



For Immediate Release

A JAZZY NEW LOOK TO MOZART
**PASCAL RIOULT DANCE THEATRE PRESENTS WORLD
PREMIERE AS PART OF COMPANY'S JOYCE
THEATER SEASON, JUNE 20-25**

Choreographer Pascal Rioult and composer Jacques Loussier, both French artists, listened to Mozart's "Concerto No. 23" and each heard the jazz possibilities in the 18th century Austrian's classic score. A highlight of the Pascal Rioult Dance Theatre's Joyce Theater season, June 20–25, is the world premiere of "If by Chance," set to the Mozart music re-orchestrated by Loussier's trio and string orchestra. Also scheduled for each show, except the gala on June 21, are: "Bolero," "Black Diamond" and "Les Noces." On June 21, a gala evening, the company will present "Piaf Suite," "Black Diamond," "If by Chance" and "Bolero."

While Rioult has been drawn to Mozart's music over the years, he was reluctant to use it in a traditional way. Then *voilà!* The discovery of the recently released Loussier recording. According to Rioult, Loussier was inspired by Mozart's similarity to jazz artists who build the possibility of improvisation into their composition work. Loussier opened the music to new rhythms; he also used the cadenza sections of the concerto to introduce jazz. Likewise, Rioult allowed his dancers the freedom to improvise and play with his vocabulary within his American modern dance choreographic frame.

The Joyce season showcases Rioult's ongoing love affair with music in works such as "Bolero," which premiered in 2002. Instead of responding to the sexual suggestions of Maurice Ravel's hypnotic score, Rioult's work concentrates on the music's mechanistic drama, injecting counterpoint as the dancers

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suddenly, yet seamlessly, split off from the group. The dance accumulates in density as the music gathers in power, concluding with the dancers suddenly freezing in a series of stopped solos.

Set to Stravinsky's "Duo Concertante," "Black Diamond," a duet for two women, emphasizes clarity, technique and the challenge of opposition, inspired by the composer's combined use of opposites—bowed and percussive instruments. The dance was first seen in 2003.

Last season's premiere, "Les Noces," again shows Rioult's bold re-imagining of a classic. While Bronislava Nijinska's 1914 dance to the Stravinsky score explored a 19th century Russian peasant wedding, Rioult chose to strip away the expected social and religious conventions of a marriage to reveal the underlying sexual and psychological anxieties of exchanging a safe environment for the unknown.

2001's "Piaf Suite," which will be seen on one night only, June 21, is a series of intimate solos, duets and trios. Set in a café, the romantic encounters are danced to a selection of classic Edith Piaf songs.

Born in Normandy, France, Pascal Rioult earned a Master's degree in science education from the University of Paris, and in 1981 was awarded a fellowship from the French Ministry of Culture to study dance in New York City. After performing with the companies of May O'Donnell and Paul Sanasardo, Rioult joined the Martha Graham Dance Company in 1986, dancing as a principal with the Company until 1994.

While still dancing with Graham, Rioult began choreographing in 1989, founding the Pascal Rioult Dance Theatre in 1991. He produced his first concerts at the Theatre of the Riverside Church in 1991 and 1992. Rioult's "Narayama" and "Harvest" were performed by the Graham Company during its City Center seasons in New York. The Pascal Rioult Dance Theatre has performed its repertory of over 20 works throughout the United States as well as abroad. The troupe's most recent tour to Europe in the winter of 2005 included

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nine cities across Belgium, France and Switzerland. Rioult's work has been commissioned in both the United States and Europe by such presenters as the American Dance Festival, Cal Performances and Théâtre de Saint Quentin en Yvelines. The recipient of a 1998 and 2002 Choo-San Goh Award for Choreography, Rioult has also been awarded grants from National Endowment for the Arts and The New York State Council on the Arts, among numerous other institutions and foundations.

The evening curtain for the company's Joyce Theater season is at 7:30pm on Tuesday and 7pm on Wednesday. Thursday through Saturday performances are at 8pm; the Sunday evening curtain is at 7:30pm. There will also be 2pm matinees on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$38 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.

**PLEASE NOTE: AN AUDIO GUIDE FOR THE 2006 SEASON
IS CURRENTLY BEING CREATED IN MP3 FORMAT ON THE
COMPANY'S WEBSITE (WWW.PRDANCE.ORG).
STAY TUNED.**

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