Dorfman's schedule during residency includes performances and a master class.

David Dorfman is known for his dancing skills, and also his sense of humor.

In fact, when asked about Dorfman, the first thing Dancers' Workshop Artistic Director Babs Case mentioned was his humor.

"His pieces always have an incredible sense of humor," Case said. "He's a funny guy. He likes to play and has a great sense of fun about him and his work."

So Dorfman is a funny guy. But he's also an incredibly accomplished and talented dancer and choreographer who runs his own company, David Dorfman Dance. And he's coming to the Center for the Arts for a creative residency and two performances.

Dorfman and company will bring two works to Dancers' Workshop. One, "Come, And Back Again," is a completed piece that the company
has been performing for years. Dorfman’s website describes it:

“Driven by the charged poetry and unapologetic, raw ferocity of the underground '90s Atlanta band Smoke, five dancers and a band of musicians embark on a kinetic anthem of reckless personal abandon — taking on time and how memory influences and manages our slippery, elastic existence.”

It’s an ambitious work and one that has been lauded.

The company will also work on an in-progress piece, “Aroundtown,” and perform it for the public.

Founded in 1987, David Dorfman Dance has performed all over the world. Dorfman himself has been a professor of dance and now is chairman of the Dance Department at Connecticut College. He has received many awards.

Dorfman’s work, according to the Dancers’ Workshop website, “explores the virtuosity of daily life.” Yes, that description is vague, but it’s hard to describe dance with words. The best way to understand Dorfman is to see his work, and you have a few chances to do that this week.

On Thursday evening the company will present “Aroundtown” in Dancers’ Workshop Studio 1. The performance will begin at 6 p.m. It costs $18 for adults and $10 for students.

“Come, And Back Again” will be performed Saturday night in the Center Theater at the Center for the Arts. The dance begins at 8 p.m. Tickets cost $25 and $55.

In addition, Dorfman will host a master class Monday evening. Open to dancers and nondancers, the class will focus on various styles, all in the postmodern tradition. The class begins at 5:30 p.m. and costs $25.

Two open rehearsals that anyone can attend will be held tonight and Friday. The one tonight begins at 4:30 and is a rehearsal for “Aroundtown.” Friday’s starts at noon and is for “Come, And Back Again.” Both are free to attend.

The two pieces are described by Dancers’ Workshop as “radically humanistic.”

This is Dorfman’s first time visiting Jackson and Dancers’ Workshop. Case said the company chose him for a residency because he is “simply amazing.”
“David is an amazing human being,” Case said. “He really loves to share dance with all kinds of people — nondancers and dancers.

“He is a very enthusiastic person and creates very physically exciting dances.”

For tickets and information go online to JHCenterForTheArts.org and DWJH.org.

This story has been edited to reflect the correct time of today's open rehearsal. Contact Isa Jones at 732-7062 or entertainment@jhnewsandguide.com.