



For Immediate Release

VERGING ON TEN
**FUGATE/BAHIRI BALLET NY BRINGS A PROGRAM PACKED
WITH FIVE BALLETS TO THE JOYCE THEATER,
JUNE 27–JULY 2**

It began as “the little ballet company that could,” and now nearly a decade later, it has proved that it *can*. Fugate/Bahiri Ballet NY returns to The Joyce Theater, June 27–July 2, with a program that crisscrosses generations of choreographers and offers a mix of styles and music. The dance makers are Francis Patrelle, John Butler, Thaddeus Davis, Stanton Welch and Toni Pimble. The season’s two company premieres are by Butler and Patrelle.

Originally choreographed as a duet for Bahiri and Fugate in 1990, the pas de deux section of Francis Patrelle’s “Jazz Fools” is a tender, romantic duet, now performed at The Joyce by two company members (TBA). A Ballet NY premiere, the work is set to a recording of Mel Tormé’s “Ordinary Fool.”

In “Othello,” a second company premiere, John Butler condensed the classic Shakespeare play into a trio for the three main characters. Butler’s dramatic retelling of the story of the tragic consequences of love poisoned by jealousy, set to music by Antonin Dvorak, premiered in 1976 in Milan, Italy on La Scala Opera Ballet.

Fiercely energetic and sensually athletic, Thaddeus Davis’s “Once before, Twice after” is a quartet characterized by the break-neck speed of its dancing and the surprising shifts in partnering. The ballet is set to contemporary music by Garry Eister, Arnold Dreyblatt, Evelyn Glennie and M. Olatunji. Davis made his choreographic debut with the work when it was premiered by Ballet NY in 2002.

Stanton Welch’s “Orange,” a sextet set to an Antonio Vivaldi oboe concerto, is part of a series of dances by the Australian choreographer, each set to a different Vivaldi concerto and named for a different chakra color, or energy point throughout the body. Welch merges lyrical ballet vocabulary with unexpected movements and

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gestures in this dance he created for Ballet NY in 2001.

“Two’s Company,” choreographed by Toni Pimble for New York City Ballet’s 1992 Diamond Project, uses a trio of dancers as her foil to explore changing relationships. The graceful, elegant ballet is set to Dvorak’s “String Quartet in F major.”

Comprised of former members of major American ballet companies, the 11-member Ballet NY includes Dante D. Adela, Elysia Dawn, Fidel Garcia, Benjamin Lester, Addul Manzano, Anitra N. Nurnberger, John-Mark Owen, Bonnie Pickard, Lindsay Purrington, Kellye A. Saunders and Stacie Williams.

Upon entering the School of American Ballet at age eight, Judith Fugate was selected by George Balanchine to play Marie in the New York City Ballet production of “The Nutcracker,” eventually becoming the first Marie to go on to play the coveted role of the Sugar Plum Fairy in the NYCB production. During her career at City Ballet, where she danced as a principal for 10 years, Fugate performed major roles in almost every ballet in the repertory. She left NYCB in 1997 to work as a guest artist with other companies and to co-create Fugate/Bahiri Ballet NY with her husband, Medhi Bahiri. She has also staged Balanchine’s ballets throughout the U.S., Europe, Asia and South America.

Born in Marseilles, Medhi Bahiri began his professional dance studies in Cannes at Rosella Hightower’s legendary ballet school Centre de Danse. He was a member of Maurice Béjart’s Twentieth Century Ballet, and was a principal dancer with Ballet West and Boston Ballet in addition to serving as principal guest artist with Ballet National de Mexico, Ballet de Santiago, Universal Ballet of Korea, Ballet du Louvre, Tulsa Ballet and Ballet Philippines, among others. As a young performer, he was awarded the First Prize in the Prix de Lausanne dance competition and recognized for artistic achievement at the International Ballet Competition in Varna, Bulgaria, in addition to other honors.

Founded in 1997, Fugate/Bahiri Ballet NY (formerly DanceGalaxy), made its New York City debut at The Joyce Theater in 1999, and has since performed multiple seasons at The Joyce, as well as at Symphony Space and Marymount Manhattan Theatre. The company has toured throughout North America and performed as part of Montreal’s prestigious Festival des Arts de St.-Sauveur.

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FUGATE/BAHIRI BALLET NY
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Ballet NY arrives at The Joyce Theater following a major U.S. tour that included stops in Sarasota, FL (January 24–30); Sanibel, FL (February 10–12); Stockton, CA (March 30–31); Kahalui, Kamuela and Pearl City, HI (April 1–9); Santa Cruz, CA (April 11–12); Cerritos, CA (April 14–15); and Omaha, NE (May 21–22). Following the Joyce engagement, the company will perform in Stockton, CA (October 27–30 & December 8–10) and in Syracuse, NY (November 2).

The choreographers, briefly: **Francis Patrelle**, who founded the company Dances...Patrelle, was also resident choreographer for the Albany Berkshire Ballet for ten years. **John Butler**'s works have been performed by numerous ballet and modern dance companies world-wide. He choreographed many of Gian Carlo Minotti's operas and created works on dancers such as Mikhail Baryshnikov, Natalia Makarova, Carla Fracci and Judith Jamison. A former dancer with Donald Byrd/The Group, Dance Theatre of Harlem and Complexions, **Thaddeus Davis** has created works for Donald Byrd/The Group, Complexions, Spectrum Dance Theater and Ballet Austin, among others. Artistic director of Houston Ballet since 2003, Australian choreographer **Stanton Welch** has also created works for companies such as San Francisco Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Royal Danish Ballet and The Australian Ballet, where he was principal dancer and resident choreographer. English choreographer **Toni Pimble** has created over 40 works for the Eugene Ballet Company since becoming artistic director in 1978, and has also choreographed dances for Washington Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theater, Indianapolis Ballet Theatre and others.

The opening night curtain for Fugate/Bahiri Ballet NY's Joyce Theater season on Tuesday is at 7:30pm. Wednesday through Friday performances are at 8pm; Saturday's show is at 7:30pm. There are 2pm matinees on Saturday and Sunday. Please note: there is no Sunday evening show. Tickets are \$36, and are available at The Joyce Theater box office, by calling JoyceCharge at 212-242-0800 or online at www.joyce.org. The Joyce Theater is located at 175 Eighth Avenue at 19th Street.

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