



The Danny Grossman Dance Company COMPANY CALENDAR

- October 2007 Annual General Meeting and Season Opener
- October 12 & 13, 2007 *Manzilen - A Journey*, Premiere Dance Theatre featuring *Allegory* a co-creation by Rina Singha and Danny Grossman. *Allegory* also features guest performances by Danny Grossman and Eddie Kastrau.
- February 2008 *Save Your Endangered Dances* - A hands-on workshop for the dance community on preserving a dance, using the methodology developed in creating the Grossman Collection.
- February -April, 2008 The Grossman Choreographic Legacy Project continues with the documentation of important Grossman dances.
- April 17-19, 2008 *Lead Belly*, a new Grossman creation premieres on Ballet Creole's company at Premiere Dance Theatre.
- May 2008 The Grossman Exhibit - a weeklong performance event in conjunction with exhibits and interactive installations that celebrate the company's extraordinary three decades as one of Canada's most popular modern dance companies.

* Precise dates, locations and further details about the Grossman Exhibit will be released at a later date.

We want to hear from you!



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danny grossman dance matters



September 2007

A Letter From Danny

Dear Friends,

Here we are already in September and another season is upon us. I have had a reflective summer, full of great joy and deep sadness. The joyful days were spent over four weeks in Saratoga Springs on faculty at New York State Summer School of the Arts, teaching my dances to a group of highly talented teenagers who represent some of the best talent in the state. Also this summer, company members Eddie Kastrau, Mairead Filgate, Meredith Thompson and Eugene Cerneacov toured with Dusk Dances in parks throughout Ontario in June and July with the audience favourite, Bella. At every stop, audiences were enchanted with the performances and exquisite settings.

With sadness, I inform you that my mother Hazel Grossman died in July at her home in San Francisco. I had just been to see her in June of this year, and I find some solace knowing that she passed away in the comfort of her home surrounded by family. As many of you will know, I have been very influenced by both my parents and their commitment and courage to address the issues of our times and make change in society. You will read about Hazel's life work in this issue. On October 20, 2007, there will be a memorial in San Francisco celebrating her life and her work for peace and women's rights and equality.

So what does 2007/2008 have in store? Well, to begin, 2007/2008 is no ordinary season. Founded on November 3, 1977, the company enters its 30th anniversary season, and my 32nd year of creation. To celebrate, we announced new plans recently to mount a very special week long performance event in May 2008. Accompanying the presentation of many classic Grossman works will be a unique retrospective exhibit and interactive installation celebrating our entire 30 years of creation and innovation. This exciting multi-layered event will replace our advertised January performance season at Harbourfront's Premiere Dance Theatre.

The decision follows the news of our impending elimination from operating funding by the Canada Council. While the council has generously supported our three year cycle to preserve a "Grossman Collection" they are unable to continue their support for preservation through the creation and production program. The Council has identified dance preservation as an important issue and will host national discussions on the need for preservation and the funding of dance preservation activities across the country. In the meantime, we find ourselves now accelerating a transition already in progress to become an institute for the licensing and teaching of my dances.

Our special anniversary event is scheduled for May 2008. The event will allow our audiences the chance to experience a breadth of choreography, a body of work, and the complete history of our company. It will also allow us the opportunity to showcase the work we have done recently to preserve a lifetime of dance creations. We hope you will join us for this celebration and stay tuned for more information on the event as it develops.

We continue to be pioneers in dance with our choreographic legacy project, and are on track for the evolution into an institute for the promotion, licensing and teaching of my works across North America.

See you at our events this season!

All the best,

Danny



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Danny Grossman Dance gratefully acknowledges the support of our funders.

Remembering Hazel Grossman

(1913-2007)

Hazel (McKannay) Grossman was born in San Francisco (in the mission) in 1913 to Irish-American parents. Hazel's dad loved to read Shakespeare and Burns. He taught her that it is the ordinary person who should be admired not the king or the aristocrat. Although her true love was literature, she studied Economics at U.C. Berkeley. It was here where she met her future husband Aubrey Grossman at a student meeting at the time Hitler was rising in Europe, and America was silent. At that time, students were not allowed to meet on campus to discuss politics. This was the first free speech movement at Berkeley. They married in 1938 and had two children, Kathy and Dan. She and Aubrey instilled the love of art as well as the passion for positive social change in their children. Together with her late husband of 61 years, Hazel and Aubrey shared a lifelong commitment to pursuing activities to promote peace and justice.

Hazel dedicated a lifetime to the struggle for world peace and equality. For four decades she worked with local and international peace groups for nuclear disarmament and to end wars in Vietnam and Central America. She walked her last picket line at age 80 where she was arrested and prosecuted for exercising her constitutional right to visit her congressional representatives. She was defended by her husband Aubrey Grossman. The charges were ultimately dropped.

For many years she published the newsletter for the San Francisco branch of WILPF (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom) to which she also contributed her poetry. She was known for her generosity, elegant dress and manners, and her love of Ireland.

There will be a Memorial Gathering on Oct. 20, 4-6 pm at 88 Turquoise Way, San Francisco.

To trees
they do not speak
they speak to me
language without sound
they furnish the air
I and others breathe
they speak for us
without their silence
there would be no life

-Hazel Grossman (1989)



Dusk Dances 2007

This past summer marked the 13th season of the hugely popular dance festival, Dusk Dances. Congratulations to our company members, Eddie Kastrau, Mairead Filgate, Eugene Cerneacov, and Meredith Thompson for their spectacular performances in *Bella!*

Founded by dancer/choreographer, Sylvie Bouchard in 1993, Dusk Dances features an array of contemporary and traditional dances presented nightly at parks across Ontario. This year, more than 4,700 people of all ages were entertained at sunset in Chatham, Kingston, Toronto, Haliburton, Manitoulin, and Deep River. Neighborhoods all came alive when Eddie and Mairead performed Grossman's enchanting lovers duet, *Bella*. Continuing on with the tour and bringing further recognition of the beauty of this piece was Eugene and Meredith.

Did You Know...?

...that there are 2 horses for *Bella*? The original horse is a Mary Kerr design, nicknamed "Bella" after Chagall's first wife. The horse on the Dusk Dances Tour is a replica, built many years ago for Theatre Ballet Canada and thought lost to history. The "newer" horse, which we nicknamed "Vava" (after Chagall's 2nd wife) was found in Ottawa in need of some TLC. Dusk Dances marked her first performance post-retrofit, and we are pleased to report that Vava didn't "break a leg". Special thanks to Mike Jotoff of Axial Lighting for his generous donation of the horse for re-furbishing.

Kindred Collaborators Re-Unite

Long time collaborators Rina Singha and Danny Grossman re-unite in October for *Manzilen – A Journey*. The show celebrates Kathak Master Rina Singha's 40 years of bringing Kathak dance to Canada, her 50 years as a soloist performer, as well as her 70th birthday!

Manzilen- A Journey features new choreographies by Rina Singha as well as a re-visit to the work, *Allegory*, co-created by Rina Singha and Danny Grossman in the year 2000. *Allegory*, created in celebration of 2,000 years of Judaism and Christianity in India, will be performed by Kathak dancers and guest performers Danny Grossman and Eddie Kastrau.

Allegory is a quartet thematically based on the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. The style of dance is Kathak in nature, based on rhythm structures. Like many of their collaborations, the work also features strong modern dance moves and motifs by Grossman that lend themselves to the telling of the story.

Danny Grossman and Rina Singha have been collaborators since 1991. Ever aligned in their humanitarian values and beliefs, they have co-created a number of works including *It Shall Come to Pass*.



Manzilen- A Journey runs Friday, October 12 and Saturday, October 13 8pm, at Premiere Dance Theatre, Box Office: 416 973 4000.

Summertime at NYSSSA

Every Summer, Danny Grossman spends a month at Saratoga Springs, New York as faculty member at New York State Summer School for the Arts. This state-run, highly regarded program, partners with American Dance Legacy Institute and Brown University to deliver the modern dance aspect of the School.

This year's summer program was attended by over thirty teenagers. Highlights of the summer school include a faculty and student concert. In this year's faculty concert, Grossman dances were front and centre. Eddie Kastrau and Meredith Thompson performed in the 2005 duet, *Two for the Road*, and other faculty members performed in Grossman's *Triptych* and the trio from *Ecce Homo*. All three dances were enthusiastically well-received.

A week later, the students were onstage, performing in a mixed program that included the Grossman favourite *Magneto Dynamo*.

A New Creation on Ballet Creole

Since returning from Saratoga Springs this summer, Danny Grossman has not had a moment's rest. In addition to his regular tasks as artistic director and his collaboration with Rina Singha, he has also been busy at work creating a new work on Ballet Creole.

The new work, entitled *Lead Belly* will premiere in April 2008 on Ballet Creole's season at Premiere Dance Theatre. *Lead Belly* is based on happenings in the life of Louisiana blues legend Huddie Ledbetter, better known as 'Lead Belly'.