

For Immediate Release:

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WENDY OSSERMAN DANCE COMPANY with IVA BITTOVÁ
PREMIERE AT JOYCE SoHo MAY 21-24

NEW YORK, April 6, 2009 -- **Iva Bittová**, celebrated Czech singer, actor, musician, and composer, will join the **Wendy Osserman Dance Company** in the world premiere of ***more is more is more or less*** inspired by Gertrude Stein. Performances **Thursday-Sunday at 8 pm**, May 21 to 24, at Joyce SoHo, 155 Mercer Street, NYC. Opening Night Benefit \$50 includes reception. General Admission seating for all performances: \$20; \$15 seniors/students. Post-performance discussion Friday, May 22. Tickets: (212) 352-3101, toll free (866) 811-4111 or www.joyce.org. The program is presented by **Wendy Osserman Dance Company** in association with Joyce SoHo.

Iva Bittová has created songs using text by Gertrude Stein, which she will perform live while four dancers trade identities, avoid narrative and embody paintings by Stein's friends, Picasso and Matisse. Almost a hundred years later, Stein's writing continues to sound avant-garde; Osserman and the other performers explore how this can be. Visual artist Sarah Olson will draw in real time, accompanying and merging with the performers. This is the second collaboration between Osserman and Bittová. Osserman's choreography for their 2008 production, *Out of Place* was described as "**provocative precisely because it feels like a new amalgam of some indefinable kind.**" (Roslyn Sulcas, **NEW YORK TIMES**, 3/29/08).

The **WENDY OSSERMAN DANCE COMPANY** www.wendyossermandance.org has performed in NYC for the past three decades at NYC venues such as the Kitchen, DTW, St. Mark's Church, Judson Church, Joe's Pub, Theater for the New City, and Joyce SoHo. WODC has toured nationally and internationally, performing and teaching in colleges, schools, parks, and festivals. This past November Osserman was commissioned to choreograph Scriabin's *Poem of Ecstasy* for her company at the Baryshnikov Art Center, NYC. The company has been in residence at the Chelsea Art Museum since 2006, performing site-specific scores in response to the changing exhibits. Collaborating as well as performing with Osserman at Joyce SoHo are veteran WODC members, Cori Kresge and Emily Quant, joined by Milan Misko.

IVA BITTOVÁ www.bittova.com "Czech singing sensation," violinist, composer, and actor has been touring the world, performing her own music in solo concerts as well as with other noted musicians and ensembles such as *Bang On A Can All Stars* and *S.E.M.* Among her 17 CDs are six solo albums including "44 Duets for Two Violins by Bela Bartok." She was featured in "Don Juan in Prague" at BAM in 2006 and began collaborating with **Wendy Osserman Dance Company** in 2007. Reviewing Bittová's performance with *Bang On A Can All Stars* at Merkin Concert Hall 2/13/08, **Allan Kozinn of the NEW YORK TIMES** praised her "**riveting singing--which ranges from rough-hewn rusticity to eccentric leaping in the style of Kate Bush.**" Bittová has appeared as an actor in several feature films including "Želary," which was nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at the 2004 Academy Awards and "Little Girl Blue" which won the Czech Lion prize for Best Film in 2007.

SARAH OLSON www.sarah-olson.com has been creating work with WODC that explores the cross-pollination of dance and visual art over the past few years. In February they performed ***World Without a Head*** at MCLA Gallery 51 in North Adams, MA. Olson's work has been included in exhibitions in New York and abroad including Gallery Satori, CCS Bard College, Columbia University, The Dahesh Museum among others. She has participated in residencies in Europe and the in the US and is collaborating with opera composer, Susan Stoderl on *The Veil of Forgetfulness* performed in 2007 at the Church of the Holy Trinity, NYC. The Brooklyn Repertory Opera will present it in 2010. Olson received a fellowship from Columbia University for *The Divine Body*, a multi-venue art exhibition and public symposium. Her paintings are in the private collections of Bruce W. Ferguson, Eric Fischl and Eileen Guggenheim.

more is more is more or less is made possible in part with public funds from the Fund for Creative Communities, supported by the New York State Council on the Arts and administered by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council.



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