



DEBORAH DuBOWY, PRODUCER

MARK MORRIS

IN CONVERSATION WITH
SAN FRANCISCO BALLET PRINCIPAL DANCERS

JULIA ADAM

&

CHRISTOPHER STOWELL

HERBST THEATRE
SAN FRANCISCO WAR MEMORIAL AND
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
APRIL 25, 1999

WELCOME FROM THE PRODUCER

Thank you for sharing your passion for dance with us. It is a great pleasure to welcome you to this evening of Words On Dance with Mark Morris, a dancer, choreographer and artistic director of immeasurable talent. The creative genius of Mark Morris, and the warmth and humor of his personality, resonates through his dancing and choreography. Once you witness his work, you are left wanting more. Fortunately for us, Mark Morris is one of the most prolific choreographers at work today. Each dance he creates takes you on a musical journey. Violette Verdy says of George Balanchine's work, "the steps he created were always the best solution for that piece of music." Without a doubt, the same may be said about the choreography of Mark Morris. In experiencing his work, audience members are given the rare opportunity to "see the music and hear the dance"!

We are pleased to present principal dancers Julia Adam and Christopher Stowell in conversation with Mr. Morris. They have both worked closely with Mr. Morris at the San Francisco Ballet in all the ballets he has staged for the company. Beyond performing, they are also active in exploring the craft of choreography through their own local and national commissions. The challenges they face as young choreographers provides an interesting breadth of questioning to the dialogue with Mr. Morris.

Words On Dance continues its commitment to offering audiences a unique program format, exploring the past, present and future of dance, firsthand, with the foremost artists working in the field. These live oral histories, highlighted with the visual accompaniment of video excerpts, leave you with a special insight only the creative artist can offer. With all the attention given to the new millennium approaching, it is safe to say the dance world is in good hands. See for yourself, this week, when San Francisco Ballet presents a world premiere by Mark Morris; *Sandpaper Ballet*.

Thank you for being part of the growing audience of Words On Dance. We hope you continue sharing your passion for dance with us here, and as an audience member at the many other performances our rich dance community has to offer. See you there!

Deborah DuBow, Producer



DEBORAH DuBOWY

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MARK MORRIS

Mark Morris was born on August 29, 1956 in Seattle, Washington, where he studied as a young man with Verla Flowers and Perry Brunson. He performed with a variety of companies in the early years of his career, including the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, Hannah Kahn Dance Company, Laura Dean Dancers and Musicians, Eliot Feld Ballet, and the Koleda Balkan Dance Ensemble. He formed the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1980, and has since created over 90 works for the Dance Group, as well as choreographing for many ballet companies, including the San Francisco Ballet, the Paris Opera Ballet, and American Ballet Theatre. From 1988-1991 he was director of Dance at the Théâtre Royal del la Monnaie in Brussels, the national opera house of Belgium. During his tenure there, he created 12 pieces including three evening-length works: *The Hard Nut* (his comic book-inspired version of *The Nutcracker*); *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*; and *Dido and Aeneas*, and founded the White Oak Dance Project with Mikhail Baryshnikov. Mr. Morris is noted for his musicality - he has been described as "undeviating in his devotion to music" - and for his "ability to conjure so many contradictory styles and emotions." He has worked extensively in opera as both a choreographer and a director. Most recently, he directed and choreographed a Royal Opera, Covent Garden production of Rameau's *Platée* which premiered at the Edinburgh International Festival in 1997. Mr. Morris was named a Fellow of the MacArthur Foundation in 1991, and he is the subject of a biography by Joan Acocella (Farrar, Straus & Giroux). With the Mark Morris Dance Company, he has recently completed two film projects: a collaboration with cellist Yo-Yo Ma entitled *Falling Down Stairs* using Bach's Third Suite for unaccompanied cello, and a film version of his *Dido and Aeneas*. The company's British premiere performances of *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* with the English National Opera garnered the Dance Group the 1997 Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Dance Production.

JULIA ADAM, PRINCIPAL DANCER, SAN FRANCISCO BALLET

Julia Adam is from Toronto, Canada and received her initial training at the National Ballet School of Canada. She performed with the National Ballet of Canada and then joined San Francisco Ballet as a corps member in 1988. She was promoted to soloist in 1991 and became a principal dancer in 1996.

Among the many and varied ballets she has performed are Helgi Tomasson's *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Swan Lake*. She has had principal roles in *Criss-Cross*, *The Tuning Game*, *Sonata*, and *Nanna's Lied*. Ms. Adam has also performed an extensive Balanchine

repertoire including *Concerto Barocco*, *Agon*, *Serenade*, *Theme and Variations*, *Rubies*, *Bugaku*, *The Four Temperaments*, *Who Cares?*, *Symphony in C*, *Ballo della Regina*, and *Liebeslieder Waltzer*. She has also performed the works of many other twentieth century luminary choreographers such as Paul Taylor, William Forsythe, Jerome Robbins, Agnes de Mille, Glen Tetley, Lar Lubovitch and Peter Martins among others. She has appeared in all of Mark Morris's work created or set on San Francisco Ballet, which include *Maelstrom*, *Pacific*, *Drink to Me Only With Thine Eyes*, and his third commission for the company, *Sandpaper Ballet*.

Ms. Adam is also a rising talent among young choreographers. Her work has been featured at the San Francisco Ballet Showcase, Ballet Met, Bay Area Dance Series, Marin Ballet, and most recently the Lawrence Pech Dance Company. In 1997 Julia Adam received the Isadora Duncan Award for her choreography of *Thirteen Lullabies*.

CHRISTOPHER STOWELL, PRINCIPAL DANCER, SAN FRANCISCO BALLET

Christopher Stowell was born in New York City and raised in Germany and Seattle, Washington. The son of Francia Russell and Kent Stowell, he received his formal ballet training at the Pacific Northwest Ballet School, and later from the School of American Ballet where he studied with Stanley Williams. Christopher joined the San Francisco Ballet after receiving critical acclaim for his graduation performance from the School of American Ballet. He was promoted to soloist in one year, and in 1990 became a Principal Dancer. Christopher is recognized for his classicism, theatricality and athleticism, accompanied by a quick clean line.

Christopher has created many roles in Mr. Tomasson's choreography. He has been featured in Tomasson's full-length works such as "Bluebird" in *The Sleeping Beauty*, Pas de Trois in *Swan Lake*, and Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*, as well as *Con Brio*, *Meisten Mozart*, and *Handel - a Celebration*. He has appeared as the lead male in almost all the Balanchine ballets performed by San Francisco Ballet, since 1986, including *Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux*, the "Melancholic" variation in *The Four Temperaments*, the third movement principal in *Symphony in C*, *Tarantella*, *Agon*, the principal in *Rubies*, "El Capitan" in *Stars and Stripes*, and *Theme and Variations*. Christopher has performed the works of noted choreographers such as Mark Morris, James Kudelka, Jerome Robbins, Paul Taylor, Jiri Kylian, David Bintley, William Forsythe, and Sir Frederick Ashton.

Christopher has also begun exploring the craft of choreography, creating works for San Francisco Ballet's student showcase, Marin Ballet and Diablo Ballet.

SPRING CELEBRATION WITH MARK MORRIS!

WORDS ON DANCE wishes to acknowledge and thank the following people who generously supported our festivities for Words On Dance with Mark Morris.

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Julia Adam and Christopher Stowell

Mary Ellen Hunt, Jenna Marshall, Scott Horton and the Board of Directors of Words On Dance.

Barry Alterman, Nancy Umanoff, Tina Fehlandt, Michael Osso, and the San Francisco Ballet, Helgi Tomasson, Artistic Director.

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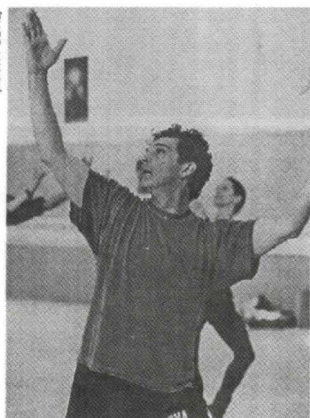
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FEEL THE POWER OF DANCE

(MARTY SOHL)



Mark Morris

Don't miss Mark Morris' third commission for San Francisco Ballet, *Sandpaper Ballet*

plus

George Balanchine's
Theme and Variations

Val Caniparoli's
Slow

ALL PART OF PROGRAM 7

PERFORMANCE DATES: April 27 eve, 28 eve,
30 eve, May 2 mat, 6 eve, 8 mat & eve

Program 8

George Balanchine's **Agon**

William Forsythe's
**The Vertiginous Thrill
of Exactitude**

Helgi Tomasson's
**Chaconne for Piano
and Two Dancers**

Ivonne Satie's **Shogun**

Stanton Welch's
Taiko WORLD PREMIERE



Joanna Berman and Yuri Possokhov (R.L. Muna)

PROGRAM 8 PERFORMANCE DATES:

April 29 eve, May 1 mat & eve, 4 eve,
5 eve, 7 eve, 9 mat

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