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Press Release

The Winter Events 1984 presents

MARTHA BOWERS

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January 20, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARTHA BOWERS DANCE/THEATRE/ETCETERA TO PREMIERE "FRAMES OF REFERENCE" ON DTW'S "THE WINTER EVENTS 1984" SEASON (FEBRUARY 23-26, 1984: THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8 P.M., SUNDAY AT 3 P.M.)

Choreographer MARTHA BOWERS will present the premiere of Frames of Reference, a quintet with music by FRANK FERRUCCI and sound design by SCOTT LEHRER. Commissioned especially for the occasion by Dance Theater Workshop under a grant from Jerome Foundation of Saint Paul, Minnesota, Frames of Reference will be presented as part of DTW's "The Winter Events 1984" season, at DTW's Bessie Schönberg Theater, 219 West 19th Street, in New York City. The opening night performance will Thursday, February 23rd, at 8 p.m., with further performances Friday and Saturday, February 24th and 25th, also at 8 p.m., and Sunday, February 26th, at 3 p.m. (matinee). Admission will be \$7.00 or by TDF voucher plus \$2.00. Telephone reservations are recommended and may be made by calling (212) 924-0077 (voice/TDD/TTY).

MARTHA BOWERS, "a choreographer with a keen eye for humorous situations and a terrifically appealing performer" (Anne Levin, Other Stages), combines dance, theater, autobiography and documentary texts into works which are rich in character, wit and social observation. The movement material evolves through the exploration of emotional, visual and intellectual subtexts and their physical expression, resulting in an often highly athletic dance style peppered with idiosyncratic gestural detail. At DTW, Ms. Bowers will premiere Frames of Reference, a dance in four sections with music composed by FRANK FERRUCCI and sound design by SCOTT LEHRER. Opening with a Rorschach test for the audience, Frames of Reference examines how perceptual differences effect one's ability to empathize in both personal relationships and in issues of social concern. Visual effects, including a set and slides, were designed by the choreographer in collaboration with Geanna Merola and Mitchell Rose. Frames of Reference has been commissioned especially for the occasion by Dance Theater Workshop under a grant from Jerome Foundation of Saint Paul, Minnesota.

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The evening will also include Tango Echo Bravo Romeo November, a darkly comic dance about the arms race. This work was part of the repertory of the Caravan Dancers who toured the Northeast last spring under the auspices of the Performing Artists for Nuclear Disarmament. For these DTW performances, Ms. Bowers has added a new section with slides of aerial photographs provided by the U. S. Geological Center. Music for the piece is also by Frank Ferrucci. The program will be completed by a new solo performed by Ms. Bowers which includes a humorous monologue written by Jan Kirschner of the comedy group "Slap Happy". Appearing with Ms. Bowers will be the four members of her company Dance/Theatre/Etcetera: Ron Dabney, Mary D'Elia, Donna Oberstein and Michael Davis. Lighting design is by Phil Sandström, DTW's resident designer.

MARTHA BOWERS has been presenting her work in New York City since 1976. In 1979/80, she performed and taught throughout the metropolitan area under the auspices of the Cultural Council Foundation's CETA Artists' Project and Hospital Audiences. She is also the recipient of a 1981/82 Choreographers' Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. In addition to performing her own work, she has appeared in collaboration with dance humourist, Mitchell Rose under the auspices of Dance Theater Workshop, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and the New York Dance Festival at the Delacorte, among others. She is a founding member of Harry Streeper's Third Dance Theatre and has performed as a guest artist with the New York Baroque Dance Company, June Finch and Family, Billy Siegenfeld, and the street theatre company of Theatre for the New City. Currently, Ms. Bowers lives in a loft in Hoboken, New Jersey and is an active member of Dancers For Disarmament.

This presentation of MARTHA BOWERS is a full production project of Dance Theater Workshop, Inc., and is made possible in part with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. DTW also acknowledges, with appreciation, the private assistance of AT&T; Capezio Foundation; Robert Sterling Clark Foundation; Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc.; Consolidated Edison; Equitable Life Assurance Society; the Dover Fund; Exxon Corporation; the Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts; Fund for the City of New York; Grace Foundation; Jerome Foundation; the Mailman Foundation; Metropolitan Life Foundation; Mobil Foundation, Inc.; Morgan Guaranty Trust Company; New York Community Trust; New York Telephone; Philip Morris, Inc.; the Jerome Robbins Foundation; Rockefeller Brothers Fund; the Samuel Rubin Foundation; Schlumberger Ltd.; the Shubert Foundation; gifts in memory of Shepard Traube; the Village Voice; Warner Communications, Inc.; and the "Friends of DTW".

David R. White is the series producer.

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