

# Mateo's new works should be adventurous

After significant time away from making original ballets, choreographer Jose Mateo returns to the limelight. During the next three weekends, his company, Ballet Theatre, will present four world premieres in its spacious new studios at Old Cambridge Baptist Church in Harvard Square.

## Dance

THEODORE BALE

While Mateo's "Nutcracker" performances at the Emerson Majestic Theatre have enjoyed a devoted following for many years, fans have eagerly anticipated new work from the ingenious choreographer. And the program he's planned sounds adventurous, to say the least. It opens with a dance set to Bach's "Orchestral Suite No. 2," continues with two works set to scores by Beethoven, and finishes with a ballet titled "Bruch Violin Concerto No. 1."

When Mateo spoke with the Herald in November, he said he had been experimenting with concepts from Italian futurism, an artistic movement dating back to 1910 that is characterized by speed, power, iconoclasm and mechanization. He describes his new Bruch ballet as "featuring scenes of passionate romance unfolding in the sometimes turbulent setting of fast-changing, formal choreographic patterns."

The performances mark the first time audiences will see Mateo's newly renovated studios and performance space, in a building that has immense, welcoming character.

The show, aptly titled "Resurgence," opens with two patrons' previews tonight and tomorrow; performances continue through May 6. Call (617) 354-7467 for reservations and ticket information.

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Beautiful rehearsal space and intimate studio performances also characterize Summer Stages Dance, now entering its fifth year at Concord Academy. Artistic directors Amy Spencer and Richard Colton have already announced the faculty for this year's intensive three-week dance and choreography workshop, in addition to the featured choreographers on the highly popular "Meet the Artist Performance Series."

"Summer Stages began as a pilot program in 1996," Spencer said. "One of the reasons we started was because of the void left when the Harvard Summer Dance program closed. We had always admired what Iris Fanger (director of the Harvard program) had done, and we had taught and performed there and it seemed like a big loss."

There's room for 35-40 dancers in this year's program. Students will have the opportunity to work with such dance-world luminaries as David Neumann, Peggy Baker, Dan Wagoner and David Parker and The Bang Group, all of whom will give public performances.

Spencer described the ideal student for the program: "It has



**CLASSIC MOVES:** Marion Stevens Rice performs a dance she learned in the 1920s and 1930s at the Braggiotti-Denishawn School, then located on Huntington Avenue. The Boston Dance Alliance will begin exploring dance history in Boston.

nothing to do with age. That's one thing we feel is really important. We're looking for very motivated, imaginative people who are looking to push the boundaries of what they think of in terms of contemporary dance."

The program runs July 9-27, but applications must be submitted by mid-May. Call (978) 402-2339 or visit [www.summerstagesdance.org](http://www.summerstagesdance.org) for more information.

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The Boston Dance Alliance officially begins exploring Boston's dance history, thanks to an \$11,000 grant from The Boston Cultural Agenda Fund. Two prominent dancers/historians, Ruth Benson Levin and Jody Weber, have planned a project that will culminate in the creation of The Boston Dance Community Archive at Boston College.

"The Boston Office of Cultural Affairs is very pleased to offer support for the first phase of this important project to recognize, collect, document and make accessible the history of dance in Boston," said Esther Kaplan, the city's commissioner of Cultural Affairs.

Weber and Levin will soon mail surveys to members of the local dance community, including choreographers, performers and teachers (of ballet, modern, tap, jazz, hip-hop, ballroom, folk and world dance) in addition to historians and presenters. If you do not receive a survey and would like to participate, call (617) 482-4588.