

# Press Release

## THE 11 O'CLOCK NEW(S)

presents

### MARTHA BOWERS

# DANCE/THEATRE/ETCETERA



219 W 19th Street  
New York, NY

10011

212 691 6500

For press information  
and reservations:

Brian Jucha  
David R. White  
(212) 691-6500

For audience reservations: (212) 924-0077  
(Voice/TDD)

March 8, 1988

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHOREOGRAPHER MARTHA BOWERS DANCE/THEATRE/ETCETERA TO PREMIERE "ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES" ON THE 11 O'CLOCK NEW(S), DTW'S LATE NIGHT SERIES OF EXPERIMENTAL DANCE AND THEATER, APRIL 8 & 9, 15 & 16 AT 11 P.M. (FRIDAY AND SATURDAYS).

The multi-faceted and thoughtful MARTHA BOWERS DANCE/THEATRE/ETCETERA to premiere Environmental Studies, a program of new works on DTW's 11 O'CLOCK NEW(S) in a special two-week engagement. Performances will take place at DTW's Bessie Schönberg Theater, 219 West 19th Street, in New York City. The opening night performance will be Friday, April 8 at 11 p.m. The entire schedule of performances is as follows:

Friday & Saturday	April 8 & 9	at 11 p.m.
Friday & Saturday	April 15 & 16	at 11 p.m.

Admission will be \$8 or by TDF voucher plus \$2. Telephone reservations are recommended and may be made by calling (212) 924-0077 (Voice/TDD).

Environmental Studies has been especially commissioned for these performances by Dance Theater Workshop's FIRST LIGHT project through Jerome Foundation, St. Paul, MN.

Jack Anderson has written in The New York Times, "MARTHA BOWERS is not afraid to think. Nor is she afraid to be unabashedly emotional." Wilma Salisbury of The Cleveland Plain Dealer characterizes her work as "imaginative . . . hilarious . . . post modern dances of intelligence and wit." Ms. Bowers' works examine relationships, express feelings and reflect upon socio-political topics. She is noted for unusual, sometimes comic juxtapositions of text and image. At DTW, Martha Bowers Dance/Theatre/Etcetera will perform Environmental Studies, a series of short pieces which deal with human behavior in specific habitats. In The Fine Art of Sauntering, Ms. Bowers will be joined by performance artist HANK SMITH in an eccentric duet which explores the urban landscape in a sauntering fashion reminiscent of Thoreau's excursions around Walden Pond. Also on the program is Sirens of the Stoop, set to a score that interweaves interviews with lifelong Brooklyn inhabitants with music composed by SCOTT LEHRER. Gestural material developed through repetition creates a portrait of these women who see themselves as the guardians of the neighborhood. The program will conclude with Decoy, set to an original score by CHRIS HYAMS-HART. This darkly romantic piece for six dancers was originally commissioned by the PITTSBURGH DANCE ALLOY, who will perform the work at DTW.

Appearing with Ms. Bowers will be company members FLORENCE BENEVENTO, CLARE

Admission will be \$8 or by TDF voucher plus \$2. Telephone reservations are recommended and may be made by calling (212) 924-0077 (Voice/TDD).

Environmental Studies has been especially commissioned for these performances by Dance Theater Workshop's FIRST LIGHT project through Jerome Foundation, St. Paul, MN.

Jack Anderson has written in The New York Times, "MARTHA BOWERS is not afraid to think. Nor is she afraid to be unabashedly emotional." Wilma Salisbury of The Cleveland Plain Dealer characterizes her work as "imaginative . . . hilarious . . . post modern dances of intelligence and wit." Ms. Bowers' works examine relationships, express feelings and reflect upon socio-political topics. She is noted for unusual, sometimes comic juxtapositions of text and image. At DTW, Martha Bowers Dance/Theatre/Etcetera will perform Environmental Studies, a series of short pieces which deal with human behavior in specific habitats. In The Fine Art of Sauntering, Ms. Bowers will be joined by performance artist HANK SMITH in an eccentric duet which explores the urban landscape in a sauntering fashion reminiscent of Thoreau's excursions around Walden Pond. Also on the program is Sirens of the Stoop, set to a score that interweaves interviews with lifelong Brooklyn inhabitants with music composed by SCOTT LEHRER. Gestural material developed through repetition creates a portrait of these women who see themselves as the guardians of the neighborhood. The program will conclude with Decoy, set to an original score by CHRIS HYAMS-HART. This darkly romantic piece for six dancers was originally commissioned by the PITTSBURGH DANCE ALLOY, who will perform the work at DTW. Appearing with Ms. Bowers will be company members FLORENCE BENEVENTO, CLARE MAXWELL, SCOT WILLINGHAM and special guest artists.

MORE . . .

MARTHA BOWERS began her formal dance training in high school with Flamenco dancer Maria Benitez. After graduating from Sarah Lawrence College, where she studied with Bessie Schönberg, she moved to New York City in 1976 and began presenting concerts of her own work. In 1981 Ms. Bowers helped to form the organization Dancers for Disarmament and involved herself in many workshops and performances which combined politics and dance. Soon after that she formed her dance company Martha Bowers Dance/Theatre/Etcetera as a vehicle to produce her choreographic projects. A recipient of two Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and a special double Fellowship from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, she has also been awarded two commissions from Jerome Foundation of St. Paul, MN. A frequent guest choreographer, Ms. Bowers has set her work on a variety of both student and professional dance groups including Toronto DanceMakers, Dublin Contemporary Dance Theatre, Barefoot Dance Company, DansTeater UpperCut of Denmark, Boston's Performing Arts Ensemble and the Pittsburgh Dance Alloy. She has taught at numerous schools, colleges, universities and is currently a teaching artist for the Lincoln Center Institute. In theatre, she has worked as both performer and choreographer. For three years she has been on the faculty of Boston University's Summer Theatre Institute. Alone and with her company, Ms. Bowers has toured both nationally and internationally performing and teaching. She lives with her family in Brooklyn, New York.

This presentation of MARTHA BOWERS is a full production project of Dance Theater Workshop, Inc., and is supported in part with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency); the New York State Council on the Arts; the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; and Materials for the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

DTW also acknowledges, with heartfelt appreciation, the private assistance and commitment to these programs of Art Matters Inc.; AT&T; The Bankers Trust Company Group; Ballet Makers Dance Foundation Inc.; The Birsh Foundation; Booth Ferris Foundation; Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust; The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A.; Chemical Bank; Robert Sterling Clark Foundation; The Coca-Cola Foundation; Consolidated Edison; DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund, Inc.; Exxon Corporation; The Ford Foundation; Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts, Inc.; Fund for the City of New York; Harkness Ballet Foundation, Inc.; JCT Foundation; Jerome Foundation; W. Alton Jones Foundation, Inc., of Charlottesville, VA; Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company; Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation; Metropolitan Life Foundation; Mobil Foundation; Morgan Guaranty Trust Company; National Broadcasting Company, Inc.; New York Telephone Company; The New York Times Company Foundation, Inc.; The Pew Charitable Trusts; Philip Morris Companies Inc.; The Reed Foundation, Inc.; Jerome Robbins Foundation; The Rockefeller Foundation; Billy Rose Foundation; The Peg Santvoord Foundation, Inc.; The Scherman Foundation, Inc.; Emma A. Sheafer Charitable Trust; The Shubert Foundation; and "Friends of DTW". DTW receives additional corporate support from Morgan Guaranty Trust Company; Philip Morris Companies Inc.; The Rockefeller Foundation; and Time Inc., through employee matching contributions programs.

David R. White is the series producer of DTW Presents.

-END-