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DANCE



## booking DANCE FESTIVAL beijing 2008

Coinciding with the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing

Jodi Kaplan & Associates [www.bookingdance.com](http://www.bookingdance.com) | 212-352-0400

*The New York / Beijing Dance Festival is independent from the Olympics.*

## WHAT

**First ever Dance Festival to be produced during the Olympics**

**First ever Dance Festival featuring top USA and Beijing dance companies together on a stage!**

Top Dance Companies from across the USA will join top Dance Companies from Beijing for an exciting, unprecedented evening of international dance. It is rare that China has the opportunity to showcase the newest and most innovative of American dance companies, so BookingDance, the top dance agency in the USA, will be producing an unparalleled event to connect these two cultures.

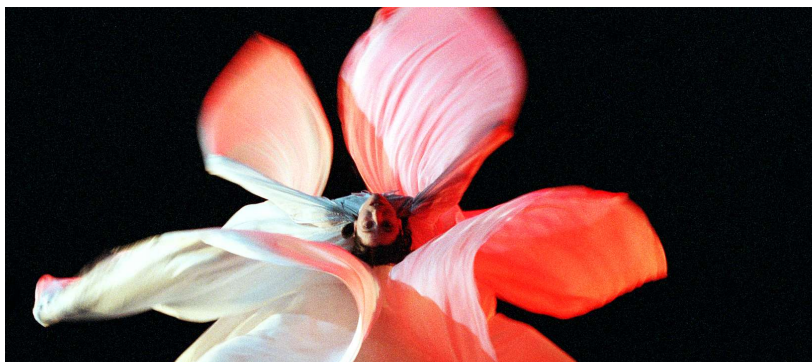
The evening will feature 3-4 critically acclaimed NYC/USA companies, each performing 30 minutes of dance of varying styles from contemporary ballet to modern to dance theater to funk hip-hop. The performances will open and close with Beijing/China's best dance companies, including the Beijing Modern Dance Company, China's premiere modern dance company, and choreographers from the National Ballet of China. Each performance will conclude with question and answer sessions involving the artists in English (with Chinese translations). Additionally, a gala reception will follow the opening night performance.

## WHEN

- Coinciding with the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing
- Thursday, August 14-Sunday, August 17, 2008
- Seven performances - 4 evenings and 3 matinees
- Please note that performance times will be scheduled in a strategic manner to best avoid "competing" against highly ranked Olympic events.

## WHERE

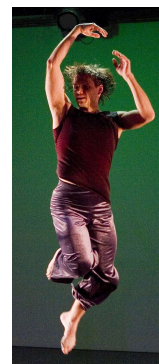
- Evening Performances will be held at The Nine Theatres, the newest and most prestigious cultural center in Beijing - **[www.cyqwhg.com](http://www.cyqwhg.com)** - equivalent to The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. It is a complex of 3 theaters including The Large Theatre, which seats 460 and is the ideal dance venue in Beijing. It is home to the premiere dance companies in China including the Beijing Modern Dance Company.
- Matinee performances will be held "off site" at a Nine Theatres venue on the outskirts of Beijing (for local migrant workers who do not otherwise have access to the theatre) and outdoors at an Olympic related venue.
- Dance companies have also been invited to perform excerpts at international press galas in conjunction with Olympic celebrations.



## WHY

The goals of this festival include:

- Showcasing the best dance on the world stage next to the best Olympic athletics. It is ideal to have a cultural component during the Olympics highlighting the best of dance in the host country and the center of the dance world - NYC.
- Bring American dance to China – There is rarely enough funding to produce American dance in China, especially the newest and most innovative companies. On occasion “bigger name” dance artists (established over 25 years) tour China, but the Chinese public never has the chance to see what is new in dance from NYC and across the USA.
- By timing these shows during the Olympics and inviting Beijing companies to perform alongside American companies, a large international population/media will attend, thereby increasing both the Chinese and American dance companies' chances for work internationally.
- While there are hundreds of theaters in and around Beijing, all except 10 of them are dark, or not used, while only one of them is used on a consistent basis for dance. The festival will be produced in this newest theater, but also encourage dance interest throughout Beijing by performing to migrant workers on the outskirts of the city and also to Olympic attendees at a related venue.
- Outreach – Matinees will promote art to local migrant workers and Chinese children. Tickets will be given to orphanages, local dance academies and organizations and the Olympics McDonald's Kids Champions (most of these children are Chinese) that would benefit by being exposed to both national and international dance. Educational outreach through question and answer sessions with both Chinese and American companies after each show.
- Ticket prices will be kept to a minimum so the proposed shows would offer the Chinese public the chance to see American dance.
- Cross promotion – Free tickets to Olympic athletes.
- This is an incredible opportunity to promote the arts through international cooperation.



## WHO PRODUCERS ARE

**Producers:** Jodi Kaplan is the NYC/USA-based producer and Alison Freidman is the Beijing-based co-producer. Both have extensive experience in dance production spanning over a decade.

### BookingDance

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

BookingDance has worked with China in the past, booking the Guangdong Modern Dance Company on two tours throughout the USA / Canada, including a NYC season at The Joyce Theater.

Jodi Kaplan & Associates / BookingDance is a personal "boutique agency" that books dance companies on extensive tours throughout the USA and internationally. Director Jodi Kaplan also consults with both established and newly formed dance companies in developing stronger artistic programming and performing engagements. Since 1993, BookingDance has booked tours for dance companies in South America including Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Guatemala; and in Europe including Turkey, Germany, and Spain; and throughout the USA including regular engagements at The Joyce Theater and the World Financial Center in NYC as well as long-term residencies in New Orleans and Chicago.

BookingDance books a high profile Main Roster of top dance companies. It also provides conference representation to a wonderfully diverse Boutique Roster of dance companies. With offices in Soho, BookingDance has booked performances at hundreds of theaters in the USA including the Kennedy Center, Jacob's Pillow, and the American Dance Festival. BookingDance is an active member of Dance/USA, Western Arts Alliance, APAP and ISPA.

BookingDance has also run marketing seminars at the Association of Performing Arts Presenters, participated in panel discussions with The Joyce Theater and established the Ready To Book workshop series at The Field in New York City.

Dance is an underserved art form and Jodi Kaplan & Associates / BookingDance is committed to promoting the best of it!





**Jodi Kaplan** (Producer)

Jodi Kaplan traveled extensively in China while working with the Guangdong Modern Dance Company. While there, she established relationships with the Hong Kong Arts Festival and CCTV (China Central Television). In Spring 2007, was honored to receive Lifetime Membership at the Asian Academy of Film and Television. This year she also lead dance business and film workshops for constituents in Delhi, India and has been invited to work with the dance community in Kazakhstan in October 2008.

Since founding Jodi Kaplan & Associates over a decade ago, Ms. Kaplan has booked performance engagements with hundreds of venues in the U.S. and internationally. Prior to establishing JK&A, Ms. Kaplan was the in-house booking agent for the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company and the Managing Director of the Denishawn Repertory Dancers.

Internationally, Ms. Kaplan works regularly in South America and Europe. She booked extensive tours to Brazil (with Margie Gillis, Zvi Gotheiner & Dancers) and was a delegate at the Australian Arts Market. Ms. Kaplan was a Wallenberg Scholar in Israel where she worked with a variety of dance companies, and toured as a guest artist throughout France, Scotland, England, Portugal, the Czech Republic/Slovakia, and the Caribbean.

Professionally, Jodi Kaplan produces dance events annually in NYC. Recently, she produced 55 dance showcases featuring 33 dance artists in 3 days at the Ailey Citigroup Theater in NYC (Jan 12-14, 2008). Additionally, she designed/produced the production elements of The Blue Planet Run media launch at the Tate Modern in London in Spring 2007 and programmed/produced the music performers at The Blue Planet Run start at the United Nations in Summer 2007 (as a consultant with GolinHarris). Other PR events in NYC include producing/consulting for the Microsoft Encarta Bee at the New York Public Library (with Edelman), Major League Baseball / Jiffy Peanut Butter in Central Park (with Porter Novelli) and Make a Wish Foundation / Chile Magic in Herald Square (with Porter Novelli).

As an artist, Ms. Kaplan is internationally renowned for producing and directing dance films. Her award-winning shorts have screened at over one hundred festivals, museums and venues worldwide including "Dance on Camera" at Lincoln Center, "New Directors/New Films" at the Museum of Modern Art and the World's Fair in Lisbon, Portugal. Her work has also been broadcast on PBS television and The Sundance Channel.

Jodi Kaplan holds a B.A. degree with high honors in religion/philosophy from Smith College (Phi Beta Kappa) and a M.F.A. in Film from Columbia University. Ms. Kaplan has also been in residence at Yaddo and a Fulbright Scholar in dance in Jamaica.

**Alison Friedman** (Beijing Based Co-Producer)

Alison Friedman graduated from Brown University and received a Fulbright Scholarship to China. She has been based in Beijing for the past five years and works with the Beijing Modern Dance Company, China's premiere modern dance company, as their company manager, during which time she has produced events at The Nine Theatres, the selected theatre for the festival. She has also worked as a freelance consultant in Beijing and cities throughout China for dance tours there including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and The Joyce Theater. In addition to co-producing this New New York/New Beijing Dance Festival during the Olympics, Ms. Friedman is contracted to oversee international press events during the Olympics, which can potentially help interest the press in attending the festival. There is a possibility dance companies can also perform at their events in exchange.

## Selected Dance Companies

This will be the first time all selected dance companies will be performing in China.

The following are examples of some of the dance companies being considered to be part of this exciting festival:



### **Kim Robards Dance** - Denver (Modern Dance)

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

Kim Robards Dance (KRD) energizes and entices audiences with the driving physicality and broad dynamic range in the beautifully crafted choreography of Artistic Director Kim Robards. Based in Denver, KRD is a leader in contemporary dance in the western region with its sophisticated, inspiring and accessible approach to modern dance. This company of nine to twelve dancers is renowned for their incredible athleticism as performers and dedication as teachers. Experimenting with dynamic force and momentum, the work takes an aesthetic journey through movement landscapes covering vast amounts of space.

*"Kim Robards choreographs beautiful waves of movement."*

*- Jack Anderson, The New York Times*

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### **Odyssey Dance Theatre** - Salt Lake City (Jazz & Funk Hip Hop)

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

Odyssey Dance Theatre explodes with world-class bravado, passionate charm, and choreographic invention, combining the classical virtues of ballet with the explosive attack of jazz, the freedom of modern dance, the raw energy of hip-hop, the syncopated rhythms of tap, the fluid partnering of ballroom, and the spirit of Broadway and Vaudeville to create a fresh dance vocabulary. This entertainment genre has carved a unique niche in the national and international dancescape, engaging audiences across the country and around the world.

*"Odyssey Dance Theatre struck a chord with the audience with a mixed program that few other groups accomplish!." - Kim McDaniel, Salt Lake Tribune*

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### **Silver-Brown Dance Company** - NYC ("All American" Dance)

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

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

Affectionately known as Brooklyn's fearless dance company, SBD performs for audiences of all ages and backgrounds, creating work that celebrates the human spirit with "wit and elation" (The Village Voice) and reveling in "the joy of dance" (The New York Times). SBD founded and presents the annual OASIS Series which features free, outdoor dance performances memorializing 9/11 in Brooklyn Bridge Park with the NYC skyline as a backdrop. The company has also initiated Brooklyn to Bourbon Street, a dance education and outreach project in New Orleans as a response to Katrina. SBD strives to make modern dance accessible, relevant, and inviting for the widest possible audience.

*"Ms. Silverstein has carved a place for herself as a choreographer of bright zany dances that explode with energy and have a distinctive point of view." - Jennifer Dunning, The New York Times*