

CITYDANCE ENSEMBLE, INC.  
POWER. PASSION. PURPOSE.



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
1111 16<sup>TH</sup> STREET NW  
SUITE 300  
WASHINGTON, DC 20036  
202.347.3909  
202.833.2686 (FAX)

CITYDANCE CENTER  
AT STRATHMORE  
5301 TUCKERMAN LANE  
N. BETHESDA, MD 20852  
301.581.5204  
301.581.5202 (FAX)

CITYDANCE CENTER  
AT MT. VERNON SQUARE  
801 K STREET NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20001  
202.838.1841

CITYDANCE/MADEIRA  
8328 GEORGETOWN PIKE  
MCLEAN, VIRGINIA 22102

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**Contact:** Betsy Lundgren, Director of Marketing  
**Phone:** 202.347.3909  
**Email:** [betsy@citydance.net](mailto:betsy@citydance.net)  
**Web:** [www.citydance.net](http://www.citydance.net)  
**Photos:** Available upon request

**CityDance Ensemble reveals an enchanting world of magic, mischief, and mystery  
in its upcoming performances of Rudyard Kipling's *Jungle Books***

Washington, DC— **CityDance Ensemble** breathes life into Rudyard Kipling's literary masterpiece *Jungle Books* this December at the **Lansburgh Theatre** in an enchanting new production for the young and young at heart. Telling the timeless stories of Mowgli, Shere Khan, Baloo, and other characters from the classic tales, CityDance Ensemble mixes original choreography with an original score to create a performance full of surprises, humor, and magic that will leave no doubt that *it's a jungle in there...*

The concert, presented by **Washington Performing Arts Society**, takes place **Saturday, December 15** and **Sunday, December 16** at **1pm and 4:30pm** in the **Lansburgh Theatre**, 450 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Washington, DC. Tickets are \$37 for adults and \$15 for youth 12 and under. Groups of 15 or more receive a 15% discount. Tickets are available in person at the **Harman Center for the Arts Ticket Office** (610 F Street NW, Washington, DC), online at [www.wpas.org](http://www.wpas.org), or by phone at **202.547.1122**. (A \$5.50 handling fee applies on phone and web orders).

“Creating this new production of *Jungle Books* has been a true highlight of CityDance's 2007-2008 season,” comments CityDance **Artistic Director Paul Gordon Emerson**. “The powerful ideas and themes of Kipling's stories lend themselves beautifully to being re-told through dance, music, and movement. Animals relate to each other through movement, and pairing Kipling's tales with choreography has been a natural, organic fit.”

*Jungle Books* will feature original choreography by **Paul Gordon Emerson**, Rehearsal Director **Christopher K. Morgan**, former company member **Kyra Jean Green**,

(more)

Washington Ballet dancer **Jason Hartley**, and DC-based dancers and choreographers **Joseph Nontanovan** (Artistic Director of Culture Shock DC) and **Meisha Bosma** (Artistic Director of BosmaDance). Composers **Matthew Jones, Clifton Brockington,** and **Saleem Wayne Waters** created the original score and will perform live on drums, wind synthesizer, and keyboard.

New sets and drops created in partnership with Washington, DC's **Ford's Theatre** will transform the stage into an Indian jungle and original costumes and masks will mold the dancers into Kipling's characters they leap, pounce, and prance their way through several segments of the original novel in this hour-long adaptation.

Making their premiere alongside CityDance Ensemble are students of **CityDance Select**, the company's pre-professional program for serious dancers ages 12-19. In this program, students study technique and performance, as well as dance history, multimedia arts, anatomy, and other related field. Fourteen young dancers from the Select program will play the role of monkeys in *Jungle Books*.

"The collaborative aspect of this production has made the show incredibly rich and well-rounded," notes Mr. Emerson. "Because we have had the good fortune of working with so many talented artists and organizations in Washington, DC, *Jungle Books* has developed into a truly multi-faceted, multi-disciplinary production."

A family show in every sense, *Jungle Books* will appeal to audiences young and old, with Kipling's themes of morality and perseverance woven throughout. Children will also find excitement before and after the show with free face painting in the Lansburgh Theatre lobby from 12 – 12:45pm and 3:30 – 4:15pm and photographs with the characters from 2:15 – 2:45pm on each performance day.

Additional information about *Jungle Books* can be found online at Washington Performing Arts Society's press room ([www.wpas.org](http://www.wpas.org)).

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### **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 Centers**, two facilities committed to excellence in studio dance education 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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