



For Immediate Release

FOUR WORLD PREMIERES HIGHLIGHT BALLET NY'S JOYCE THEATER SEASON, JULY 5-9

Fugate/Bahiri Ballet NY specializes in adventure. For its Joyce Theater season, July 5-9, the seven-year-old troupe, founded and directed by Judith Fugate and Medhi Bahiri, will present a program of world premieres by Davis Robertson, Alan Hineline, Helen Heineman and Jodie Gates. In addition to the promise of spectacular dancing, original scores will be performed live for two of the ballets.

Set to commissioned music by David Homan, Davis Robertson's "Romeo and Juliet in Mantua" combines ballet with contemporary movement. Robertson's version of the Shakespearean tragedy for the company's thirteen dancers simultaneously condenses and expands on the classic tale, with a new twist to the story's end. The music will be played live by Pauline Kim and members of the Mendelssohn Quartet and Flux String Quartet.

The musicians will also play live in Alan Hineline's "Quartet 2," a sextet, which is performed to a commissioned score by Jerome Begin. A plotless ballet, the dance is characterized by energetic, sensual movement.

Jodie Gates, a principal with William Forsythe's Ballet Frankfurt, challenges the company's performers in a different way in her "now and again." Brimming with off-balance, extreme movement, the choreography also demands improvisational responses from the dancers as they move through Bach and an original soundscape created by Frankfurt composer Dietrich Krueger.

"Hook-Up" by Helen Heineman explores the coming together and separations between a man and a woman. Heineman, a former soloist with

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Nederlands Dans Theater and the National Ballet of Washington, set her work to music by Arnold Dreyblatt.

Comprised of leading dancers from major American ballet companies, Ballet NY includes six former members of Dance Theater of Harlem: Allyson Ashley, Duncan Cooper, Melissa Morrissey, Kip Sturm, Donald Williams and Stacie Williams. Company members also include Anitra N. Nurnberger, who has performed with Pennsylvania Ballet, Ohio Ballet and American Repertory Ballet; Dorothy Overbey, a former member of the Colorado Ballet, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet and California Ballet; John-Mark Owen, who danced with the Ohio Ballet and American Repertory Ballet; and Lindsay Purrington, a founding member of Robert Weiss's Carolina Ballet with whom she danced until last year. The roster of dancers also includes Bonnie Pickard, who performed with Pennsylvania Ballet, North Carolina Dance Theater, Indianapolis Ballet Theater and as a guest artist with companies such as the Suzanne Farrell Ballet. And, lastly, there is Riley Watts, a graduate of the Walnut Hill School for the Arts, and presently a student at the Juilliard School.

Founded in 1997, Fugate/Bahiri Ballet NY (formerly Dance Galaxy), was first seen in New York City at The Joyce Theater in 1999 and then again in 2001. It also performed at Symphony Space and Marymount Manhattan Theatre. In its young life, it has already made tours of North America, including performances at Montreal's prestigious Festival des Arts de St.-Sauveur.

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.

Born in Marseilles, Medhi Bahiri began his professional dance studies at

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Rosella Hightower's legendary ballet school Centre de Danse in Cannes. 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, in addition to other honors.

Following its Joyce Theater season, the company will make a major tour of the United States in 2006 that includes performances in Sarasota, FL (January 25–29); Sanibel, FL (February 10–11); Oxford, OH (February 13–15); Lewisburg, PA at Bucknell University (February 16–18); Albany, NY (February 23–24); Kahalui, Kamuela and Pearl City, HI (March 31–April 9); Santa Cruz, CA (April 10–12); Cerritos, CA (April 14); Omaha, NE (May 20); and Nashville, TN (TBD). The company will return to The Joyce Theater, June 26–July 2, 2006.

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. On Saturday, there is a 2pm matinee and an evening show at 7pm. Tickets are \$34. All tickets 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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