



*LEVYdance ignites its audience's
awareness of a shared human experience
through the art of dance*



Founded in 2002, by Benjamin Levy, Artistic Director, **LEVYdance** has developed into a recognized performing arts organization with a distinct artistic aesthetic that has earned accolades from *The San Francisco Chronicle* to *The New York Times*.

LEVYdance has presented original works at prestigious venues across the nation including the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater, Zellerbach Playhouse, ODC Theater, The Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Cowell Theater, Dance Place, Joyce SoHo, and internationally at VDU University in Kaunas, Lithuania. LEVYdance's 2008 home season came to life on custom staging under the stars against the backdrop of mural-painted brick buildings in the streets of San Francisco's industrial SOMA district. *The San Francisco Chronicle* described the production as a "beguiling frame for ambitious work". Touring endeavors, both national and international, continue to expand, including a performance in Tanzmesse, Germany and a residency in France in the summer of 2010.

Among LEVYdance's distinguished creative collaborators are The Kronos Quartet, The Los Angeles Philharmonic, composers Keeril Makan, Mason Bates and Jeremy Zuckerman, French Couture designer Colleen Quen, and industrial designer Rick Lee.

The company regularly conducts master classes and holds residencies and workshops at universities on the West and East Coasts. LEVYdance also hosts a Summer Intensive for college and pre-professional dancers at Studio Gracia, which is home to the company for rehearsals and also houses the administrative offices of LEVYdance. There are currently more than ten different disciplines of dance classes being taught at Studio Gracia each week.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING WORK

Everyone Intimate Alone Visibly (2010) explores communication technology as both moderator and interference in human connectivity. In this piece, web cameras create a performance space "hot zone" where movements, colors and shapes trigger the projection of animations, video, and lighting effects that respond to the choreography and audience in real time. A multi-layered sonic environment scores the movement as the weight, speed, attack and emotional tenor of the movements and sounds interact. The result is an active space where the music and dance are equal players.

LEVYdance is proud to announce the development of *The Sum of Its Parts* (2011) – a multi-disciplinary, interactive technical installation dance work. *The Sum of Its Parts* will explore the intersection between technology and communication and how new portals of cyber interaction affect human intimacy and connection. The anticipated performance will incorporate dance, new media such as motion tracking and computer generated animation, sonic art, and other interactive elements engaged in by the audience as well as the performers. The audience will have the opportunity to interact with this exhibit, which will invite them to "dance" or "communicate" with a virtual partner, making the computer a second self and finding a soul in the machine. The audience will move through scenes and pathways that create a full-sensory context, eschewing the fourth wall of the traditional performance format.

Benjamin Levy is a choreographer, dancer, and director based in San Francisco who is recognized for his cutting-edge interdisciplinary works that explore the nuance and drama of human intimacy. Levy founded LEVYdance in 2002. LEVYdance very quickly became known for its outstanding works and collaborations and in 2004 Levy was named one of the "Top 25 Choreographers to Watch" by *Dance Magazine* and awarded a *San Francisco Bay Guardian* Goldie Award for Outstanding Artistic Achievement. Levy has also been awarded a Choreographic Fellowship from the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography and a 2005 Emerging Choreographer Award from the Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation.

COMPANY

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