



The revenge of Twyla Tharp

- ▶ **Choreographer's excellent 'Come Fly Away' shows everything she's made of – without cuts**
- ▶ **Dancers vamp to Ol' Blue Eyes**
- ▶ **The toe-tapping doesn't stop**

Twyla Tharp finally gets her revenge against all the film editors who left her dances on the cutting room floor. She has conceived, directed and choreographed a terrific new show that leaves the book out.

"Come Fly Away" is an intoxicating (and intoxicated) fantasy about love lost and found in the glamorous precincts of a nightclub. Frank Sinatra stalks the proceedings like a ghost; he's there but not there, heard but not seen, singing the greatest hits of the American Songbook while some of the best dancers in the world vamp for one an-

other amid the tables and chairs. A live band hovers behind and above the 15 movers; vocalist Hilary Gardner belts the occasional tune.

In Act 2, most of the clothes come off; Keith Roberts, who looks staid in black threads, turns suddenly magnetic when he bares his chest. The women, paced by sophisticated siren Karine Plantadit, pretty much rule this roost. John Selya, who has starred in several Tharp extravaganzas, plays an Everyman with love handles bewitched by statuesque Holley Farmer.

The men, confused by the women's aggression,



▶ From left, John Selya, Holley Farmer and Matthew Stockwell Dibble star in "Come Fly Away."

JOAN MARCUS

get cold feet, but the seraglio atmosphere heats up the place, and they all make friends again. Don Holder's lighting keeps the set alive even when it's almost empty; a constellation of lampshades

connects the stage to the house and even to the lobby, reminding us we're all in this together. Dancer Charlie Neshyba-Hodges, a love-struck busboy, nearly steals the show, evolving from a clumsy

chump to a dazzling consort.

Go for a nightcap after this one or you may find yourself, as I did, unable to stop your toes from twinkling, and unable to fall asleep.

'Come Fly Away'
Marquis Theatre
1535 Broadway
\$66.50-\$126.50, 877-250-2929
www.ticketmaster.com

 **ELIZABETH ZIMMER**
elizabeth.zimmer@metro.us