

The Inspiration for

# The *Every Woman* Series

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## THE RED THREAD



Stephanie Matthews Photography © 2007

***“The EveryWoman Series: *The Red Thread* is a woman’s journey through wounds, scars, healing, bonding, and compassion.”***  
**-Lori Belilove**

This piece was born in rehearsal one day when I was exploring movement while listening to Chopin’s 24 Preludes. It hit me that I could tell the stories of women’s life cycles, using the Duncan vocabulary as a base, with the entire suite of the 24 Preludes. And I thought, this is really about the *every* woman; the common denominator of our overlapping human experiences. As I worked with my dancers, it became clear to me that *The EveryWoman Series: *The Red Thread** should read like a road map of the many states of women, exposing their interior worlds as they dance their secret

dances. From there my work began. I listened to the music, and over the course of a year the dances unfolded one by one until my vision was realized.

The rehearsal process started with conversations about the themes and the phrases of the movement. One of my challenges was to say what I had to say succinctly in the few minutes of each of the 24 Preludes. In the process I opened myself to various dance styles to express the feelings of the contemporary woman. I took movement from a variety of sources, but mostly from my own experience, using Isadora Duncan’s primordial and universal vocabulary. For some sections I had the choreographic outline, others evolved from improvisation by the dancers.

*The EveryWoman Series* is my exploration of what women feel, long for, and struggle with, and it draws on universal themes in Isadora Duncan’s dance movements put into my own voice. I seek to express the feelings of the contemporary woman and the universal soul of us all. This new work is my perspective on the inner life and psyche of young girls, young women, teens, mothers, mature women, and our elder wise women.

All the while I was working collaboratively with composer and arranger John Link who was already exploring arrangements of Chopin. For *The EveryWoman Series* Link prepared unique arrangements of the 24 Chopin Preludes for five voices, guitar, bass, drums, and violin. It was very revolutionary and extraordinary to hear Chopin’s music sung with a rock instrumentation. It was another step toward the contemporary expression I was seeking.

In September of 2006 I invited Stephanie Matthews and John Link to join me for a month-long residency at the Atlantic Center for the Arts in Florida . The collaboration began with photo shoots, choreographic studies using the photographs as inspiration for the dances, and innovative music arrangements of the Chopin Preludes. The residency culminated in a performance of my new choreographies for Preludes 4, 6, and 20, with the new arrangements. We were then invited to perform at the Southern Theater in Columbus, Ohio April 6, 2007. This performance of excerpts led to the June 6, 7, and 8, 2007 New York premiere of the completed piece at the Ailey Citigroup Theater.