackbox theatre.

“By limiting seating capacity to just 150, our in-studio concerts offer a rare occasion to experience dance in a truly transparent setting,” comments **Alexe Nowakowski**, CityDance Executive Director. “There’s nothing that can be hidden or exaggerated with these shows, and that’s part of their beauty. They’re honest, absorbing, and undisguised, just as dance should be.”

(more)

Mr. Varone's *Eclipse* is an ideal piece to present in the in-studio setting, with its repetition of pushes and pulls set to the recurring sound of sirens collected into a haunting composition by **Michael Gordon**. With its stirring choreography and arresting visual and auditory effects, *Eclipse* demands attention as it debates interdependency, vulnerability, and relationships.

"*Eclipse* is an important element of CityDance's repertory," observes **Paul Gordon Emerson**, CityDance Artistic Director. "It's not necessarily easy to digest, but that's part of the point—to put forth challenging material that makes artist and audience alike stop and pay attention. It's a piece that has both integrity and complexity, but doesn't shy away from using harshness in sound and movement to get to the conflict at its center."

The concert also includes *Be Still...Listen*, a powerful and intriguing women's quartet choreographed by New York's **Roger C. Jeffrey**. Mr. Jeffrey is the Artistic Director of Subtle Changes, Inc., and has worked with companies such as White Oak Dance Project, Philadanco, and Lar Lubovitch Dance Company.

Making its world premiere during this concert is a men's trio titled *Unusable Signal* choreographed by CityDance Rehearsal Director **Christopher K. Morgan**. The piece explores the modern world's tendency to use electronic devices as a way to tune out unwanted stimuli. Mr. Morgan comes to CityDance this season from New York City where he was artistic director of the pick-up company Muse. He is a seasoned dancer, choreographer, and teacher and has worked with David Gordon, Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, Washington National Opera, and New York City Opera, among others.

Additional highlights of the program are the revival of two celebrated works of contemporary dance. **Jane Dudley's** *Harmonica Breakdown* (1938) is a concise, blues-inspired solo that conveys both the destitution and bravery that characterized so many lives during the Depression. **Eric Hampton's** charming quartet *UnRavel* (1995) provides a distinct contrast with its wit and humor staged to the classical music of Maurice Ravel.

The program is completed by **Harumi Terayama's** *Contained Infinity*, an indelible work that takes a fresh look at contemporary dance through the use of intricate lighting and video projection against a larger-than-life screen, and **Kyra Jean Green's** *Right...Now*, an emotional, edgy duet pulsing with female sensibility and stirring depth.

About CityDance Ensemble, Inc.

CityDance Ensemble, Inc. is the parent organization to **CityDance Ensemble**, an award-winning contemporary repertory dance company; **Early Arts**, an arts outreach program for youth serving more than 25,000 students each year; **CityDance Education Centers**, facilities committed to excellence in dance training for youth and adults; and **FilmWORKS**, a creator and presenter of dance-on-camera. The mission of CityDance Ensemble, Inc. is to advance the appreciation for and participation in the art of dance through excellence in performance, education, film, and artistic innovation.

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