

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS CONTACT: SANDRA ORGAN

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SANDRA ORGAN DANCE COMPANY

PRESENTS

SIXTH ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM

“POETRY IN MOTION”

AT THE HOBBY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Sandra Organ Dance Company's 6th Annual Black History Month Concert will feature "Poetry in Motion" a dance concert inspired by the voices of our age. SODC dancers and choreographer Sandra Organ will use the form and vocabulary of poetry to imbue the creative dance-making process. The Company will work with diverse selections from poets Maya Angelou to Langston Hughes, Pablo Neruda to Robert Frost. SODC will collaborate with Writers in the Schools to conduct poetry/choreography workshops with students, incorporating some of their work as narratives on the dance program. Music will range from classical to contemporary as background to the literary gems captured in dance. Also presented will be guest choreographer Steve Rooks new creation, "Mini Jean's Song" a narrative work based on an untold story of one black student among those known as the Little Rock Nine who integrated Central High School.

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Sandra Organ, formerly a soloist with Houston Ballet and its first African-American ballerina, founded SODC in 1998 with the mission of promoting contemporary dance, educating the public, and attracting diverse audiences. SODC's annual Black History Month program continues this mission by introducing audiences of all ages and cultures to the prominent contributions of African Americans to American culture in conjunction with the unique style of contemporary ballet. Each year, SODC has offered matinee programs to over 1000 HISD school children free of charge, totaling in its six years over 8500 students who experienced their first concert dance experience in a theatrical setting.

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Mr. Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950) originally established Black History Month as "Negro History Week" in 1926. Mr. Woodson, born to parents who had been slaves and who could not read or write, became a high school teacher. Saddened by the lack of documentation of the history of black Americans, Mr. Woodson was inspired to start the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History.

Sandra Organ Dance Company is funded in part by grants from the Texas Commission for the Arts Decentralization Program, the City of Houston, through the Cultural Arts Council of Houston/Harris County and as a participant in CACHH's MODE Arts Business Incubator Program. This performance is underwritten in part by the Houston Endowment, Mithoff Family Foundation, Scurlock Foundation, Conoco Phillips, Exxon Mobil Foundation, Morgan Stanley and Bank of America.

For more information on the Sandra Organ Dance Company, call (713) 522-7632 or visit www.organdance.org. To purchase tickets for Sandra Organ Dance Company's sixth annual Black History Month program, call (713) 315-2525 or purchase online at www.uniquelyhouston.org. Ticket prices are \$25 for Orchestra, \$20 for Mezzanine, and \$15 for students/seniors/groups of ten or more.

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WHO: Sandra Organ Dance Company (SODC)

WHAT: "Poetry in Motion" SODC's Sixth Annual Black History Month Dance Concert

WHERE: Zilkha Hall, Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, 800 Bagby St.

WHEN: Thursday, Feb. 26, and Friday, Feb. 27, 2004 at 7:30pm.

TICKETS: Can be purchased tickets by calling (713) 315-2525 or online at www.uniquelyhouston.org. Ticket prices: \$25 for Orchestra, \$20 for Mezzanine, and \$15 for students/seniors/groups of ten or more.

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For a copy of this press release go to <http://www.organdance.org/MediaFiles/index.htm> ; also included is a link to a photo that you may access by entering the code 592003.

Information about the many educational outreach aspects to "Poetry in Motion" programming is also posted on our website for educators, students and the interested public.

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