

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Riveting and Innovative “Preludes: Duncan, Sand & Chopin” Added to Maryland Touring Artists Roster

Bethesda, MD – Word Dance Theater is pleased to announce that its previously sold out theatrical fantasy, **“Preludes: Duncan, Sand & Chopin”**, has been added to the Maryland State Arts Council's **2012 Maryland Touring Artists Roster**. Noted by **The Washington Post** as the 2010 fall season's “most historically significant event”, **“Preludes: Duncan, Sand & Chopin”** and all associated education and community outreach packages are now available to Maryland presenters at a subsidized cost.

Word Dance Theater was selected to present
“Preludes: Duncan, Sand & Chopin” by **Piccolo Spoleto 2011, Charleston, SC**.

“Because of the unique and historically careful juxtaposition of these works,
we not only experience these iconic artists with fresh ears and eyes,
but the piece itself takes flight, rising to a level of expression that transcends time and space.”
-William Schlitt, Theatre Coordinator, Piccolo Spoleto 2011

To download the official Press Kit and learn more about the associated education and community outreach programs, go to: <http://worddance.org/reperitory/preludes/> or contact Cynthia Word at Cynthia@WordDance.org or (301) 785-9970.

Synopsis

“Preludes: Duncan, Sand & Chopin” is an original theatrical fantasy, conceived by Word Dance Theater's Cynthia Word and written and directed by Mary Hall Surface, featuring the choreography of Isadora Duncan, the writings of George Sand, and the music of Frédéric Chopin. Crossing the boundaries of time and place, **“Preludes: Duncan, Sand & Chopin”** unites two vanguard women artists who compellingly unfold their passionate connections to Chopin's exquisite **24 Preludes**. Isadora's passionate dances to the **24 Preludes** become the catalyst for Sand to re-encounter her lover Chopin and to seek for what was lost in the winter they spent on the island of Majorca. The transformational power of a work of art -- both to conceal and to reveal -- lies at the heart of this innovative, multi-disciplinary theater piece.

Written and directed by Helen Hayes Award winner Mary Hall Surface. Live piano accompaniment is by Chopin virtuoso Carlos César Rodríguez. Dance re-staging is by Isadora Duncan International Institute Artistic Director Jeanne Bresciani, as conveyed to her by Maria Theresa Duncan, daughter of Isadora Duncan.

About Word Dance Theater: Word Dance Theater's mission is to create and perform modern dance productions and provide educational experiences that preserve and illuminate the philosophy and choreography of Isadora Duncan, founder of Modern Dance. Through the artful blending of dance, music and theater Word Dance Theater pays tribute to Duncan's philosophy as a rich foundation from which new dance experiences can emerge. Please visit us at www.worddance.org.

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WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT: PRELUDES: DUNCAN, SAND & CHOPIN

"Because of the unique and historically careful juxtaposition of these works, we not only experience these iconic artists with fresh ears and eyes, but the piece itself takes flight, rising to a level of expression that transcends time and space." -*William Schlitt, Theatre Coordinator, Piccolo Spoleto 2011, 9/2011*

"the actress Maia DeSanti is powerful in her portrayal of the passionate and prolific [George] Sand... Carlos Cesar Rodriguez plays the preludes[sic] with great skill and sensitivity as three dancers (Cynthia Word, Ingrid Zimmer, and Jeanne Bresciani) perform Duncan's solo dances in a dreamlike way that gives another dimension to the story and illuminates the characters with joy, pain, loss, and soul stirring artistry... The music is a perfect stage for Duncan's dances that become a silent song of sheer expression. Kudos to the creators of this original and heart-wrenching theatrical experience." *Eliza Ingle, Charleston Today, 6/2011*

"[Mary Hall's] compelling narrative succeeded in creating a dramatic context for the presentation of Isadora Duncan's sequence of dance pieces to Chopin's Preludes, together with the on-stage rendering of a musical collage of the 24 preludes, all woven together within the story of the tumultuous relationship of Chopin and George Sand during the composition of the Preludes. Quite a feat indeed! Themes focusing on the quest for creative expression and the seeking of the ideal - in art or love - made the evening's robust material rich and accessible for all. Magnifique! We look forward to further productions." *Leslie Hyde, Producer of the Amalfi Coast Music & Arts Festival, 11/2010*

"'Preludes' was at its very finest when it did seem like a seance - intense yet tenuous because its link to another world depended... on the concentration of performers possessed by the idea of being Duncan, Sand and Chopin ... The performers were professionals and once contact had been established did not lose touch." *George Jackson, Danceviewtimes, Lansburgh Theatre, 11/2010*

"'Preludes: Duncan, Sand & Chopin' is likely the Dance season's most historically significant event" *Sarah Kaufman, The Washington Post, Lansburgh Theatre, 9/2010*

FURTHER INFORMATION: For additional information on opportunities to support Word/Dance/Theater, please contact Cynthia Word at 301.785.9970 or Cynthia@WordDance.org.



PRELUDES: DUNCAN, SAND & CHOPIN

ABOUT THE COLLABORATORS



Jeanne Bresciani, M.A., I.M.A, Ph.D., is Artistic Director and Director of Education for the Isadora Duncan International Institute, an arts and education organization founded in 1977 by Maria-Theresa Duncan and Kay Bardsley. She is a solo performer, teacher, lecturer, reconstructionist, choreographer and creator of festivals. She specializes in the dance of Isadora Duncan and in myth and movement studies. In New York City, she directs Isadora Duncan programs for the New York University School of Education and the Harkness Dance Center of the 92nd Street Y. She also directs two professional dance companies: the Isadora Duncan International Institute Dancers and the "Isadora for Children"™ Performing Group. She was a Kress scholar in art history at Williams College and a Fulbright scholar in dance. She founded and leads three teaching and performance training programs at Tempio di Danza in New York's Catskill Mountains: the Certificate Program in Isadora Duncan Studies I; the Advanced Diploma in Performance and Choreography II; and the Certificate Program in Myth, Movement and Metaphor. She also teaches intensives in choreographic research called Movement in the Mountains, and she conducts a study-abroad program entitled Sacred Topographies: The Body and The Land. Most recently she has lectured, taught and performed at The Duncan Center in Athens, The National Theater in Budapest, The New Parthenon in Tokyo and the British Museum in London.



Maia DeSanti has been acting in the Washington region for nearly two decades. She appeared most recently at the Everyman Theatre in Baltimore, as Mrs. Webb in *Our Town*. Other regional credits include: Arena Stage, Folger Theatre, Happenstance Theatre, Kennedy Center, NY Clown Theatre Festival, NY State Theatre Institute, Olney Theatre Center, Rep Stage, Roundhouse Theatre, The Shakespeare Theater Co., Source Theatre, Taffety Punk Theatre Co., Theatre of the First Amendment, and Woolly Mammoth. Maia is a graduate of the National Shakespeare Conservatory and teaches acting and movement for several area theatre companies and training programs.



Carlos César Rodríguez is a musician of brilliance and versatility recognized as a virtuoso pianist who not only generates excitement in the Hispanic and Spanish repertoire, but also displays an extraordinary flair for Mozart, the romantics and the avant-garde scores. He has recorded for Omicron and Brioso labels and has won the highest critical acclaims for his CD of Spanish music, *España en el Corazón*, distributed by Brioso Recordings. He is an expert on early instruments and is privileged to have access to the Smithsonian Institution's rare collection. Mr. Rodríguez was

chosen by the Smithsonian to perform during its 300th year celebration of the piano. He was also invited to participate in the 150th anniversary celebration of the Smithsonian Institution. Mr. Rodríguez has won acclaim as music director of Mozart operas and Zarzuelas (Spanish operas), and as a composer, arranger, and improviser of ballets, Spanish dance scores, and Latin-Jazz/Pop compositions. Currently, Mr. Rodríguez is a member of the piano faculty at the Levine School of Music in Washington, DC, and guest artist and coach for the Domingo/Cafritz Young Artist Program with the Washington National Opera.



Mary Hall Surface is an internationally recognized director and playwright. She specializes in theatre for families and in multi-disciplinary collaborations. She has been a member of the Washington, DC. theatre community since 1989, where she has had twelve productions at the Kennedy Center's Theater for Young Audiences. Two of these productions have toured nationally. She has written and directed three theatrical works for the National Symphony Orchestra, and for the Choral Arts Society's Family Christmas concerts. She has been nominated for five Helen Hays Awards for

Outstanding Direction, receiving the award in 2002 for Theatre of the First Amendment's *Perseus Bayou*. With her long-time collaborator, composer David Maddox, she has been nominated for the Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play for the following productions: *Sing Down the Moon: Appalachian Wonder Tales*, *Perseus Bayou*, *Mississippi Pinocchio*, and *Lift: Icarus and Me*.



Cynthia Word, M.F.A. is the Founder and Director of Word Dance Theater. Born and raised in Abilene, Texas, she began her Modern Dance training at the University of Illinois with choreographers Beverly Blossom, Chester Wolenski, Mary Anthony, and Sarah Rudner. She later received her Master in Fine Arts from The George Washington University, where she later served on the teaching faculty. Based in Washington, DC, Ms. Word has created six major dance/theater productions. In 2005, Dance/MetroDC Awards nominated her for "Best Emerging Choreographer" for *States of Mind*. In

addition to her dance/theater productions, Word has performed in Austria, England, Scotland and Iran. Most recently she toured Greece with the Isadora Duncan International Institute. She is a recipient of an honorary certification in teaching and performance from the Isadora Duncan International Institute, and serves as a Dance Education Consultant with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.



Ingrid Zimmer received a B.A. in Dance/Theatre from Pomona College where she was trained in the Limon Technique. Upon graduating, she moved to Europe where she toured, performed and studied dance at the Folkwang Hochschule in Essen, Germany under the artistic direction of Pina Bausch. Ms. Zimmer has been dancing professionally, teaching and choreographing in the Washington, DC, area for the last 14 years. She has danced with local companies Bowen McCauley Dance, and Rincones and Company. Ms. Zimmer has performed in national and international venues including the

Kennedy Center, Jacobs Pillow, Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, France, and the Gran Festival Internacional de Danza Contemporanea in Monterey, Mexico. Ms. Zimmer is currently in the Certificate Program at the Isadora Duncan International Institute where she is learning Duncan's original choreography and pedagogical techniques.