



For Immediate Release

TWENTY YEARS LATER
DOUG VARONE AND DANCERS CELEBRATES
20 YEARS WITH TWO PREMIERES AT
THE JOYCE THEATER, OCTOBER 24-29

Doug Varone and Dancers celebrates its 20th anniversary with a burst of new creativity. Witness the two distinct premieres the company will present at the Joyce Theater, October 24–29: “Lux,” a luminous world premiere, and the New York premiere of the already critically-acclaimed “Boats Leaving,” a darker, poetically elegiac work. Showcasing four of Varone’s greatest hits, the season’s two programs present landmark dances that embody the daring physicality and emotional depth that distinguish his works.

About the New: In “Boats Leaving,” images slowly emerge, linger and disperse, creating a panorama of fleeting humanity. Suggestions of gatherings and brief encounters uncannily convey both isolation and collective solidarity, while images of lining-up for an unforeseen—perhaps, harrowing—future compound to create a portrait of displaced people. Such dark images play against the choral beauty of Arvo Pärt’s “Te Deum.” “Boats Leaving” reflects Varone’s ongoing concern with community and his stubborn faith in the survival and triumph of the human spirit.

While “Lux” begins with a contemplative solo performed by Varone, the entry of more and more dancers affects a change in mood, one that becomes increasingly radiant as the music accelerates. Duets, solos, trios, morph into each other with greater and greater speed until they merge into a breathless mosaic of energy. The surprising twists of the dancers’ bodies, their swoops, unexpected tilts and turns, their ever-changing groupings create a kaleidoscopic kinetic vision that edges on ecstasis.

From Repertory: “Castles,” a luminous work, swelling with musicality and brimming with intricate dancing and an unexpected duet, was created in 2004 and is set to Prokofiev’s “Waltz Suite, Opus 110.” Also on the boards is “Bel Canto,” choreographed in 1998 to selections from Bellini’s “Norma.” Colorful and playfully ribald, the dance makes its point by exposing the wit beneath the music’s ornamental surface. Premiered

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in 1994 and now considered a classic exploration of the subtle complexities of a relationship, "Possession" is set to Phillip Glass's "Concerto for Violin and Orchestra." At The Joyce, "Possession" will feature guest appearances by former Varone dancers Larry Hahn and Gwen Welliver, as well as former Lar Lubovitch principal Peggy Baker. And finally, there will be "Bench Quartet," which premiered at P.S. 122 in 1986, the year of the Varone company's debut. The music is Bach's "Cantata 78, Jesu der Meine Seele."

About Doug Varone and Dancers: Doug Varone, originally from Syosset, NY, began his training in tap dancing at a young age. He studied dance at the New Dance Group in Manhattan as a teenager and earned a B.F.A. degree from SUNY, Purchase. A principal dancer with the Limón Dance Company and the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, he founded Doug Varone and Dancers in 1986. The company, which tours extensively throughout the United States, Europe and Asia, has garnered eight New York Dance and Performance Awards (Bessies), including Varone's 1998 Bessie for Sustained Achievement in Choreography.

In addition to creating dances for his own troupe, Varone has choreographed for theater, opera, television and film, as well as for commissions by the Pennsylvania Ballet, Dayton Ballet, Toronto Dancemakers, the Batsheva Dance Company, the Limón Dance Company, the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company and the Colorado Ballet.

In 1997, Varone made his Broadway debut when he choreographed and staged the musical "Triumph of Love." He has also worked on theater productions at Baltimore's Center Stage, Yale Repertory Theater, Walnut Street Theater, McCarter Theater, Music Theater Group and the Aquila Theatre Company, among others. His recent Lincoln Center production of "Orpheus and Euridice" earned him a 2006 OBIE Award.

As the choreographer for numerous opera productions, Varone's credits include several new productions for the Metropolitan Opera: Hector Berlioz's "Les Troyens" (2003), Igor Stravinsky's "Le Sacre du Printemps" (2003), Richard Strauss's "Salome" (2004) and most recently, the world premiere of Tobias Picker's "An American Tragedy" (2005). He also choreographed and staged the American premiere of George Antheil's opera "Transatlantic" for the Minnesota Opera, Gioacchino Rossini's "Il viaggio a Reims" for the New York City Opera and Richard Wagner's "Die Valkerie" for the Washington

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DOUG VARONE AND DANCERS
ADD TWO

Opera. In 2001, he directed and choreographed Opera Colorado's production of Christoph Willibald Gluck's "Orphée et Eurydice" and returned in 2004 to direct Rossini's "Barber of Seville." In 2006, he directed and choreographed the American premiere of Laurent Petitgirard's "The Elephant Man" for the Minnesota Opera.

Off the stage, Varone created choreography for A&E's 1995 "The Planets," a dance and skating visualization of the Gustav Holst score that was nominated for an International Emmy Award, a Cable ACE Award and Grammy. For three consecutive seasons, he choreographed Geoffrey Beene's Couture Fashion Ballets in New York. The choreographer also collaborated with photographer Michael Thompson on a shoot for the February 2004 issue of *W* Magazine and choreographed for the Patrick Swayze film "One Last Dance."

Following its Joyce season, the Varone company will perform at Zeiterion Theater in New Bedford, MA (March 10); Kaatsbaan International Center for Dance in Tivoli, NY (April 1–22); the Newman Center for the Performing Arts in Denver, CO (April 28); the Carlsen Center in Overland Park, KS (April 29–May 5); and The Performing Arts Center at Purchase College in Purchase, NY (June 16). This summer, the company will premiere a new work commissioned by the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, at Wolf Trap's Filene Center in Vienna, VA.

The Tuesday and Wednesday curtains for Doug Varone and Dancers's Joyce Theater season are at 7:30pm; on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening, curtains are at 8pm. Sunday evening's performance begins at 7:30pm. There will also be 2pm matinees on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$42 and are available at The Joyce Theater box office or 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.

Doug Varone and Dancers will next be seen in New York City at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Harvey Theater (May 16, 18–20).

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE.

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DOUG VARONE AND DANCERS
THE JOYCE THEATER
175 EIGHTH AVENUE
OCTOBER 24–29, 2006
BOX OFFICE: 212-242-0800
Tickets: \$42

Tuesday, October 24, 7:30pm

Program A
Castles (2004)
Boats Leaving (2006)*
Lux (2006)**

Saturday, October 28, 8pm

Program A
Castles (2004)
Boats Leaving (2006)*
Lux (2006)**

Wednesday, October 25, 7:30pm

Program A
Castles (2004)
Boats Leaving (2006)*
Lux (2006)**

Sunday, October 29, 2pm

Program A
Castles (2004)
Boats Leaving (2006)*
Lux (2006)**

Thursday, October 26, 8pm

Program B
Possession (1994)
Bel Canto (1998)
Bench Quartet (1986)
Boats Leaving (2006)*

Sunday, October 29, 7:30pm

Program B
Possession (1994)
Bel Canto (1998)
Bench Quartet (1986)
Boats Leaving (2006)*

Friday, October 27, 8pm

Program A
Castles (2004)
Boats Leaving (2006)*
Lux (2006)**

LEGEND:

**World Premiere
*New York Premiere

Saturday, October 28, 2pm

Program B
Possession (1994)
Bel Canto (1998)
Bench Quartet (1986)
Boats Leaving (2006)*

Program B is a special 20th
Anniversary Program

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