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DEBORAH
SLATER
DANCE
THEATER



Pictured: Deborah Slater Dance Theater in *The Sleepwatchers* Photo by: Robbie Sweeny

DEBORAH SLATER DANCE THEATER ANNOUNCES

30th Anniversary Season

Featuring the reprisal of one of the company's major works

The Sleepwatchers

March 28-30, 2019

ODC Theater, San Francisco

The 12-month season continues with production of a new film in April, an evening of solos at the SF International Arts Festival in May, the annual Studio 210 Residency in June/July and the World Premiere of *inCIVILITY: P.3 A Seat at the Table* in February 2020.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - December 18, 2018 -- Deborah Slater Dance Theater today announces its 2019/2020 season -- the Company's 30th season -- launching with the reprisal of one of its major works, *The Sleepwatchers*, March 28-30 at ODC Theater in San Francisco. Originally inspired by the writings

and research of Stanford sleep specialist Dr. William Dement and newly re-worked and re-cast, *The Sleepwatchers* looks at sleep metaphorically and literally, examining how it affects society's mental and physical well-being. *The Sleepwatchers* runs for three performances only **Thursday, March 28, Friday, March 29 and Saturday, March 30 at 8 pm nightly**. Tickets are \$15-\$50 and are available at <https://odc.dance/sleepwatchers> or by calling 415-863-9834. Deborah Slater Dance Theater's 30th Anniversary Season continues with performances as part of the SF International Arts Festival in May and the annual Studio 210 Residency program in June, production of a new film, *My Life was the Size of My Life*, and the world premiere of *inCIVILITY: P.3 A Seat at the Table* in February 2020.

The Sleepwatchers, critically acclaimed and nominated for an Isadora Duncan Dance Award following its premiere in 2001, is inspired by the eponymous book by Dr. William Dement, M.D., Ph.D., the world's leading authority on sleep, sleep disorders, and the dangers of sleep deprivation. In the book, Dement, the director and founder of the Stanford University Sleep Disorders Clinic and Research Center, the world's first sleep disorders center, offers his views on "sleep debt," its consequences, and dangers, champions napping during the day, and provides a history of modern sleep research while discussing his experiences studying REM sleep and its link to sleep.

For Slater, the subject is personal. "My whole family has sleep apnea and one of my brothers is a sleep specialist. I've always been fascinated by what harm lack of sleep can wreck as well as how people behave when they're sleeping," she says. "*Sleepwatchers* is a lot like a Wonderland tour through sleep deprivation: Alice doesn't get enough sleep and goes through the looking glass into restless limbs, gnawing appetites, shifting perspectives and a dose of reality."

With renewed inspiration from the recent resurgence of interest in sleep provoked by Arianna Huffington's popular 2016 book, *The Sleep Revolution: Transforming Your Life, One Night at a Time* and the 2017 studies linking sleep deprivation to increased events of memory loss and heart problems, Slater decided to revise the work with new characters and situations. "Sleep will always be relevant," Slater says. "Everything is affected by how well we rest and whether or not we are restored to a productive wakeful life or if we remain in a warped state of deprivation and dislocation due to chronic lack of sleep."

Criticaldance.org wrote upon the premiere of *The Sleepwatchers*, "Slater's choreography is magnificent....*The Sleepwatchers* did for me what all great performances do: blur the boundary between participant and observer, draw you in and make you part of a collective experience, a shared dream. In this case, there was a nightmare element -- the agony of loss and its renewal -- but also hope and the promise of some kind of resolution, revelation even, and finally, rest for the weary. Quite a journey."

The Sleepwatchers is co-directed by Jim Cave, with music by David Allen Jr., sound design by Teddy Hulsker, lighting design by Allen Willner, costumes by Jeanne Henzel and set design by Jack Carpenter. The dancer/performers for *The Sleepwatchers* are Derek Harris, Meegan Hertensteiner, Vincent Hwang, Kyle Limin, Jenny McAllister and Nol Simonse.

MCROSKEY MATTRESS COMPANY

San Francisco business and manufacturing icon, McRoskey Mattress Company is once again lending their mattresses to this production, having done so for the premiere 18 years ago. One of the most enduring San Francisco businesses, McRoskey was founded by Edward L. McRoskey and his brother Leonard in San Francisco in 1899, and continues to this day as maker and retailer of premium mattresses and box springs. McRoskey showrooms are located in Palo Alto and at 1687 Market Street in San Francisco where the dramatic third floor of the company's original location is now used for events, such as San Francisco's Silent Film Festival, book readings put on by The Green Arcade, mini concerts by students of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and the Neighborhood Performance Project, a group of neighborhood artists who prefer to perform in unexpected venues.

McRoskey CEO Robin McRoskey Azevedo, granddaughter of co-founder Edward L. McRoskey, says that McRoskey is happy to be supporting Deborah Slater Dance Theater. "We started sharing our space with small local arts groups about 15 years ago when we realized how they give so much of themselves to the City," McRoskey says. This unique partnership between local retailer and local non-profits is an unusual thing in San Francisco where commercial space is available only at astronomical costs while art spaces are rapidly disappearing. "It's a pleasure to share our space and really be a part of the community," McRoskey adds. "I get to run the business my grandfather started 119 years ago in this very building while sitting at my desk and listening to live musicians practice downstairs."

VIDEO TEASER: <https://vimeo.com/307118116>

SF INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL: May 23-June 2

Deborah Slater Dance Theater will present an evening of solos at the SF International Arts Festival, May 23-June 2, at the historic Firehouse at Fort Mason Center. The program will feature: *Beneath the Thin Skin* (1989), with text by award-winning playwright and director Julie Hebert; *Table Solo* (1984), set to an environmental sound score by Bill Fontana of the mating sounds of sage grouse; and *Grace Floats* (1988), created in collaboration with Rinde Eckert, depicting the strength and bittersweet persistence of Grace, a Maine woman surviving the loss of her husband. About the premiere of *Grace Floats* *The Philadelphia Enquirer* wrote, "In a series of deepening vignettes, a hard life was revealed in its fullness and heartbreak."

Website: <http://www.sfiarf.org>

STUDIO 210 RESIDENCY PERFORMANCES: July 26 and 27, 8pm

Studio 210 Residency was founded in 2012 as a vehicle for artists to hone their skills, experiment, and dive into making performance, emphasizing process rather than product. This residency is a unique opportunity for experienced and emerging local artists to work in the heart of San Francisco's Mission District while receiving professional feedback and mentorship from award-winning choreographer Deborah Slater. Resident Artists spend two months in intensive rehearsals at Studio 210, working in dialogue with one another and Deborah Slater, culminating in two performances of the works-in-progress and in-depth post-show audience/artist conversation. Applications open in January 2019.

2019 marks the 39th Anniversary of Studio 210, home to hundreds of Bay Artists over the years. All these artists have charged the space with creative energy, perfect for developing new ideas. Previous Resident Artists include Julie Crothers and Kuan-Hsuan Lee, 13th Floor and Sarah Cecilia, Laura Arrington and Tammy Johnson, Marina Fukushima and Beth Wilmurt, Emma Jaster and Erin Malley, Chris Black and Megan Finlay/Rapid Descent Theater and Rosemary Hannon and Nol Simonse.

Website: <https://www.deborahslater.org/residency/>

MY LIFE WAS THE SIZE OF MY LIFE (film)

Filming begins in April 2019 for the film *My Life Was the Size of My Life* based on and inspired by a poem by Jane Hirshfield. Originally created as a live performance for 8x8x8 production of *My Life* will be by Flying Moose Productions, the Bay Area's long-time filmmaker and writing team of playwright Jonathan Luskin and cameraman/editor Mark Leialoha. The premiere date will be announced at a later time.

WORLD PREMIERE OF *inCIVILITY: P.3* - February 2020

DSDT's 30th Anniversary Season culminates with the world premiere of *inCIVILITY: P.3 A Seat at the Table* about the complexity of decision making, as well as *inCIVILITY: P.2 Outrage Machine*, originally developed as part of the Combustible Series Residency at CounterPulse, on February 27-29, 2020 at ODC Theater in San Francisco. Details will be announced in 2019.

ABOUT DEBORAH SLATER DANCE THEATER

Deborah Slater Dance Theater (Art of the Matter) is dedicated to the creation of all-original performances exploring timely social issues and creating meaningful paths through life's experience using dance, education and outreach. Slater's work has been nominated for multiple Isadora Duncan Dance Awards (Izzies), winning in 2007 for *Hotel of Memories* and two for *Private Life* in 2016. She was awarded the 2015 Della Davidson Prize for innovations in Dance & Theater. Selected grants include a 2017 NEA Fellowship (her 10th), a CHIME Mentorship grant (Mentor), a TBA Mentorship (Mentee) with Berkeley Repertory Theater's Artistic Director Tony Taccone, a CHIME Across Borders Mentorship with New York choreographer David Gordon and a Gerbode Foundation Grant with playwright Julie Hébert and producer ODC Theater for *Night Falls*, a Wattis Grant for *Men Think They Are Better Than Grass*, and Rainin Foundation Grants for *Private Life* (2014), *Time's Arrow* (2017) and *inCIVILITY* (2018). Slater's co-lab film *In The Space Between* was selected for the 2018 Dance on Camera Festival at Lincoln Center. She recently completed a Combustible Series Residency at CounterPulse with software engineer John Fesenko.

Company Website: <https://www.deborahslater.org>

ABOUT DEBORAH SLATER

Deborah Slater, director, choreographer and performer, has been working in theater and dance for 30 years. Collaborations include the Magic Theater, San Diego Rep and Traveling Jewish Theater. Recent awards include the Della Davidson Prize for Innovations in Dance & Theater in 2015, two IZZIES for Special Achievement and Visual Design for *Private Life* in 2016, and a 2017 IZZIE Nomination for Darren Johnston's music for *Time's Arrow*.

Deborah Slater Dance Theater and these 2019 performances are supported in part by San Francisco Grants for the Arts, San Francisco Arts Commission, Kenneth Rainin Foundation, Fleishhacker

Foundation, Samuel Mazza Foundation, Zellerbach Family Foundation, California Arts Council and generous individuals.

Tickets for *The Sleepwatchers* are priced at \$15-\$50 and are available online at <https://odc.dance/sleepwatchers> or by phoning 415-863-9834.

Video Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/307118116>

Hi-Res Photos are available for download at: <https://www.deborahslater.org/press/>

Company Website: <https://www.deborahslater.org>

DEBORAH SLATER DANCE THEATER

CALENDAR LISTING DANCE, THEATER, MUSIC, PERFORMING ARTS

“Accessing Slater’s works can take patience, but her creations stay with you because they are formally inventive, finely crafted, and engage the mind and heart long after you leave the theater.”

-- *SF Bay Guardian*

“Slater's choreography is magnificent” -- *Criticaldance.org*

WHAT: *The Sleepwatchers (2001)*

Choreographed and Directed by Deborah Slater in collaboration with the dancers

Co-Director: Jim Cave

Music: David Allen Jr.

Sound Design: Teddy Hulsker

Lighting Design: Allen Willner

Costumes: Jeanne Henzel; Sleep Demon Costume: Kerry Mehling

Set Design: Jack Carpenter

Dancer/performers: Derek Harris, Meegan Hertensteiner, Vincent Hwang, Kyle Limin, Jenny McAllister, Nol Simonse

WHEN: Thursday, March 28 at 8 pm

Friday, March 29 at 8 pm

Saturday, March at 8 pm

TICKETS: \$15-\$50

WHERE: ODC Theater, 3153 17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110

BOX OFFICE: <https://odc.dance/sleepwatchers> or 415- 863-9834

WEBSITE: <https://www.deborahslater.org>

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