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**THE REBECCA DAVIS DANCE COMPANY PRESENTS  
DARFUR  
A WORLD PREMIERE FOR A GLOBAL COMMUNITY**

**PHILADELPHIA, PA:** Following **Helen Keller**, its pioneering adaptation of an extraordinary woman's life, The Rebecca Davis Dance Company presents **DARFUR**, one of the most innovative and powerful dance performances ever featured in Philadelphia. For the first time, the experience of an American citizen who witnessed the conflict in Darfur is adapted into a powerful and engaging multi-media dance piece. **DARFUR** is presented at the Arden Theatre on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

Serving as an African Union military observer, US Marine Brian Steidle spent six months in war-torn Darfur. What he witnessed there is the basis for the book and film, "The Devil Came on Horseback." Now Steidle's experience comes to the stage, inspiring the original choreography of Rebecca Davis' latest show. A profound encounter with a Sudanese child, born into fatal warfare that tore his family apart, is the center of a life-changing journey into the heart of genocide. Steidle, who has since co-founded HOPE Artists in support of those who use their crafts to speak out against genocide, shares his story with Rebecca Davis Dance Company in hopes that if people are no longer blind to the terrible conflict in Sudan, they will be moved to learn how they can support lasting peace.

Founder and Artistic Director Rebecca Davis, who set out on a unique mission to bring literature and history to the stage through compelling contemporary ballet, is always looking for the human narrative in her dance. After successfully adapting important literary and historical pieces like *Antigone* and the life story of Helen Keller, Rebecca felt that it was time to plunge into a searing issue of the present. When asked why a young

woman from Vancouver with a dance company in Philadelphia would tackle a show about the Darfur genocide, Rebecca is clear: “this is a human issue, and we all have the ability and the responsibility to make a difference. It’s my hope that no-one can learn about the atrocities in Darfur without feeling a moral obligation to help.” For Rebecca Davis, this means committing her artistic vision to an eye-opening production that will make a difference in the world: raising awareness of the genocide as well as sending support to the victims.

Rebecca Davis Dance Company’s **DARFUR** audience can aid victims of the genocide simply through purchasing a ticket: 25% of each ticket sold will be donated to the non-profit organization Global Grassroots. Working to aid disadvantaged communities worldwide and especially focused on supporting peace in Sudan, Global Grassroots goes beyond donations of food, supplies or shelter. The organization invests its resources in individuals and communities, who, despite deep social and economic hardship, offer ideas for lasting social change. Working especially to support the women of disadvantaged countries, Global Grassroots strives for sustainable solutions motivated from within the community itself.

Joining a cast of ten professional dancers is a special multi-media Second Life production by Human + Nature. Human + Nature, the producer of socially conscious film and video that inspires its audience to work for a better world, is also grounded in finding sustainable solutions. The organization’s long list of partners includes local companies as well as major national media networks like 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox and TLC. Flanking the dancers with the images of the conflict, Human + Nature helps Rebecca Davis Dance Company ignite the powerful narrative infusing its choreography. Also adding to the impact of the production and its contemporary appeal is a score of alternative rock music which underscore the show’s themes.

Since founding The Rebecca Davis Dance Company in 2005, Rebecca Davis has guided her performances onto the stages of the Prince Music Theatre and the Kimmel Center. With a studio on South Broad Street and an annual budget exceeding a quarter of a

million dollars, Davis, a 2004 Temple grad, is a burgeoning success story. *Antigone* (2006), *Helen Keller* (2007), and now **DARFUR** are proof of Rebecca's vision: that there is a thrilling new role for ballet in our city and our world.

**DARFUR** is not only another showcase for the young and vibrantly successful Rebecca Davis Dance Company, but also a chance for local theatergoers to learn about and support a vital cause. This heartfelt, challenging and engaging production for a mature audience believes in the possibility of a better world. **DARFUR** comes to the Arden Theatre's Haas Stage on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at 8pm. Tickets are \$30 (\$20 for students) with group rates available.

## **JUST THE FACTS**

**WHO:** The Rebecca Davis Dance Company

**WHAT:** **DARFUR**, a world premiere modern ballet in one act.

**WHEN:** April 23-24 at 8pm

**WHERE:** The Arden Theatre,  
40 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

**TICKETS:** \$20-\$30  
[www.ardentheatre.org](http://www.ardentheatre.org)

**WEBSITE:** [www.rebeccadavidance.com](http://www.rebeccadavidance.com)