

A photograph of David Dorfman, a man with short grey hair, wearing a white zip-up jacket. He is captured in a dynamic pose, looking upwards and to the left with a joyful expression, his right arm raised and hand open. The background is dark with several out-of-focus, glowing circular lights in shades of blue and yellow.

DAVID DORFMAN DANCE

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

“...[Dorfman] has never shied away from open-hearted explorations of self and society, channeling big ideas into raw hyper-athletic movement that calls for go-for-broke dancers.”

- THE NEW YORK TIMES

CONTACT

daviddorfmandance.org

GENERAL INQUIRIES:

info@daviddorfmandance.org
PO Box 1227 Peter Stuyvesant
Station New York, NY 10009
Tel: (205) 907-3822

#daviddorfmandance,
#dancenyc,
#contemporarydance,
#postmoderndance

MARKETING INQUIRIES:

Journee Hardaway
Company Manager
E: journee@daviddorfmandance.org
T: (860) 948-8541

BOOKING INQUIRIES:

Sandy Garcia
Director of Booking,
Pentacle
T: 212.278.8111 ext. 3425
E: sandyg@pentacle.org



[@dorfmandance](https://www.instagram.com/dorfmandance)



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[David Dorfman Dance](https://www.facebook.com/DavidDorfmanDance)



[David Dorfman Dance](https://www.vimeo.com/DavidDorfmanDance)

<https://www.pentacle.org/the-roster/>



ABOUT THE COMPANY

DAVID DORFMAN DANCE (DDD)

For almost 40 years, David Dorfman Dance has created movement that seeks to de-stigmatize the notion of accessibility and interaction in post-modern dance by embracing audiences with visceral, meaningful dance, music and text. By sustaining a vision to create innovative, inclusive, movement-based performance that is radically humanistic, DDD maintains a core commitment to examine and unearth issues and ideas that enliven, incite, and excite audiences in dialogue and debate about social change and a myriad of other topics. In advocating his mission “to get the whole world dancing,” Dorfman’s work has enjoyed broad and diverse audiences nationally and internationally.

DDD has performed extensively throughout North and South America, the UK, Europe, and Central Asia and regularly performs in NYC at major venues including BAM’s Next Wave Festival, The Joyce, The Kitchen, Danspace Project, Harkness Center at 92NY, and The Met Breuer. David, the company’s dancers, and artistic collaborators have also been honored with eight NY Dance and Performance (Bessie) Awards.

DDD’s works include “truce songs” (tour details below / premieres fall 2024); (A)Way Out of My Body (tour details below / 2022); and Aroundtown (2017), which examines the varied, unique and sometimes divided notions of love. “truce songs” and (A)Way Out of My Body feature lighting and visual designs by artist Andrew Schneider. All three of these most recent works have original scores composed and performed by Lizzy de Lise and Sam Crawford. Prior to that, the company created Come, and Back Again (2013); Prophets of Funk (2011), set to the music of Sly and the Family Stone; Disavowal (2009), inspired by radical abolitionist John Brown; underground (2006), inspired by The Weather Underground; Older Testaments (2005), set to music by composer/trumpeter Frank London of The Klezmatics; Lightbulb Theory (2004); Impending Joy (2004); See Level (2003), and more.

Since 1987, DDD has engaged audiences worldwide, with community-based projects playing an important role, starting in the 1990s. In Out of Season (The Athletes Project) and Familiar Movements (The Family Project), the members of the company rehearsed and performed with groups of volunteer athletes or family members selected in the communities to which the company toured. In No Roles Barred, DDD examined the personal roles assumed, formed, and interwoven in our modern social construct, engaging groups ranging from corporate executives and underserved youths to college administrators, doctors, carpenters, and social dance enthusiasts. These three community projects and additional collaborations with Glasswing International and the United States Agency for International Development, have been presented over 30 times in 18 states and numerous international countries. These efforts help DDD promote its mission of Kinetic Diplomacy: the idea that if you’re dancing, you’re not harming another human being.

The company’s current touring and outreach offerings are detailed below.



BIOGRAPHY

DAVID DORFMAN

Choreographer and Dance Activist David Dorfman has been making movement-based dance theater since graduating with an MFA in Dance from Connecticut College in 1981. In 1987 he founded David Dorfman Dance in New York City with the intention of creating politically and socially relevant work. DDD has toured the world from Tajikistan to El Salvador. Closer to home, DDD has regularly performed in New York City at major venues, including The Brooklyn Academy

of Music, The Joyce Theater, The Kitchen, Danspace Project, La MaMa, NYU Skirball, The Duke on 42nd Street, The Met Breuer, and the 92NY/Harkness Dance Festival. The company currently tours "(A)Way Out of My Body" which is inspired by out-of-body experiences; and in 2024 premieres "truce songs", a new evening-length work about healing and the possible reincarnation of trust and peace. A life-long educator, David has been a professor at Connecticut College since 2004 where DDD is Company-in-Residence. David choreographed Broadway's "Indecent," for which he was given a Lortel for its Off-Broadway run, and has also received a 2019 USA Fellowship in Dance, a Guggenheim, 4 NEA fellowships and a Bessie. In his copious spare time, he has co-created and toured internationally a body of tragi-comic physical theater with dear friend Dan Froot, entitled "Live Sax Acts" – and he continues to dance profusely with wife Lisa Race and son Samson Race Dorfman.



“ His resilience is remarkable. ”

-BLOOMBERG NEWS

TOURING REPERTORY - BEGINNING FALL 2024

TRUCE SONGS

“truce songs” employs David Dorfman’s trademark style of merging highly athletic dancing with poignant emotion. It uses movement, text, live/original music and visual design to honor truce with self, with others and the world, as we watch dancing bodies serve as conduits for momentary peace. The company will mine the depths of our power-crazed existence looking for our foibles and laughter, which is perhaps our most “power-full” tool. Sometimes it’s the tiniest of surrenders that count. “truce songs” is a collaboration between David Dorfman, DDD dancers, guest artists Lisa Race and Michaela Ellingson; Musicians/Composers Lizzy de Lise and Sam Crawford; and Visual Designer Andrew Schneider. [CLICK HERE FOR TRAILER](#)

TOURING PARTY:

10-12 total

Performers:

8 dancers, 2 musicians

Tech/Administrative Staff:

2

RUNNING TIME: 75 minutes

Conceived and Directed by

David Dorfman

Choreography and text by

David Dorfman Dance

Visual Designer:

Andrew Schneider

Original Score:

Lizzy de Lise and Sam Crawford

Costumes: Naoko Nagata

TRUCE SONGS ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



PERFORMING CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOP

How can we acknowledge efforts of everyday people to make sense of their lives, especially in terms of struggles with forces of discrimination, alienation, violence and dehumanization? As joy is sought, how do our bodies lead the way, react, or change?

PCW is a movement-thought lab aimed at deriving how our bodies “represent” ourselves, and how the notion of representation, presence, and agency in regard to societal behaviors in general, and those attached to citizenship in particular, govern our actions – and by extension, how our actions are governed. The workshop will be collaborative and improvisational, exploring the complex relationships between thought, emotions, politics, principles, power, social inequality, and movement/dance/text.

WRITING A TRUCE - POETRY PROJECT

Conceived by DDD Poet-in-Residence Matt Daly, workshop participants will be guided through a truce songs-inspired poetry project where they will consider an experience in which two perspectives are in tension/conflict with one another to create a dialogue in poem form. Project instructions are distributed and facilitated by David Dorfman or DDD Company Member, using movement and text examples from “truce songs” to get them started. [CLICK HERE FOR SAMPLE INSTRUCTIONS](#)

MOVEMENT FOR EVERYONE

Full list of Engagement Activities can be found [HERE](#).

TOURING REPERTORY - ONGOING

(A)WAY OUT OF MY BODY

(A)Way Out of My Body uses “out of body” experience as a metaphor for our times and our body politic. Dancers propel themselves through space and time, attempting to pass the barrier of reality and plight into the realm of positivity and growth. This collective story of searching for personal “truths” among fantastical sensations is seen through breath-taking lighting and visual design by Andrew Schneider, highlighting the otherworldly-ness of our dreams, desires, our every day, and new worlds awaiting us. The performances feature a four-person band, performing music written specifically for the piece. [CLICK HERE FOR TRAILER](#)

(A)Way Out of My Body, had its Regional Premiere in February 2020 at Connecticut College, paused for our pandemic, and then its World Premiere at NYU Skirball in April 2022.

TOURING PARTY:

10-12 total

Performers:

6-8 dancers, 2-4 musicians

Tech/Administrative Staff:

2

RUNNING TIME: 60 minutes

Conceived and Directed by

David Dorfman

Choreography and text by

David Dorfman Dance

Visual Designer:

Andrew Schneider

Original Score:

Lizzy de Lise, Sam Crawford, Zeb Gould, and Jeff Hudgins

Costumes: Oana Botez

“ I believe in the healing power of art—and dance in particular. I see the body as a political and emotional force. I love using mine as an expressive power. - David Dorfman ”

(A)WAY OUT OF MY BODY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

MOVEMENT IS NECESSARY

For DDD's newest creation, (A)Way Out of My Body, movement of our precious bodies – in any way, shape, or form – becomes all important. In our unpredictable world, filled with daily obstacles of all kinds, how do we navigate toward positive change, resilience and empathic behavior? Our answer is to dance through life with each other: safely and with magical risk appropriate for the occasion. We need to move in new directions – discover paths we have only dreamt of. By employing improvisation combined with choreographed sequences, dancers of all ages and experiences can find joy and discovery in this workshop. We will have fun!

KINETIC DIPLOMACY

DDD has worked throughout the world for decades combining text and movement to access personal, political, and humorous stories – blending seamlessly both literal and abstract notions of presence, equity and agency. As we continue to construct our new evening of performance, (A)Way Out of My Body, workshop participants will move, write and speak to their most pressing issues. As our intent is always to “get the whole world dancing”, to this end, no previous dance experience is required – just a willingness to explore. If we can all move together, especially with people unfamiliar to us, we can make a more empathic world in real time.



REPERTORY

DDD'S CREATIVE PROJECTS INCLUDE:



AROUNDTOWN (2017)

is a kinetic poem that examines the varied, unique and sometimes divided notions of LOVE- its meaning, purpose, and platform. With original music, text, and visuals, the work explores commitment, community, and intimacy in times of violence and strife. DDD's trademark empathy, sly humor, and bombastic physicality are harnessed to examine LOVE as both sociopolitical and intimate weather systems. View trailer [HERE](#).

COME, AND BACK AGAIN (2013)

is an evening-length elegiac exploration of the virtuosity of daily life, vulnerability, and mortality. Driven by the charged poetry and unapologetic, raw ferocity of indie, punk, and folk-rock music including venerated artists such as Atlanta, GA band "Smoke" and Patti Smith, the godmother of punk, five dancers and five musicians embark on a kinetic anthem of reckless personal abandon - taking on time, and how memory influences and manages our slippery, elastic existence. View trailer [HERE](#).

PROPHETS OF FUNK (2011)

is an evening that celebrates Sly and the Family Stone's groundbreaking, visceral, powerful music, and the struggles and celebration of everyday people. Dorfman and Sly and the Family Stone find common purpose in the prophetic possibilities of music and dance that invite everyday people to find ardor in the muck and mess -- the funk -- of life. View trailer [HERE](#).

REPERTORY

DDD'S CREATIVE PROJECTS INCLUDE:

UNDERGROUND (2009)

explores the principles of political activism in the 1960s, in particular, the activities of the Weather Underground and asks the questions: when can activism become terrorism, or vice versa, and is condoned or endorsed killing/destruction ever justified? View trailer [HERE](#).

DISAVOWAL (2008)

is inspired by the life and legend of radical abolitionist and (in)famous "race traitor" John Brown, is a flight of movement imagination on the stakes of racial identity, commitment, and the possibility of freedom and choice under conditions of white supremacy. Disavowal probes the fight versus flight relationship between militancy, civility, and conviction, asking: What price are we willing to pay for our deepest commitments? What are we willing to die for and to live for? View trailer [HERE](#).

PLEASE VISIT [OUR WEBSITE](#) FOR ADDITIONAL REPERTORY INFORMATION. PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.



PRESS

"Maybe it's just the times, divisive and hateful, but Dorfman's work, both frantic and surreal, had me contemplating how we can grab hold of each other, in a loving embrace and not let go."

-WENDY LIBERATORE, TO THE POINTE BLOG

"...(A) Way Out of My Body frets and wallows in the predicament of having a body and the desire to escape it..."

-BRIAN SEIBERT, THE NEW YORKER

"...big hearted, idea-driven, smart and shaggy..."

-DEBORAH JOWITT, ARTS JOURNAL

"...full throttle, non-stop, exuberant dancing; high kicking, hip-swiveling, pelvis thrusting, backflipping, head bobbing, toe tapping FUN."

— BESS J. M. HOCHSTEIN, RURAL INTELLIGENCE

"...Dorfman's energetic ensemble keeps alive the gospel of humanity, theatricality and good ol' soul."

— JULIE MULLINS, CITY BEAT CINCINNATI

"...the viewer is never bored when watching his work unfold."

— ALAINE HANDA, THE LUXURY SPOT BLOG

ARTICLES

Is Dance Underfunded Because It's Undervalued?

-DANCE MAGAZINE

A Transcendent 'Indecent' at the Huntington

-THE BOSTON GLOBE

David Dorfman Announced as a United States Fellow

-PITTSBURGH IN THE ROUND

"...the viewer is never bored when watching his work
New London's Adam Schmidt and David Dorfman
bring dance program to at-risk youths in El Salvador
unfold."

-THE DAY

What Wendy's Watching: David Dorfman Portrays
Hope & Tenderness

-WENDY PERRON

Dorfman wins Lortel Award for 'Indecent'
choreography

-THE DAY

Getting Site-Specific at The Met

-METMUSEUM.ORG

Photos of David Dorfman by Cat Evans and Maria Baranova. truce songs photos by Emily Moore and Haley Lowenthal. (A)Way Out of My Body photos by Jack Beal and Maria Baranova. Aroundtown and Prophets of Funk photos by Adam Campos.