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**Daniel Gwartzman Dance Company to Present World-Premiere Work *Tribe*  
Part of *Nextbook's Jewish Body Week*  
at the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust**

New York, NY—On **Wednesday, October 21** at **7 p.m.**, join the **Daniel Gwartzman Dance Company** as they present *Tribe*, part of *Nextbook's Jewish Body Week* at the **Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust**. This world-premiere work finds inspiration from Judaism and explores the human body as a source of reflection, strength, humor, and celebration. Following the performance, the Company will offer a workshop on simple folk dances from around the world.

Tickets are \$10, \$7 students/seniors, \$5 members and are available online at [www.mjhnyc.org](http://www.mjhnyc.org) or by calling the Museum box office at 646.437.4202.

Created specifically for the Museum's Edmond J. Safra Hall, *Tribe* is a communal piece for seven dancers, including the choreographer. The score, composed by Shawn Baltazor and Roxy Coss and performed by a live jazz quintet and violinist Sarah Geller, will take advantage of the acoustics and intimacy of the hall. Commissioned by Nextbook, the Company has been developing *Tribe* since the spring. This dynamic work, inspired by ancient themes within Judaism, celebrates the resilience and joy of the body.

**Praise for the Daniel Gwartzman Dance Company**

“It's great to see imaginative dancing to music like this.” —*The Village Voice*

“The Daniel Gwartzman Dance Company is continuing to challenge the limits of what can be explored in modern choreography.” —*New York Magazine*

“Marvelous, technically terrific dancing and... complex, fluid choreography.” —*Attitude: The Dancer's Magazine*

*Co-Sponsored by Nextbook's Jewish Body Week. For more information, please visit [www.jewishbodyweek.com](http://www.jewishbodyweek.com).*

**About the Artists**

**Daniel Gwartzman** (choreography) directs, choreographs, teaches, and dances for the Daniel Gwartzman Dance Company. His choreography has been presented at venues throughout the country and abroad. His New York choreographic debut was in September 1995, at the Merce Cunningham Studio.

Since that time, Daniel has created a repertory of over 90 choreographed dances in a variety of idioms: modern, ballet, musical theater, jazz, and folk. As a dancer he has toured nationally and internationally with Garth Fagan Dance and the Mark Morris Dance Group, among other companies. He has been a guest choreographer and teacher at various institutions, including the University of Tulsa, the University of Michigan, Dance New Amsterdam (NY), the North Carolina School of the Arts, Princeton University, New York University, Duke University, The University of the Arts, and The Interlochen Center for the Arts. Daniel also began teaching the senior dance students at the LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts in the winter of 2009.

**The Daniel Gwartzman Dance Company** (DGDC) is a New York-based non-profit organization that was founded in 1998. The Company has consistently earned praise for its exemplary dancers and inventive choreography, as well its demonstrated commitment to education. DGDC has been awarded residencies by the Joyce Theater Foundation (NY), The Yard (Martha's Vineyard), Raumars Artist-in-Residence Program (Finland), the Sacatar Foundation (Brazil), and the Djerassi Resident Artists Program (CA). DGDC celebrated its tenth anniversary last year and has stayed true to its mission of cultivating the creation of innovative art, and presenting it to the public in interactive, accessible, and meaningful ways. More information is available by visiting [www.gwartzmandance.org](http://www.gwartzmandance.org).

**Shawn Baltazor** (Composer) has performed with today's foremost jazz musicians including Wynton Marsalis, Clark Terry, Joe Lovano, Kenny Garrett, and Slide Hampton. Baltazor has performed internationally at the Festival International des Musiques Noires d'Abidjan in Côte d'Ivoire, the Jazzablanca Festival in Morocco, and the Risonanze Festival at the Teatro Fondamenta Nuove in Venice, Italy. He has performed locally at the JVC Jazz Festival and the River to River Festival as well as other New York venues including: Jazz at Lincoln Center, BB King's, the Tribeca Performing Arts Center, PNC Arts Center, the South Street Seaport, Sweet Rhythm, 55 Bar, CBGB's, the Knitting Factory, and the Bitter End. He actively plays and tours with a wide range of musical groups including Eric Reed, Ergo, Roxy Coss Quintet, Nathan Eklund Group, Adam Gilbert, The Hangmen, and Rebecca Frezza.

**Sarah Geller** (violinist) made her Carnegie Hall solo recital debut as winner of the Artists' International Special Presentation Award. Upon invitation from their Alumni Series, she also presented a solo recital in New York's Merkin Concert Hall in May 2004, premiering Jeffery Story's *Driven* for solo violin and dancer. Since her inaugural performance at the Donnell Library series in February 2004, Sarah has been awarded an annual appearance in their series. She has appeared as a soloist with numerous orchestras across the Northeast, including the Ocean City Pops Orchestra, the Baroque Aria Ensemble, the Maine Chamber Ensemble, and the Adelphi Chamber Orchestra.

**Levi Okunov** (fashion designer) grew up in the Hassidic neighborhood of Crown Heights. Inspired by his aunt, a dress maker, he would sneak away from yeshivah to her small shop where he apprenticed, studied, and watched. At the age of 19, Okunov presented his first collection to the delight of critics. In 2008, he was part of The Jewish Museum's *Off The Wall: Artists at Work*, a two-week open studio project in which 11 Jewish artists created new work in the Museum's galleries. Okunov has been featured in *The New York Times* and *Women's Wear Daily*.

**Elizabeth Zimmer** (dance critic) is a senior editor at the *Village Voice*, covering dance. She writes for the *Voice*, *Metro*, *Dance Magazine*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, and other publications. She is the editor of *Body Against Body: The Dance and Other Collaborations of Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane* (Station Hill Press, 1989), and text editor of *Envisioning Dance on Film and Video* (Routledge, 2002). She has studied many forms of dance and performed in work by Joshua Fried, Jamie Cunningham and Tina Croll, Christopher Williams, and other downtown artists. She has also written and performed her own show, *North Wing*.

### **About Nextbook's Jewish Body Week**

This October, from 18 to 25, Nextbook Inc. presents a series of events in New York City and elsewhere exploring the subjects raised in Melvin Konner's 2009 book, *The Jewish Body* (Nextbook Press/Schocken). Nextbook Inc. is a nonprofit organization promoting Jewish culture through its public programs, its Jewish Encounters book series, and *Tablet Magazine*, Nextbook's new daily online publication. For more information about Nextbook, please visit [www.nextbook.com](http://www.nextbook.com). To see a full schedule of Jewish Body Week events, please visit [www.jewishbodyweek.com](http://www.jewishbodyweek.com).

### **About the Museum**

The Museum's three-floor Core Exhibition educates people of all ages and backgrounds about the rich tapestry of Jewish life over the past century—before, during, and after the Holocaust. Special exhibitions include *Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow: Jewish Refugee Scholars at Black Colleges*, on view through January 4 and *The Morgenthau: A Legacy of Service*, opening November 16. *Keeping History Center*, a new permanent, interactive visitor experience, opens on November 6. The Museum offers visitors a vibrant public program schedule in its Edmond J. Safra Hall. It is also home to Andy Goldsworthy's memorial *Garden of Stones*, as well as James Carpenter's *Reflection Passage*, Gift of The Gruss Lipper Foundation. The Museum receives general operating support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and is a founding member of the *Museums of Lower Manhattan*.

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