

## Traveling the country with Jessica Lang

Jessica began her four-month tour at the end of July when she traveled to Chicago to create her new work *Crossed* for the Joffrey Ballet. The company will premiere the work in April 2010.

While in Chicago during the month of August, Jessica had been one of five choreographers selected to be a part of the 2009 Chicago Dancing Festival's inaugural *New Voices* program. The evening that showcased a new generation of American choreographers included the works of Robert Battle, Azure Barton, Trey McIntyre, and Edward Liang. (See review below.)

From Chicago, Lang traveled to Richmond Ballet and created her fifth world premiere for the company entitled *Lines Squared* inspired from the artwork of Piet Mondrian.

In September Lang spent a week at Texas Christian University staging her ballet *Confessions* for their 60th-year celebration while Maxim Beloserkovsky and Irina Dvorovenko toured her acclaimed *Splendid Isolation III* to Singapore where they performed in the Singapore Sun Festival. Currently Lang is working with Kansas City Ballet where she is staging *Splendid Isolation III* and simultaneously creating a world premiere for the company's spring 2010 performance series. And for the fourth consecutive season, *Splendid Isolation II* will remain in the active repertoire of Ailey II and will continue to be performed on tour throughout the U.S. during the company's 2009-10 season.

At the end of October Lang will stage her work *Prayers* during her residency at Goucher College. She will continue her travels returning to Richmond Ballet for the premiere of *Lines Squared*, after which she will be in residence at the University of Richmond to create a new work for their 25th anniversary celebration.



All photos by Herbert Migdol

Victoria Jajani & Jessica Lang



Victoria Jajani & Valerie Robin



Left to right: Michael Smith, Mauro Villanueva, Thomas Nicholas, Jonathan Dummar

### PRESS: Chicago Dancing Festival Review

The evening's most breathtaking work - Jessica Lang's "*To Familiar Spaces in Dream*" - came first. Exquisitely danced by the Virginia-based Richmond Ballet (a real revelation here), it was an all but impossible piece to top. It also created a sense of keen anticipation at the prospect of seeing Lang's upcoming commission for the Joffrey Ballet, which debuts in spring 2010.

If architecture is sometimes defined as "frozen music," Lang's work for eight dancers and a collection of squared-off white columns of varying heights might be described as "liquid architecture." Set to the music of Philip Glass, Craig Armstrong and John Cage, the work's interplay of human forms and architectural building blocks suggested countless subtly shifting moods and meanings. Most wondrously, it consistently managed to feel charged with emotion and meaning rather than abstract theory.

The sleek dancers, in Tamara Cobus' intriguingly textured white costumes, were marvelous in their pairing of precision and grace, with Lauren Fagone and Maggie Small the particularly outstanding members of a masterful ensemble that also included Shira Lanyi, Valerie Tellmann, Jesse Bechard, Thomas Garrett, Kirk Henning and Thomas Ragland. A hypnotic piece from first image to last."

**Hedy Weiss**  
*Chicago Sun-Times*  
August 20, 2009



Suzanne Grandis

### COMING UP

#### ► Kansas City, MO

October 15-18

*Splendid Isolation III*

Performed by Kansas City Ballet

Lyric Theater

301 W. 13th Street

For Tickets:

816-931-2232 or 888-968-2538

[www.kansascityballet.org](http://www.kansascityballet.org)

#### ► Richmond, VA

November 3-8

*Lines Squared*

World Premiere

Performed by Richmond Ballet

407 East Canal Street

Ticketmaster at 1-800-982-2787

[ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com)

[www.richmondballet.com](http://www.richmondballet.com)

#### ► Fort Worth, TX

November 6-8

*Confessions*

Performed by Texas Christian University

Ed Landreth Auditorium

2800 South University Drive

[www.tcu.edu](http://www.tcu.edu)

#### ► Baltimore, MD

November 19-21

*Prayers*

Performed by Goucher College

Kraushaar Auditorium

[www.goucher.edu](http://www.goucher.edu)

► All shows listed have multiple dates and times.  
Please check Web site for details.

