



**DOUG VARONE AND DANCERS PERFORM TWO PROGRAMS AT THE JOYCE THEATER, FEBRUARY 3–8  
HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE WORLD PREMIERE OF “CASTLES”**

New York theaters were aglow with his work over the past year. The 3800-seat Metropolitan Opera House; the 75-seat Ohio Theater; the 475-seat Joyce Theater; the 2200-seat BAM Opera House and the 900-seat Symphony Space all featured his original work. Yet, despite the diversity of venue, variety of subject matter and music, there is an inimitable choreographic signature to Doug Varone’s dances: a sly wit, romantic heart with a dash of darkness, humanity, not to mention a musicality radiant with imagination. A quiet, but firm and daring spirit indelibly distinguishes the signature.

One of the highlights of Doug Varone and Dancers’s Joyce Theater season, February 3–8, is the world premiere of his luminous “Castles,” set to music by Sergei Prokofiev. Swelling with breathtaking musicality, the work is filled with intricate dancing, an unexpected love duet and moments of shadowed circumstance. The costumes are by Liz Prince and the lighting by Jane Cox and Joshua Epstein.

The Joyce season also features “The Bottomland,” a haunting marriage of video and dance that explores the changing lives and relationships of an imagined backwoods Kentucky community. Providing a larger-than-life dialogue with the dancing on stage, the video dramatically alternates between the rolling, verdant landscape outside and the jagged walls and curling passageways of Kentucky’s Mammoth Caves, which are animated by the movement of Varone’s dancers. The music is by Patty Loveless. The version of the work that will be performed at The Joyce was commissioned by the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts and the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center.

Varone’s 1993 classic “Rise,” set to John Adams’s “Fearful Symmetries,” resonates with the fierce power of the music. At times the dancers leap and spin through the air with breath-taking speed, almost as if never to return to earth again.

Last spring’s world premiere, “Of the Earth Far Below,” will receive its first Joyce performance this season. Positing nature at cross-purposes with herself, the dance is

**MORE**

**ADD ONE**  
**DOUG VARONE AND DANCERS**

set to Steve Reich's "Triple Quartet," where swelling and receding waves of musical energy are reflected in the demonic force of the choreography.

"Short Story" shows Varone as a master of distilled fiction. The powerful, five minute duet, set to Sergei Rachmaninoff's "Prelude in C minor," features Varone and guest artist Nina Watt as a couple whose relationship resonates with a multitude of feelings and passions.

Varone, who began his training as a tap dancer at a young age, was born and raised in Syosset, NY. He studied at the New Dance Group in Manhattan as a teenager and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from SUNY, Purchase. As a dancer he performed as a principal with the Limón Dance Company and the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, before founding Doug Varone and Dancers in 1986. Since its creation, the company has toured extensively throughout the United States, Europe and Asia, garnered eight New York Dance and Performance Awards (Bessies) and received commissions from numerous institutions.

In addition to choreographing for his own troupe, Varone has received commissions from the Pennsylvania Ballet, Dayton Ballet, Toronto Dancemakers, the Batsheva Dance Company, the Limón Dance Company, the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company and, most recently, the Colorado Ballet.

Varone made his Broadway debut in the fall of 1997 when he choreographed and staged the musical "Triumph of Love." He has also choreographed and staged 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 Opera. In the spring of 2001, he directed and choreographed the Opera Colorado production of Christoph Willibald Gluck's "Orphée et Eurydice," and he will return this spring to direct Rossini's "Barber of Seville" in a production that will feature his company. For the Metropolitan Opera, Varone choreographed Hector Berlioz's "Les Troyens" and, in fall 2003, a new production of Igor Stravinsky's "Le Sacre du Printemps," as part of an all-Stravinsky evening conducted by Valery Gergiev. In spring 2004, Varone will choreograph a new production of Richard Strauss's "Salome," also for the Met.

Outside of concert dance, his work has included choreography for "The Planets," a dance and skating visualization of the Gustav Holst score, which aired on A&E in

**MORE**

**ADD TWO**  
**DOUG VARONE AND DANCERS**

1995. It was subsequently nominated for an International Emmy Award, a Cable ACE Award, and Grammy. For three consecutive seasons, Varone choreographed Geoffrey Beene's Couture Fashion Ballets in New York.

Varone has been awarded numerous honors including a Guggenheim Fellowship (1996); a Choo-San Goh Award for Choreography (1998); annual Choreography Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts (1988 to 1997); a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Choreography (1987); Metropolitan Life's Emerging Artist Award (1990); and a 1998 "Bessie" for Sustained Achievement in Choreography.

Prior to its Joyce season, Doug Varone and Dancers performed in Middletown, CT (September 12–13); Dartmouth University in Hanover, NH (January 16–17); and Connecticut College in New London, CT (January 30). Following its season at The Joyce, the company will continue to tour in Keene, NH (March 1–2); Boston, MA (March 4–6); Denver, CO (April 24–May 2) and in Albany, NY (June 19). The company will then begin a tour of Italy to three festivals (July 11–25).

The evening curtain for Doug Varone and Dancers' Joyce Theater season, Tuesday through Saturday, is at 8pm; and on Sunday at 7:30pm. There will also be 2pm matinees on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$40 and are available at The Joyce Theater box office or by calling JoyceCharge at 212-242-0800 or online at [www.joyce.org](http://www.joyce.org). The Joyce Theater is located at 175 Eighth Avenue at 19<sup>th</sup> Street.

**PLEASE SEE ATTACHED SCHEDULE.**  
**THE PRESS OPENING IS ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4.**

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"Castles" was commissioned by the Carlsen Center of the Johnson County Community College, Kansas, Charles R. Rogers, Artistic Director.

Additional funding support for "Castles" has been provided by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. "Castles" was created, in part, during residencies at the Bates Dance Festival and at the Purchase College Conservatory of Dance, supported by the NY State Council on the Arts.

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**Doug Varone and Dancers**  
**February 3-8, 2004**  
**The Joyce Theater**  
**175 Eighth Avenue**  
**New York, NY 10011**

**DOUG VARONE AND DANCERS**

**Tuesday, February 3 at 8pm**

*PROGRAM A*

Castles (World Premiere)  
The Bottomland (2002)  
Rise (1993)

**Saturday, February 7 at 2pm**

*PROGRAM A*

Castles (World Premiere)  
The Bottomland (2002)  
Rise (1993)

**Wednesday, February 4 at 8pm**

*PROGRAM B*

Of the Earth Far Below (2003)  
Short Story (2001)  
Castles (World Premiere)  
Rise (1993)

**Saturday, February 7 at 8pm**

*PROGRAM B*

Of the Earth Far Below (2003)  
Short Story (2001)  
Castles (World Premiere)  
Rise (1993)

**Thursday, February 5 at 8pm**

*PROGRAM B*

Of the Earth Far Below (2003)  
Short Story (2001)  
Castles (World Premiere)  
Rise (1993)

**Sunday, February 8 at 2pm**

*PROGRAM B*

Of the Earth Far Below (2003)  
Short Story (2001)  
Castles (World Premiere)  
Rise (1993)

**Friday, February 6 at 8pm**

*PROGRAM A*

Castles (World Premiere)  
The Bottomland (2002)  
Rise (1993)

**Sunday, February 8 at 7:30pm**

*PROGRAM A*

Castles (World Premiere)  
The Bottomland (2002)  
Rise (1993)

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