

FRESH MEAT PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS:

# Uncovered: The Diary Project

**WHAT:** Uncovered: The Diary Project  
**WHO:** Choreographed by Sean Dorsey (Sean Dorsey Dance)  
**PROGRAM:** Modern dance & dance theater  
**INFO:** [www.freshmeatproductions.org](http://www.freshmeatproductions.org)

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- \* **“SAN FRANCISCO’S BEST DANCE/PERFORMANCE COMPANY”** (*SF Weekly*) \*
- \* **Named in “TOP DANCES OF 2009”** (*SF Bay Guardian*) \*
- \* **SEAN DORSEY** named in *Dance Magazine’s* top **“25 TO WATCH”** \*
- \* **Two-time Winner, Isadora Duncan Dance Award** \*
- \* **Winner, Goldie Award for Performance** \*

**Fresh from sold-out runs in San Francisco and New York**, *Uncovered: The Diary Project* is now available for national and international tour bookings. One of the Bay Area’s most highly-anticipated and attended concerts of the year, *Uncovered* is a riveting exploration of transgender and queer diaries and life stories.

Trailblazing transgender choreographer **Sean Dorsey** and a stellar cast of dancers chase the naked truth in *Uncovered: The Diary Project*. Using text from real-life diaries of transgender and queer people, *Uncovered’s* powerful dances reveal lives and stories that history has tried to erase. Out spill diary secrets, bathhouse antics, pop idols, outrageous love, impossible courage and the importance of documenting and sharing our history.

**"deeply felt, splendidly shaped...aches with beauty and grief"** (*San Francisco Bay Guardian*)  
**"trailblazing" "dynamism beyond words"** (*San Francisco Chronicle*)  
**"the most imaginative and intriguing dance artist in the Bay Area"** (*Bay Area Reporter*)

**This critically praised concert is the culmination of a year-and-a-half long research process** in which Dorsey uncovered and researched diaries of transgender and queer people – from the famous to the unknown. *Uncovered* features *Lou*, a suite of dances based on the lifelong journals of Lou Sullivan (1951-1991), a pioneering San Francisco transgender activist; and *Lost/Found*, the story of an imaginary boyhood based on a real diary. *Lou* was recently named as one of the **“Top Dances of 2009”** (*San Francisco Bay Guardian*).

With his signature fusion of modern dance, storytelling and theater, **Sean Dorsey** is blazing a trail celebrated by critics and sold-out audiences alike. He was recently named one of *Dance Magazine’s* **“25 to Watch,”** a ‘who’s hot’ list of the United States’ leading dance artists. At only 37, Dorsey is the winner of two **Isadora Duncan Dance Awards**, the **Goldie Award** for Performance, prestigious commissions, and praise from New York to Los Angeles.

**"breathtaking beauty"** (*San Francisco Bay Times*)  
**"exquisite...poignant and important"** (*BalletTanz*)

*Uncovered* is the most ambitious, challenging and complex project of Dorsey's career. To create *Lou*, Dorsey researched the lifelong diaries of Lou Sullivan, a pioneering transgender activist who dedicated his short life to organizing for his community. Before his death from AIDS in 1991, Sullivan bequeathed 30 years of his diaries to the San Francisco GLBT Historical Society to ensure that the progress he had struggled a lifetime for would not be lost. Dorsey researched and incorporated Sullivan's journal writings into an original soundscore, and choreographed a suite of dances based on Sullivan's extraordinary life.

**Dorsey says**, "Lou's is a riveting story: a young girl yearns to be a gay man, overcomes enormous obstacles to obtain hormones and surgery, becomes a groundbreaking activist, cruises and loves wildly as a gay transsexual man, contracts HIV, and struggles to leave a legacy while facing his own death."

**Dorsey adds**, "Lou literally opened the book of his life for us, giving us a naked, honest look at his inner journey as a transman. He was so gorgeously articulate, candid and descriptive in his diaries – it gave me such clear inspiration and vocabulary for the choreography."

***Uncovered: The Diary Project features an outstanding cast of performers:*** Sean Dorsey, Brian Fisher, Juan De La Rosa and Nol Simonse. Original score features music by Storm Miguel Florez, Alex Kelly, Ben Kessler and Shawna Virago. Lighting Design by Clyde Sheets; Costume Design by Mark Koss. *Uncovered: The Diary Project* was created with generous commissions from the Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the San Francisco Arts Commission and the Queer Cultural Center.

**"words and gestures drenched with the kind of raw honesty  
that's made Dorsey an artistic force to reckon with"** (*SF Weekly*)

**"astonishing"** (*New York Dance Insider*)

**"boundlessly gifted...breathtaking"** (*Bay Area Reporter*)

**Dorsey asks**, "What happens to the lives that slip between the pages of recorded history and family albums? How do we uncover these important stories of transgender and queer people that history passes by? In this project I used diary as a tool for reclaiming our history."

**Dorsey adds**, "People often feel like they don't 'get' modern dance. Modern dance has a reputation as being cryptic and inaccessible. My goal as an artist is to make dances that people can actually *understand* and relate to."

**"I'm an elder of the transgender community, and Sean Dorsey is my pride and joy.  
His sensitivity to the pain that comes with transformation is as compassionate as any Zen master's.  
His deadpan comic timing, his skill at seduction, his charm and boyish sexiness all make us  
- his audience - love him all the more. Dorsey choreographs and performs...with  
a skill that rivals Mark Morris."**

*(Kate Bornstein)*

## **UNCOVERED: THE DIARY PROJECT – ABOUT THE DANCES:**

*Lou* is a suite of dances based on the lifelong journals of pioneering transgender activist Lou Sullivan (1951-1991). Sullivan was a female-to-male transsexual gay man and a trailblazing activist, writer and organizer who lived and died in San Francisco. He broke down countless barriers for transpeople and was literally a friend to hundreds and inspiration to thousands. Before his death from AIDS complications, Sullivan bequeathed 30 years of his journals and papers to the San Francisco GLBT Historical Society to leave a companion for other transgender people, to educate and open minds, and to ensure that the progress he had struggled a lifetime for would not be lost. To create *Lou*, Dorsey researched this collection, compiled and distilled 30 years of Sullivan's journal writings into an original soundscore, and choreographed a powerful suite of dances based on Sullivan's remarkable journey. ***Lou* was recently named as one of the "Top Dances of 2009"** (*San Francisco Bay Guardian*).

*Lost/Found* is a humorous dance theater duet: a transman vicariously lives the boyhood he never got to have when he finds the diary of a young boy in a second hand store. Transformation, crushes, confidants, pop idols and an unlikely brotherhood emerge.

## **SEAN DORSEY - BIO**

**Sean Dorsey** is an award-winning San Francisco-based choreographer and dancer. Recognized as the US' first out transgender modern dance choreographer, Dorsey has won audiences and accolades from San Francisco to New York with his powerful dances that provide a window into transgender and queer experience.

Dorsey's acclaimed work is a fusion of dance, storytelling and theater. Praised as "exquisite" (*BalletTanz*), "breathtaking" (*San Francisco Bay Guardian*) and "trailblazing" (*San Francisco Chronicle*), Dorsey has gained national attention for demystifying modern dance with his accessible, articulate, deeply moving work that is followed by transgender, queer and straight audiences alike.

Dorsey has been awarded two Isadora Duncan Dance Awards and the Goldie Award for Performance. His company was named "San Francisco's Best Dance/Performance Company" (*SF Weekly*) and he was recently named one of the nation's "25 to Watch" by *Dance Magazine*. Dorsey's suite of dances *Lou* was named one of the "Top Dances of 2009" (*San Francisco Bay Guardian*). Dorsey has been praised as one of the 'Top Ten' in Bay Area dance by both the *San Francisco Bay Guardian* and the *Bay Area Reporter*. *BalletTanz* named Dorsey one of the international dance scene's most promising choreographers.

Last year, Dorsey collaborated with the Wachowski Brothers (Directors, *The Matrix*, *V for Vendetta*) to choreograph a music video for international music sensation Antony and the Johnsons, and has been profiled on PBS/KQED TV.

Dorsey has been awarded commissions by the Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the San Francisco Arts Commission, the Queer Cultural Center and Highways Performance Space / the James Irvine Foundation. Dorsey has performed his work extensively throughout the Bay Area and on tour in the US and Canada.

Dorsey is the founder and Artistic Director of Fresh Meat Productions, the US' first non-profit dedicated to the year-round creation and presentation of transgender arts. Fresh Meat presents dance, performance, visual art and film programs and has received national attention and critical acclaim for its groundbreaking work.

**high-res JPGs available at: [www.freshmeatproductions.org](http://www.freshmeatproductions.org)**

**PHOTOS ALSO AVAILABLE BY REQUEST**