



Fräulein Maria

Choreographed by Doug Elkins in collaboration with the Cast
Co-Directed by Barbara Karger and Michael Preston

Every once in awhile, an idea surfaces that cannot be passed up. Doug Elkins' idea to create his version of the timeless classic, *The Sound of Music*, was one of those. An overwhelming success since it was piloted in 2005 at Joe's Pub at The Public Theater, *Fräulein Maria* has received five-star press and media coverage, touching the hearts of every single audience member, young and old, from varied socioeconomic environments, who has had the opportunity to see it. Commissioned by Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors, Elkins and his co-directors, Barbara Karger and Michael Preston, in collaboration with DanceNOW [NYC], greatly expanded the celebrated work for Damrosch Park's Family Day at Lincoln Center on August 16, 2008. Invited back by Joe's Pub for two-weeks in December 2008, in celebration of the pub's 10th Anniversary season, *Fräulein Maria* "is as much visceral pleasure as it's possible to have in a theater." [Roslyn Sulcas, New York Times Arts & Leisure Critics Pick of the Year]

Doug Elkins

started his career as a B-Boy, touring the world with break dance groups New York Dance Express and Magnificent Force, among others. In 1988, he founded the Doug Elkins Dance Company, which performed nationally and internationally for fifteen years before disbanding in 2003. Doug is a recipient of significant choreographic commissions and awards from the NEA, National Performance Network, Jerome Foundation, Choo-San Goh & H. Robert Magee Foundation, Dance Magazine Foundation, Metropolitan Life/American Dance Festival, Hartford Foundation, Arts International, The Greenwall Foundation and The Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts. In 1994, Doug received the Brandeis University Award in Dance, and in 1997, a New York Dance and Performance Award [a 'Bessie'] recognized him "For walking the walk as well as talking the talk, not to mention utterly tanking what's left of post-modernist pretension, all the while fashioning a singular provocative poetics of dancing." In 2006, he was honored in New York City by the Martha Hill Award for Career Achievement, and in September 2008, received a second 'Bessie' Award [in recognition of his creation, *Fräulein Maria* a de-construction of the beloved movie musical, "*The Sound of Music*."] Doug has taught and choreographed extensively in the US and Europe and has created original work for Israel's Batsheva Dance Company, Flying Karamazov Brothers, MaggioDanza, Pennsylvania Ballet, Union Dance and CanDoCo of London, as well as a number of university dance companies and the renowned Mini & Maxi of Holland. His theater work includes collaborations with Joanne Akalaitis and Philip Glass, Robert Woodruff, Pavel Dubrusky, Annie Hamburger, Molly Smith, Craig Lucas, David Henry Hwang, Michael Preston and Barbara Karger. He consults frequently at A.R.T. including a spring 2008 production of *Cardenio*, written by Charles Mee and Stephen Greenblatt and directed by Les Waters. Since 2006, he has been working with DanceNOW [NYC] to develop and present, to much critical and popular acclaim, *Fräulein Maria* for annual holiday presentations at Joe's Pub (2006, 2007, 2008) and at Lincoln Center Out of Doors. A graduate of SUNY/Purchase, he received his MFA in Dance from Hollins University/ADF in 2007.

Fräulein Maria is presented in cooperation with The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization

Made possible, in part, by public funds from The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs,

The New York State Council on the Arts and Dianne and Dan Vapneck/The Vapneck Family Foundation.

Sponsored by NYU's Tisch School for the Arts and the Theater and Dance Department at Trinity College

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