

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 4, 2011

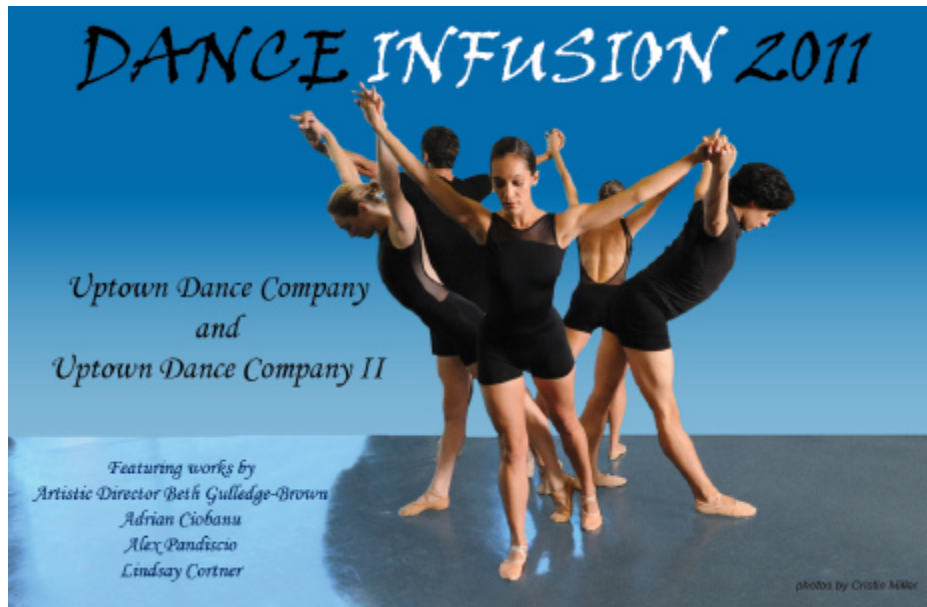
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**Uptown Dance Company and Uptown Dance Company II
Present
Dance Infusion 2011**



Uptown Dance Company and Uptown Dance Company II present their fall concert, ***Dance Infusion 2011***, on Saturday, October 15, 2011, at 8:00 p.m., at the I. W. Marks Theater Center – Kaplan Theatre. ***Dance Infusion 2011*** is a contemporary and classical ballet, jazz, and modern infused dance concert with works by Artistic Director Beth Gulledge-Brown, Adrian Ciobanu, Alex Pandiscio, and Lindsay Cortner. Uptown Dance Junior Company joins the evening with a pre-show performance at 7:30 p.m.

Uptown Dance Company will premiere ***Reaction***, choreographed by Gulledge-Brown. With music by Ryuichi Sakamoto, ***Reaction*** uses pre-determined and improvised choreography. The dancers mimic and feed into one another's movement to create a feeling of interconnectedness. Sakamoto's unique combination of Asian Classical, Western Classical and Jazz music mirrors the dancers' movements.

Uptown Dance Company also will premiere a contemporary jazz piece choreographed by Gulledge-Brown.

Also on the evening's bill is **Uptown Dance Company II**, with 3 premiere works and 1 repertory work. The premiere **Chimes** incorporates an Asian flair into classical Western ballet vocabulary. Music by Aphex Twins rings of industrial bell's, chimes and sounds. **Chimes** is Gulledge-Brown and Adrian Ciobanu first opportunity to collaborate on a new work together.

Uptown Dance Company II also presents **Virtuoso**, which first premiered in March 2010 at Zilkha Hall, Hobby Centre for Performing Arts. Choreographed by Gulledge-Brown with music by Patrick Soluri, **Virtuoso** expresses the tension between two opposing forces which are themselves controlled by a primary creative force.

New choreographer **Lindsay Cortner** presents **Resistance**, danced by Uptown Dance Company II. With music by Radiohead and King of Limbs to set the mood, **Resistance** is a contemporary piece that illustrates the struggle between non-conformity and mob mentality.

The Yellow Pages, choreographed by Alexander Pandiscio, takes its title from music of the same name by Michael Torke. **The Yellow Pages** is a contemporary ballet that provides a visual complement to Michael Torke's playful treatments of rhythm, mood, and key. The composer associates this piece of music with the cheerful color yellow.

Uptown Dance Junior Company will present a pre-show performance at 7:30pm. **Slumber Party**, choreographed by Gulledge-Brown, looks back at the innocence of the 1930's, with a portrayal of friends having fun at a sleepover. **Slumber Party** is set to the jazz music of Chick Webb, a highly respected drummer of the big band era.

The Junior Company will also perform excerpts from the ballet **Don Quixote**, choreographed by Florin Adrian Ciobanu, with music by Ludwig Minkus. Ciobanu restaged the first act set in the market for the young dancers.

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Uptown Dance Company was originally founded in 1999 by Gullledge-Brown. Gullledge-Brown understood the need to supplement her students' training with performance skills and founded the company to provide a performing outlet for her advanced students. Gullledge-Brown's studio has grown and her vision has grown right along with it. Following the lead of Houston studios such as Houston Metropolitan Dance Center and Ben Stevenson's Houston Ballet Academy, Uptown Dance Centre now houses two companies: one for advanced students and one for professionals. Her students will continue to perform in the pre-professional company, now Uptown Dance Company II, as Uptown Dance Company continues forward as a professional company. Professional Company members include Lindsay Cortner, Adrian Ciobanu, Jorge Cardozo, Erica Blumenthal and Beth Gullledge-Brown.

Beth Gullledge-Brown began dancing with her mother at the age of three. She continued her training with Joseph Giacobbe (Delta Festival Ballet) in New Orleans, Margo Marshall (City Ballet) of Houston, and Leo Ahonen and Soile Arvala (Texas Ballet). She studied jazz with Delia Stewart and Keith Cross, and was awarded scholarships to study with Broadway Dance Center in New York and Joe Tremaine in Los Angeles. Beth received her dance degree from the University of Capetown in South Africa. While there she performed with U.C.T. Ballet company and the CAPAB Ballet Company. Beth's performance experience also includes Delia Stewart Dance Company, Texas Dance Theatre, and Joan Karff's New Dance Group. Her choreography has been showcased in Houston as well as Austria, Costa Rica, Chicago and China. Her company performed in *Triple Focus* at the Kaplan Theater in January, 2009, and most recently in Houston's citywide festival, Dance Houston. Last season, Uptown Dance Company performances included its 2009 production of *Dance Infusion*, a tour in Vera Cruz, Mexico at the *Youth American Grand Prix*; the *Illuminations Project 2009* at the Hobby Center, as guest artists for Revolve Dance Company's *Fall Mosaics* at Barnevelder Theater, and its 2010 production of *Spring Dance Fusion*. In the summer of 2011 Uptown Dance Company toured and performed 7 times in Austria.

Uptown Dance Company and Uptown Dance Company II present ***Dance Infusion*** on Saturday, October 15, 2011 at 8:00 p.m., at I.W. Marks Theatre Center – Kaplan Theatre, The Jewish Community Center of Houston, 5601 South Braeswood Blvd., Houston, TX 77096. Tickets are \$30 General Admission / \$25 Senior/Student. For tickets and information, call 713-686-0334 or visit the website at www.uptowndancecentre.com

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Fact Sheet

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WHAT:

Uptown Dance Company and
Uptown Dance Company II
present ***Dance Infusion 2011***



WHEN:

Saturday, October 15, 2011 8:00 p.m.

WHERE:

I.W. Marks Theatre Center – Kaplan Theatre

The Jewish Community Center of Houston

5601 South Braeswood Blvd.

Houston, TX 77096

TICKETS:

Ticket Prices: \$30 General admission / \$25 Senior/Student.

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