



For Immediate Release

MOVING UPTOWN
BALLET NY CELEBRATES DEBUT AT
MILLER THEATRE, OCTOBER 9–12
NEW YORK AND TWO WORLD PREMIERES SCHEDULED

Ballet NY, the intrepid group of ballet dancers and choreographers committed to discovering new works for ballet, will present two world premieres and a New York premiere as part of its debut season at the Miller Theatre, October 9–12. The nine-year old company is directed by its co-founders, Judith Fugate and Medhi Bahiri.

About the new ballets: In “Table Games,” a world premiere, William Soleau documents the interactions of three couples at a dinner table, using a score by Arcangelo Corelli combined with an original music collage by Soleau. Soleau, the executive director of the John Butler Foundation, has created over 70 ballets for companies around the world.

The world premiere of Lisa de Ribère’s “Manny’s Mission” is a dance for four men and two women set to traditional Klezmer music by the New Orleans Klezmer Allstars. While not a religious work, “Manny’s Mission” was initially inspired by the choreographer’s recent trip to Israel. The dance marks de Ribère’s first new work since 1998. The choreographer, who has created over 80 ballets, is a former member of both New York City Ballet and American Ballet Theatre.

Helen Heineman’s “Replacements,” a New York premiere, is a constantly shifting trio set to Tuvan throat singing and a score by Bun-Ching Lam (reworked

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**BALLET NY
ADD ONE**

by composer Shelby Gaines) in which the dancers weave through a dream-like landscape. Heineman, a former soloist with Nederlands Dans Theatre and National Ballet of Washington, DC, and principal with the Harkness Ballet and Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, currently directs the chamber ballet company, Viewpointe.

Thaddeus Davis's turbulent duet "Vivaldian Chat" uses a score that combines the music of J.S. Bach, Antonio Vivaldi and contemporary composer Thomas Newman (recorded by YoYo Ma and Bobby McFerrin). Focusing on the conflicts between affection and power in a relationship, this 2004 piece marks Davis's second original work for Ballet NY. A former dancer with Donald Byrd/The Group, Dance Theatre of Harlem and Complexions, Davis has created works for Donald Byrd/The Group, Complexions, Spectrum Dance Theater and Ballet Austin, among others.

Comprised of former members of major American and international ballet companies, the nine-member Ballet NY includes Dante D. Adela, Laura Feig, Fidel Garcia, Anna Laghezza, Anitra N. Nurnberger, Kellye A. Saunders, Ted Seymour, Sean Stewart and Brent Whitney.

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 also appeared on Live from Lincoln Center with Ray Charles, danced in the Metropolitan Opera's "La Traviata" and toured with groups led by artists such as Mikhail Baryshnikov, Cynthia Gregory and Peter Martins. She left NYCB in 1997 to work as a guest artist with other companies and to co-create Ballet NY with her husband, Medhi Bahiri. She has also staged ballets for the George Balanchine Trust and Jerome Robbins Rights Trust throughout the U.S., Europe, Asia and

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South America.

Born in Marseille, international guest artist 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, 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. In addition, for the last seven years, Ballet NY has collaborated with Ballet San Joaquin in Stockton, CA on a production of "The Nutcracker."

The evening curtain for Ballet NY on Tuesday is at 7:30pm. On Wednesday–Friday, the performance begins at 8pm. Tickets are \$30 each. Student tickets with an I.D. are \$15; Senior tickets are \$25.50. Tickets are available at the box office or by calling 212-854-7799. Miller Theatre is located at 2690 Broadway at 116th Street.

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William Soleau's ballet is supported by a 2006 Choo-San Goh Award for Choreography from the Choo-San Goh & H. Robert Magee Foundation.

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