



For Immediate Release

**GARTH FAGAN DANCE RETURNS TO THE JOYCE THEATER,  
OCTOBER 17–22, WITH WORLD PREMIERE OF “SENKU,”  
PERFORMED TO LIVE MUSIC; SEASON ALSO FEATURES  
TWO PROGRAMS OF FAGAN FAVORITES**

Although their leaps may no longer conquer the sky, their bodies may no longer stretch and snap like rubber bands, older dancers offer an equally breath-taking virtuosity. An exploration of both the young and mature dancer is the unexpected subject of Garth Fagan’s world premiere, “Senku,” a highlight of Garth Fagan Dance’s Joyce Theater season, October 17–22. Also on the boards are last year’s premiere, “LIFE: DARK/LIGHT,” a revival and works dating back to 1982.

“Senku,” choreographed to showcase the unique qualities of each generation of Fagan’s performers, who range from 54 to twenty-something years old, plays to their differing, and often overlapping qualities: brashness, agility, speed and legato, the height of their extensions, the depth of their drama, naiveté and the effect of the accumulation of life experiences. What do these generations share and how do they differ? What the dance reveals finally is the potential complexity and riches of the art form itself. The dance is set to music by composers of African descent from Nigeria, Jamaica, England and the U.S.—Joshua Uzoiwe, Oswald Russell, Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor—and performed live by Ghanaian-American concert pianist William Chapman Nyaho. “Senku,” a Fanti term for a keyboard instrument, is titled after Nyaho’s CD of the same name.

Departing from “Senku” and embodying Fagan’s profound humanist concerns, “LIFE: DARK/LIGHT” (2005) celebrates the bonds that communalize society as reflected in the complex rhythms of Billy Bang’s Asian-influenced jazz violin music. In the three-part work, set to Bang’s “Vietnam: The Aftermath,” Fagan explores the interconnections between man’s intellect, compassion and instinct to survive.

**MORE**

**GARTH FAGAN DANCE  
ADD ONE**

“Translation Transition,” first performed in 2002, conveys a sense of community, once again revealing Fagan’s deep humanist streak. Like the Jazz Jamaica All Stars score that accompanies “Translation Transition,” the dance explores the similarities, differences and meeting points between American jazz and the traditional music of Jamaica (ska, reggae and mento).

The company will perform a section from “DANCECOLLAGEFORROMIE,” ‘Detail: Down Home Also,’ set to music by Villa-Lobos. The 2003 dance was inspired by and dedicated to one of Fagan’s heroes, the great American visual artist Romare Bearden. Fagan honors Bearden with choreography that draws upon the poignant spirit of the painter, his juxtaposition of color, shape and pattern and his love of humanity—qualities that Fagan shares. The choreography presents a seamless mix of modern, classical ballet, African, West Indian and Afro-American dance.

The revival of “Mix 25,” created in 1996 to celebrate the company’s first quarter century, is definitively Fagan both in its range of musical choices—Johannes Brahms, Wynton Marsalis, John Cage and Foday Musa Suso—and its combination of the sacred and the secular, of prayer and celebration. The dance was inspired by the spiritual lessons Fagan learned from his Jamaican childhood: the need to attend to the glories of life when trouble seems pressing.

“Prelude–‘Discipline is Freedom,’” a 1983 work that celebrates Fagan’s unique vocabulary and the dancers’ command of his wit and elegant technical intricacies, is set to Abdullah Ibrahim (Dollar Brand) and Max Roach. “Touring Jubilee 1924 (Professional),” a fun-filled, lively work from 1982, is set to music by Preservation Hall Jazz Band.

Garth Fagan, a 1998 Tony Award-winner for his choreography for Broadway hit “The Lion King,” began his career in dance by touring Latin America with Ivy Baxter and her Jamaican national dance company. In addition to studying with Baxter, Fagan trained with Caribbean dance teachers Lavinia Williams and Pearl Primus, as well as with Martha Graham, Mary Hinkson, Alvin Ailey and José Limón. A graduate of Wayne State University, the Jamaican-born choreographer served as director of Detroit’s All-City Dance Company and was a principal soloist and choreographer for the Dance Theatre of Detroit and the Detroit Contemporary Dance Company. In 1970, he moved to Rochester, NY where he founded Garth Fagan Dance. The company, wrapping up its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, has since appeared in many major venues and arts festivals throughout the United States, as well as internationally in Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, South America, New Zealand, Australia and the West Indies.

**MORE**

**GARTH FAGAN DANCE  
ADD TWO**

In addition to works for Garth Fagan Dance, Fagan has choreographed dances for Judith Jamison, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Limón Dance Company. In May 1999, he created “Ellington Elation,” one section of a trio of pieces commissioned by New York City Ballet in honor of Duke Ellington’s centenary and NYCB’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Fagan’s choreography for “The Lion King” also won him the 1998 Drama Desk Award, the 1998 Outer Critics Circle Award, the 1998 Astaire Award, the 2000 Laurence Olivier Award and the 2001 Ovation Award. In 2001, he received the Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award; that same year, he was also the recipient of the Golden Plate Award, was inducted into the American Academy of Achievement and was presented with the Order of Distinction in the rank of Commander by the Jamaican government. Among other honors, including the 2004 Helpmann Award, Fagan has also received a New York Dance and Performance Award (“Bessie”), as have four other members of his company: Norwood Pennewell, Steve Humphrey, Natalie Rogers and Sharon Skepple.

Following its Joyce season, Garth Fagan Dance will perform in Oklahoma City, OK (October 28); Rochester, NY (November 28–December 3); Utica, NY (February 10); and Lake Worth, FL (February 23 & 24).

The evening curtain for Garth Fagan Dance’s Joyce Theater season, Tuesday & Wednesday is at 7:30pm; on Thursday–Saturday, the show begins 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 box office or by calling 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. Benefit tickets for the Friday, Oct. 20 performance and following reception at La Belle Vie (184 Eighth Avenue at 19<sup>th</sup> Street) cost \$150 and may be purchased by calling Garth Fagan Dance at 585-454-3260.

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**PLEASE SEE ATTACHED PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE.**

The Garth Fagan Dance 2006-2007 season is made possible, in part, by the generous support of Altria Group, Inc., The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Inc., Gleason Foundation and The Heineman Foundation for Research, Educational Charitable and Scientific Purposes, Inc.

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**GARTH FAGAN DANCE  
THE JOYCE THEATER**

175 EIGHTH AVENUE  
OCTOBER 17 - 22, 2006  
BOX OFFICE: 212-242-0800  
TICKETS: \$42

**Tuesday, October 17, 7:30 pm**

*Program A*

Life: Dark/Light (2005)  
Senku (2006)\*\*  
Translation Transition (2002)

**Wednesday, October 18, 7:30 pm**

*Program A*

Life: Dark/Light (2005)  
Senku (2006)\*\*  
Translation Transition (2002)

**Thursday, October 19, 8pm**

*Program B*

Prelude (Discipline is Freedom) (1983)  
Detail: Down Home Also (2003)^  
Touring Jubilee 1924 (Professional)  
(1982)  
Senku (2006)\*\*  
Mix 25 (1996) (Revival)

**Friday, October 20, 8pm**

*Program A*

Life: Dark/Light (2005)  
Senku (2006)\*\*  
Translation Transition (2002)

**LEGEND:**

\*\*World Premiere

^excerpt from

DANCECOLLAGEFORROMIE(2003)

Note: William Chapman Nyaho will  
play live during all performances

Tuesday–Saturday, only.

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**Saturday, October 21, 2 pm**

*Program B*

Prelude (Discipline is Freedom) (1983)  
Detail: Down Home Also (2003)^  
Touring Jubilee 1924 (Professional)  
(1982)  
Senku (2006)\*\*  
Mix 25 (1996) (Revival)

**Saturday, October 21, 8pm**

*Program A*

Life: Dark/Light (2005)  
Senku (2006)\*\*  
Translation Transition (2002)

**Sunday, October 22, 2pm**

*Program A*

Life: Dark/Light (2005)  
Senku (2006)\*\*  
Translation Transition (2002)

**Sunday, October 22, 7:30pm**

*Program B*

Prelude (Discipline is Freedom) (1983)  
Detail: Down Home Also (2003)^  
Touring Jubilee 1924 (Professional)  
(1982)  
Senku (2006)\*\*  
Mix 25 (1996) (Revival)