



dance



umbrella 2004

5 October – 27 November

LONDON'S 26TH INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL OF CONTEMPORARY DANCE

**'Dance Umbrella
has shaped cultural
taste today'**
Daily Telegraph

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London

dance



umbrella 2004
at the Barbican

Tue 2 – Thu 4 November, 7.45pm
Extra Performance Fri 5 November, 7.45pm
The Pit, Barbican

**DAVID GORDON & VALDA SETTERFIELD/
PICK UP PERFORMANCE COMPANY
THE CHAIRS (UK PREMIERE)**

Original Play by
Directed/Choreographed/Designed
Translation
Music
Lighting

Eugène Ionesco
David Gordon
Michael Feingold
Michael Gordon
Jennifer Tipton

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BITE :04 barbican
BARBICAN INTERNATIONAL THEATRE EVENTS



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Please make sure that all digital watch alarms and mobile phones are switched off during the performance. In accordance with the requirements of the licensing authority, sitting or standing in any gangway is not permitted. Smoking is not allowed in the auditorium. No cameras, tape recorders or any other recording equipment may be taken into the auditorium.

We would like to remind you that in the foyer we have a range of quality ice creams, chocolate and other confectionery available for purchase this evening.

New York multiple OBIE Award winning writer/director/choreographer David Gordon continues his investigation of the metal folding chair, a career-long preoccupation, in a new production of Ionesco's classic 1958 play *The Chairs*. Gordon will perform the work with his partner of more than 40 years, Valda Setterfield, and other company members. An old couple perform a partnered dance of half remembered steps and stumbles as they bark and banter, and savor and sing the text, visible on pages and cards and fortune cookie strips of paper, and toss their words away as soon as they've been heard. The words fly. The chairs fly. The commissioned film-style score by Bang on a Can composer Michael Gordon intensifies as the percussive sound of tossed chairs accelerates. Designer Jennifer Tipton creates, with light, the space the couple inhabit which becomes packed with discarded words and an unimaginable number of chairs.

BIOGRAPHIES

DAVID GORDON (Director/Writer/Choreographer)

Director /Choreographer *The Roundheads and The Pointheads*/B.Brecht/The Actors Studio (member) 2002. Writer/Director/Choreographer *Past/Forward*/White Oak Dance Project 2000.Choreographer/Writer/*Family\$Death@Art. Com-edu*/Danspace commission 2000/Bessie. Writer/Choreographer/ *Autobiography of a Liar*/Danspace Commission 1999. Director/ Choreographer/*The First Picture Show*/ written w/A. Gordon/Mark Taper Forum Commission 1999. Awarded Pew Charitable Trust Grants in theater and in dance 1995/96. Director/Choreographer/*The Firebugs*/M.Frisch/Guthrie Theater 1995. Director/Choreographer/*Shlemiel the First*/I.B. Singer/A.R.T. & A.M.T.F. 1995/A.C.T. 1996/Geffen/ Dramalogue awards/ Choreo/Direction 1997. Writer/Director w/A.Gordon/*The Family Business*/1994/Obie. Writer/Director/*The Mysteries and What's So Funny?* /1992/Bessie/Obie/published/Grove Press. Television: PBS/Great Performances/PBS Alive TV/BBC/Channel 4/UK. Guggenheim Fellow (1981/1987.) Panelist/Chair N.E.A. Dance Program. Director/Pick Up Performance Co. (Founded 1971/inc 1978 not-for-profit org. Founding member/The Grand Union. Founding artist/Judson Church performances. Performed w/J.Waring, Y.Rainer. Upcoming projects: Choreographer/new work/ Danspace/2004. Director/choreographer *The Chairs*/E.Ionesco/Spoletto USA/BAM Harvey NextWave.

VALDA SETTERFIELD, a British-born dancer and actor, has worked with JoAnne Akalaitis, Woody Allen, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Caryl Churchill, Merce Cunningham, Graciela Daniele, Richard Foreman, Maria Irene Fornes, Brian DePalma, Ain Gordon, David Gordon, Ivo van Hove, Don Mischer, Marie Rambert, Yvonne Rainer, Donald Saddler, Michael Sexton, James Waring, Robert Wilson and Mark Wing-Davey. She received an Obie for *The Family Business* and a Bessie for Outstanding Achievement. She has been a member of the Pick Up Performance Company since its inception.

Welcome to BITE:04 and Dance Umbrella 2004

We are delighted to welcome you to this exciting programme of world-class dance from David Gordon & Valda Setterfield / Pick Up Performance Company with a UK premiere. The relationship between BITE and Dance Umbrella began in 1998, with a sell-out programme of UK premieres by the Merce Cunningham Dance Company. It was a fantastic finale to the very first BITE season, and the beginning of a fruitful relationship for all three organisations. BITE has since co-commissioned three new MCDC works - *BIPED*, *Fluid Canvas* and *Split Sides* - all presented at the Barbican as UK premieres. We are thrilled that this season continues to offer such a rich feast of new works not seen in Britain before.

Louise Jeffreys
Head of Theatre

Val Bourne CBE
Artistic Director, Dance Umbrella

Coming soon to BITE: 04

1-5 Dec | Barbican Theatre
Bamboo Dream Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan
'Asia's leading contemporary dance theatre'

For more information and tickets go to www.barbican.org.uk/bite

Dance Umbrella was founded in 1978 with the aim of reflecting and encouraging the burgeoning interest in contemporary dance in Britain. From modest beginnings as a showcase for emerging choreographers, Dance Umbrella's annual London festival is now recognised as one of the leading international dance festivals in Europe. One of Britain's most adventurous dance promoters, Dance Umbrella also organises regional tours for overseas companies.

"Dance Umbrella's inspirational approach to performance is legendary" Time Out

Over the past 26 years, Dance Umbrella has been responsible for introducing to this country some of the world's greatest contemporary dance companies, as well as nurturing, promoting and sponsoring the best of British modern dance. This was acknowledged and rewarded in June this year when Val Bourne became the recipient of a CBE.

"It is impossible for me to imagine an England without Val Bourne and without her beautiful organisation. Hail Dance Umbrella!" Mark Morris (2003)

Dance Umbrella is:

Artistic Director **Val Bourne CBE**
Associate Artistic Director **Betsy Gregory**
General Manager **Toby Beazley**
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Fundraising Volunteer **Ann Yee**
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Tel 020 7383 0496
Festival Co-ordinator **Silvia Maroino**

Dance Umbrella Board

Chair: Richard Jarman
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Dance Umbrella Development Committee

Alexander Duma, Lindy Mason, Peter Pih, Andrew Welch

SUPPORTING DANCE UMBRELLA

Dance Umbrella cannot survive on ticket sales alone. Financial support from individual supporters, therefore, plays a significant role in ensuring the success of our artistic programme. Every donation made through our Supporters' Scheme is crucial to us, helping us to nurture new talent and bring exceptional work to an even wider audience. You can help us build upon and further our artistic goals – here's how....

Become a member of our Supporters' Scheme which will enable you to become more involved with Dance Umbrella at a level of your choice or become a **DU Benefactor** and contribute to a new dance work. Whatever your option, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are playing a vital part in helping us to present quality contemporary dance to as many people as possible. For more information about supporting Dance Umbrella contact: Fern Potter, Head of Development on (44) 208 8741 4040 or email: fern@danceumbrella.co.uk.

Dance Umbrella gratefully acknowledges the following supporters:

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Federica Zagari
and all members of Dance Umbrella's
Supporters' Scheme

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Supported by

Dance Umbrella
20 Chancellors Street
London W6 9RN
020 8741 4040