



For Immediate Release

GOING ON TEN
BALLET NY MARKS ITS FIRST DECADE
WITH WEEK AT THE JOYCE THEATER, SEPTEMBER 23–28
HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE PREMIERES BY THADDEUS DAVIS AND ANDREW BLIGHT

A decade later, and succeeding against all odds, Ballet NY, whose nickname should be the *Little Ballet Company That Could*, enters its 10th year with a spectacular season of freshly created premieres and celebrated hits at The Joyce Theater, September 23-28. Ballet NY is co-directed by its founders Judith Fugate and Medhi Bahiri.

The intrepid troupe of seasoned dancers embody Ballet NY's singular vision: Sophisticated classical dancers performing challenging works by emerging choreographers.

The New York premieres include Thaddeus Davis's "Majestic Days and Fervent Nights," a trenchant comment on the hypocrisy of the ladies and gentlemen of the court, who by day radiate formal, good manners that they recklessly throw to the wind at night. The womens' long, full skirts of day give way to lingerie and miniskirts at night as they cavort and frolic with uninhibited debauchery. Reflecting the dramatic transformation of the characters, the music ranges from Vivaldi and Mozart to the contemporary sounds of Michael Gordon and Louis Andridssen.

Rhythmically driven, Andrew Blight's premiere, "Pro-Vine Pas de Deux," evolves from the initial five steps that are introduced at the beginning of the ballet. The score mixes Edgar Varese, Bohack and J.S. Bach.

In "Table Games," William Soleau theatrically documents the witty, sad goings-on among three couples at a dinner party. The dinner table itself serves

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as a kind of kinetic sculpture playing a changing role as it prompts new interactions among the dancing guests. The score is 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.

Lisa de Ribère's lively "Manny's Mission," which features four men and two women in a work brimming with good spirits, is set to traditional Klezmer music by the New Orleans Klezmer Allstars. It was premiered by Ballet NY during the company's performances at the Miller Theatre last season. The choreographer, who has created over 80 ballets, is a former member of both New York City Ballet and American Ballet Theatre.

The nine-member Ballet NY includes Elysia Dawn, Laura Feig, Erin K. Fogarty, Jonathan Ihde, Anitra N. Nurnberger, Kellye A. Saunders, Jonathan Stiles, Brent Whitney and Kevin Yee-Chan.

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 South America.

Born in Marseille, international guest artist Medhi Bahiri began his professional dance studies in Cannes at Rosella Hightower's legendary ballet

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**BALLET NY
ADD TWO**

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 Nacional de México, 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 performances on Tuesday and Wednesday are at 7:30pm; Thursday and Friday shows are at 8:00pm; Saturday is at 2:00pm and 8:00pm; and Sunday at 2:00pm and 7:30pm. Single ticket prices are \$19, \$25, and \$39, depending on location and can be purchased by calling JoyceCharge at 212-242-0800, in person at the box office, or online at www.joyce.org. The Joyce Theater is located at 175 Eighth Avenue at 19th Street.

**PLEASE NOTE: BALLET NY HAS A NEW WEB PRESENCE ON
MYSPACE.COM (MYSPACE.COM/BALLETNEWYORK) AND FACEBOOK.COM
AS WELL AS A REDESIGNED BALLETNY.ORG WEBSITE. TAKE A LOOK.**

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