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TRAVESTY DANCE GROUP

has been hailed for its

"fresh and wacky choreography" (BACKSTAGE NYC),
"lush music and moves" (Dance Source Houston), and its
"coherence, humor and exuberant dancing"
(CoolCleveland.com)

*Poetry, song, diversity, and holiday spirit come together this December in
Travesty Dance Group's new repertory show **PORTABLES!***

TRAVESTY DANCE GROUP, a multi-city dance company known for its "quirky and intelligent modern dance", returns to the Hobby Center for Performing Arts in **PORTABLES**, an evening of dance featuring seven new works by choreographer and Houston Director Karen Stokes. The nine member Houston-based company will have three performances in the Zilkha Hall, located at 800 Bagby St. in downtown Houston, on **December 11 & 12 at 7:30 p.m., and a special holiday twilight show on December 13 at 6:30 p.m.**

Each of the dances in **PORTABLES** vary in atmospheres and thematic content, ranging from humorous and delightful, to mysterious and soulful. Works in the concert are *Orange, Program, Transparent, Raw Silk, Interlude 1, Sorbet, and Balance.*

Orange and *Transparent* follow the color theme initiated by Stokes in her 2007 work "Green." In both of these works, Stokes explores the essence of the color (or non-color) through an interpretation of the meanings and emotions inspired by the title. *Transparent* is performed to original music by Rob Smith of *Musiqqa*. The score was created from the ground up with the choreography as an original collaboration. The Smith/Stokes collaboration included an exploration of Margaret Atwood's poem "Variation on the Word Sleep," which finishes with the haunting refrain:

*I would like to be the air
that inhabits you for a moment
only. I would like to be that unnoticed
& that necessary.*

Orange jumps into the quirky fast driving dance world of Stokes, combining task oriented themes with the rich percussive music of contemporary composer Bill Ryan and an original video projection that elaborates on the theme. Also inspired by the cool hypnotic jazz sounds of Bill Ryan, is *RAW Silk*, which combines gestural intricacies with explosive trajectories to mesmerizing effect. In the dance *Balance*, performers explore the dark side of thinking. With dark humor, people return from the dead to comment on the diabolical imaginings of the brain as it over-thinks and loses itself to ego-driven purpose. Stokes takes to the stage herself in a new song and dance solo in *Interlude 1*, which touches on loss and memory. The song uses lyrics from a poem by Edna St. Vincent Millay, with Stokes providing the vocal score.

As a grand finale, Stokes reveals her long-time attachment to the rich music of Mozart in her joyful romp "Sorbet." Here the audience will enjoy the sheer joy of dance. Eight dancers clad in bright candy colored costumes swirl, leap, and roll to a festival of balloons. As the finale, *Sorbet*, brings a joyful holiday conclusion to the evening.

Tickets can be purchased through the Hobby Center Box office at (713) 315-2525 or at www.thehobbycenter.org. Tickets are \$26.50, with discounts for groups and students with IDs.

For more information on Travesty Dance Group, please visit the company's website at www.travestydancegroup.org.



SORBET 2008