

# Arts & LEISURE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2010

## THE WEEK AHEAD

NOV. 7—NOV. 13

### Dance

Jack Anderson

Back in 1970 in Rochester, a feisty little dance troupe was born. Its prospects were uncertain — which can usually be said of fledgling groups — yet its ambitions were great, and its spirits were high. To proclaim its willpower, it called itself Bottom of the Bucket, but . . . Dance Theater. Now, 40 years later, and renamed **GARTH FAGAN DANCE**, after its director-choreographer, it's one of the leading modern-dance companies, and Mr. Fagan has gone on to choreograph "The Lion King" on Broadway and be in great demand as a guest choreographer for many groups.

His company is celebrating its 40th anniversary at the Joyce Theater with a large repertory that includes two premieres, both highlighting the group's quirkiness. A choreographic collagist, Mr. Fagan likes to juxtapose disparate types of movement, so that sharp allegros may without warning be followed by dreamy adagios. Or he'll isolate separate body parts and make them appear to move in counterpoint. Such contrasts will abound in Mr. Fagan's premiere "Thanks 40," a celebration of the company's four decades. "Hylozoic," the second premiere, marks the choreographic debut of Norwood Pennewell, a longtime company member, who has peppered a basically lyrical piece with moments of wit that express the underlying optimism so important to this troupe. *Tuesday through next Sunday, 175 Eighth Avenue, at 19th Street, Chelsea; (212) 242-0800, joyce.org; \$19-\$59.*