



**DANCE THAT DARES**  
**TWYLA THARP DANCE RETURNS TO THE JOYCE THEATER**  
**JULY 28–AUGUST 9**

Renowned for its galvanizing dancing and electrifying choreography, Twyla Tharp Dance, which played to sold out houses when it made its Joyce Theater debut in 2001, returns to the Chelsea-based theater for a two week engagement, July 28–August 9. Among the season highlights will be the New York premiere of "Westerly Round" and the revival of Tharp's 1970 ground-breaking classic, "The Fugue." The 2003 Tony Award-winning choreographer's singular dramatic range will be further seen in "Surfer at the River Styx," whose stormy darkness contrasts the wit and easy charm of "Known by Heart Duet."

Heralded as a new direction in Tharp's career when it premiered 33 years ago, "The Fugue," a trio set to the music of the performers' own dancing feet, was critically acclaimed as transcending tap. Definitively Tharpian, the dance, 14 minutes of pure movement, brims with surprise in its unique spirals, lunges, shifts in tempo and shuffles through space.

Set to music by Mark O'Connor, "Westerly Round," which premiered in 2001, glows with Tharp's wit, which playfully fuses the elegance of the classical ballet vocabulary with the steps and spirit of American folk dance. Its flirtatious pleasure expressed through an abstracted square dance form suggests a 21<sup>st</sup> century cowboy romance.

"Surfer at the River Styx" reveals yet another dimension of Tharp's renowned imagination. In this sextet, premiered in 2000 and set to an original percussive score by Donald Knaack, Tharp takes her audience on a riveting and transforming voyage whose darkly ominous passages resolve in a beatific apotheosis.

**MORE**

## **TWYLA THARP DANCE**

### **ADD ONE**

Comic, romantic, and fiery by turns, "Known by Heart Duet" applies the formal structure of the classical ballet pas de deux (an adagio, two solos and a coda) to explore a witty, fierce and at times combative, contemporary partnership. The dance, set to Donald Knaack's "Junk Music," is an excerpt of a suite of dances originally commissioned by American Ballet Theatre in 1998.

Tharp received a 2003 Tony Award for her work on the current Broadway hit, "Movin' Out," which she conceived, directed and choreographed. In addition, her choreography for the show was recognized with every honor available to a Broadway show including the Astaire Award; Outer Critics Circle Award; Drama League; and Drama Desk Awards. As the show's creator, Tharp was also a finalist for a 2003 Pulitzer Prize. Her previous work on Broadway includes several seasons by Twyla Tharp Dance at the Winter Garden and "Singin' in the Rain," which she directed and choreographed.

Tharp has created more than 125 dances, choreographed five Hollywood films and received two Emmy's for her television work. In addition to her work with her own dance troupe, she created commissioned ballets for numerous companies including Paris Opera Ballet, The Royal Ballet, New York City Ballet, Boston Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, the Martha Graham Dance Company, and American Ballet Theatre, for which she created 12 ballets.

Her many awards include 18 honorary doctorates, the 1990 Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award, as well as a MacArthur Fellowship. Her autobiography, "Push Comes to Shove," was published by Bantam Books in 1992, and her newest book, "The Creative Habit," will be released by Simon and Schuster this fall.

Twyla Tharp Dance is comprised of Emily Coates, Whitney Simler, Lynda Sing, Stuart Capps, Matthew Dibble, Jason McDole, Charlie Neshyba-Hodges and Dario Vaccaro.

The company, which has performed in 24 cities across the United States since January, was most recently seen at the 2003 Jacobs' Pillow Festival

### **MORE**

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ADD TWO**

in Lee, MA and at the American Dance Festival in Durham, NC. Internationally, the company will be seen at Sadler's Wells in London and at the prestigious Spoleto Festival in Italy just prior to its Joyce season.

On September 9, Twyla Tharp Dance will appear in New York as part of the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Evening Stars series, followed by performances at the McCarter Theater in Princeton, NJ (September 25); the Kuss Auditorium, Springfield, OH (September 30); the Indiana University Auditorium, Bloomington, IN (October 2); the Brown Theater, Louisville, KY (October 4). Travelling to the West Coast, Twyla Tharp Dance will perform at Schnitzer Hall, Portland, OR (October 8); Campbell Hall, Santa Barbara, CA (October 10); University Theater, Riverside, CA (October 11) and at the Mandeville Auditorium in San Diego, CA.

At The Joyce Theater, evening curtain times for Twyla Tharp Dance are at 8pm, Monday through Saturday. There is also a matinee performance on Saturday at 2pm. The program will remain the same for all performances. Tickets are \$40 and are available at The Joyce Theater box office, by calling JoyceCharge at 212-242-0800, or by visiting [www.joyce.org](http://www.joyce.org). The Joyce Theater is located at 175 Eighth Avenue at 19th Street.

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