

Richmond  
Ballet  
performing  
*Lines  
Squared.*

# Newsletter from Jessica Lang

December 2009

## Looking back, moving forward

2009 was a challenging year that provided many new and wonderful experiences. Lang had the privilege to work with outstanding companies, universities and schools around the country and is so grateful for the many valuable opportunities. This year culminated with her fifth premiere for Richmond Ballet entitled *Lines Squared*, inspired by Piet Mondrian's iconic paintings that resulted in record-breaking ticket sales. (See *photos and review.*)

2010 is promising to be another rewarding year. In April, Richmond Ballet will bring Lang's critically acclaimed work *To Familiar Spaces in Dream* to the Joyce Theater in New York City during its spring season. Later that month she will premiere her work *Crossed* for The Joffrey Ballet for their Eclectica performance series at the Auditorium Theater in Chicago. Following this, Kansas City Ballet will premiere her piece, *A Solo in Nine Parts* in the company's spring program at the Lyric Theatre in Kansas City.

Lang's plans for 2010 keep her traveling around the country creating and premiering her work and she will soon be sharing more exciting projects with you.



### PRESS: *Lines Squared* Review

Jessica Lang's latest premiere at Richmond Ballet, "Lines Squared," shows the company at its best. It's a complete package – dancers, costumes, music, set, lights – put together from a great concept by a choreographer who knows her dancers well. The inspiration for the piece lies in the spare, geometric paintings of Piet Mondrian: horizontal and vertical patterns of black lines on white, with occasional blocks of primary color.

Against a black and white backdrop that mimics those paintings – with lines that shift to form new patterns periodically throughout the piece – dancers surge across the stage in rows that interlock or intersect. Lang's movement effortlessly melds the two-dimensional concept with three-dimensional bodies: The dancers bend elbows and knees at right angles, move in straight lines or square patterns, but remain alive and fluid. Circular movements, such as a head roll or the sweeping arc of an arm, feel lush by contrast.

The work progresses from its ensemble opening through three sections in the red, yellow and blue of dancers' costumes and lights, with dancers exemplifying the character and emotion of those colors – a strikingly effective choreographic device when set within the abstract world of the Mondrian paintings."

**Lea Marshall**  
**Style Weekly**  
**November 6, 2009**

### COMING UP

#### ► Richmond, VA

February 26 – 27, 2010

*March*

World Premiere

Commissioned and Performed by University of Richmond  
Alice Jepson Theatre at Modlin Center for the Arts  
University of Richmond

For Tickets:

804.289.8980

[www.modlin.richmond.edu](http://www.modlin.richmond.edu)

March 23 – April 1, 2010

*To Familiar Spaces in Dream* (Program A only)

Performed by Richmond Ballet

Richmond Ballet Studio Theatre

407 East Canal Street

For Tickets:

Phone at 1.800.982.2787

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

#### ► New York, NY

April 6 – 11, 2010

*To Familiar Spaces in Dream* (Program A only)

Performed by Richmond Ballet

The Joyce Theater

175 Eighth Avenue (at the corner of 19th Street)

For Tickets:

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

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



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More information [www.jesslang.com](http://www.jesslang.com)

