



## *Bodiography Beautiful*

**BODIOGRAPHY CONTEMPORARY BALLET IS QUIETLY RISING TO PROMINENCE IN THE PERFORMING ARTS COMMUNITY OF PITTSBURGH AND BRINGING ITS UNIQUE BRAND OF CONTEMPORARY BALLET TO AUDIENCES ACROSS NORTH AMERICA.**

Now entering its fifth Pittsburgh season, Bodiography began as the dream of Maria Caruso, then just 19, who set out to create her own company in 2000 after becoming frustrated with the expectations in the dance world to conform to a particular body type. From its inception, Bodiography has celebrated the beauty of the human body in its natural form. Company dancers are encouraged to be healthy and strong, rather than dangerously thin. Along with physical health, intellectual achievement and emotional development are essential components of the company's philosophy; dancers must earn a bachelor's degree before becoming eligible for company membership.

But most of all, Bodiography is about passion for the art of dance. In its productions, the grace and fluidity of traditional ballet are seamlessly combined with contemporary music, movement and themes.

As artistic director and resident choreographer, Caruso has explored both serious and whimsical matters in the compositions she has created for the company. Her works combine traditional ballet forms with some elements of jazz and modern dance to convey feelings that are palpable and intense. In addition to exploring innovative dance patterns, Caruso also has a flair for creating intricate tableaux on the stage.

Although Bodiography is a relatively young company, it inspires loyalty among its members. Principal dancers Lauren Suflita and Shannon Hritz have each been with the company for the past five seasons. Besides having the opportunity to perform as professional dancers in a major American city, and to study with renowned guest choreographers, Bodiography dancers are also given the opportunity to choreograph their own compositions for an annual production titled "Multiplicity."

In addition to its regular performances, Bodiography Contemporary Ballet runs an annual 6-week summer intensive program for 18 advanced students. Ms. Caruso's privately owned conservatory, The Bodiography Center for Movement, also offers a variety of classes throughout the year for dancers of all ages and levels of ability.

Bodiography celebrates both the beauty of the human body and the aesthetics of technique. At the same time, its dynamism and creative vision are challenging other companies to explore new aspects of artistic movement and expression.



*From Left to Right: Daniel Savage, Shannon Hritz, Maria Caruso, Lauren Suflita, and Kelly Basil  
Photo by AcesHigh Photography Hair by Bruce Gatten Make-up by Paula Pappas*