



Jacob's Pillow Presents David Dorfman Dance 8/17-21

By BWW news desk
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David Dorfman and his company of skilled dancers bring their newest work, the dynamic Prophets of Funk, to the Doris Duke Theatre, August 17-21. Inspired by the vitality and revelry of the 1970s, this lively engagement is driven by the popular funk music of Sly and the Family Stone. Set in the spirit of Sly's music and philosophy, the work centers around the music's themes of love and celebrations, along with the struggles and hopes that reside in the lives of everyday people. Delivered with humor and heart by Dorfman's cast of phenomenal dancers, Prophets of Funk "[keeps] Dorfman fans salivating for more" (Eileen Elizabeth, iDANZ Critix Corner).

"David has really pulled it off this time. Prophets of Funk is a seriously entertaining show with phenomenal dancing that welcomes the entire audience to the party," comments Ella Baff, Jacob's Pillow Executive and Artistic Director.

Prophets of Funk displays Dorfman's "exuberant, gorgeous, and delightfully oddball style" (The Boston Globe) with an energetic, rock star-like opening featuring the full company ensemble. Dressed in 70s-style costumes complete with afro wigs and platform shoes, dancers move in unison and break off into various duets, solos, and jam dances full of interactive choreography. Dancers show a "playful, athletic physicality" (Chris Dohse, Dance Magazine) by talking to and teaching one another, alternatively supporting each others' movements. Quieter, more serious choreography is interspersed with high-energy sections, adding a powerful poignancy to the work. Dorfman displays "a delicate whimsy spun out through movement that is often chaotically original," says Anne Tobias of Dance Magazine. This exuberant work includes the songs "Turn Me Loose," "I Want to Take You Higher," "Love City," "Dance to the Music," and others.

Founded in 1985 by Artistic Director David Dorfman, David Dorfman Dance has performed extensively throughout North and South America, Great Britain, Europe, and most recently in St. Petersburg and Krasnoyarsk, Russia, and Cracow, Poland. Collectively, Dorfman and the company's dancers have been honored with eight Bessie Awards. Since 2007, the company has been in residence at Connecticut College.

David Dorfman, the recipient of a 2005 Guggenheim Foundation fellowship, has been honored with four fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, three New York Foundation for the Arts fellowships, an American Choreographer's Award, a Bessie Award for Dance and Performance for David Dorfman Dance's community-based project Familiar Movements (The

Family Project), the Mid-Career Award from the Martha Hill Fund for Dance in 2007, and the first [Paul Taylor](#) Fellowship from the Yard. Jennifer Dunning of The New York Times once stated, "One of the great pleasures...over the past decade or so has been seeing the growth of David Dorfman from accomplished to inspired modern-dance choreographer."

Dorfman's long history with the Pillow began in 1987 when he performed with [Susan Marshall](#) & Company as a part of the Inside/Out performance series. David Dorfman Dance made its Inside/Out debut in 1993, in addition to developing works during Creative Development Residencies (CDR) in 1993 and 1995 (see additional CDR information below). The company later performed in the Doris Duke Theatre in 1997 as well as participating in the Inside/Out performance series the same year. Dorfman also collaborated on the Seven Deadly Sins project at Jacob's Pillow in 2001.