
friends of dance

g e o r g e m a s o n u n i v e r s i t y

In tonight's performance, George Mason dance alumna Rita Donahue (B.F.A. in Dance, 2002) will make her professional Center for the Arts debut as an apprentice in the Mark Morris Dance Group.

Join Friends of Dance in supporting the education of outstanding young artists. Please visit our table in the lobby this evening to receive more information.

George Mason Celebrates Mark Morris

Mark Morris at The Center for the Arts

Mark Morris' long standing relationship with the university has made him a part of the George Mason family. Since 1996, audiences, faculty and students alike have been touched by his annual performances at the Center for the Arts and the master classes he has conducted while in residence.

GMU Dances with Mark Morris

Among the many, talented faculty in George Mason's Department of Dance are two dancers who have shared the stage with Mark Morris. Dan Joyce, a 10-year veteran of the Mark Morris Dance Group, joined the GMU faculty in 1999. During his years with the company, he performed in over 30 works choreographed by Mark Morris including opera and film projects. Susan Shields, a faculty member since 1997, also danced in Mark Morris' *Hard Nut* as well as in his choreography on the White Oak Dance Project.

In January 2003, the Dance Department held its first audition in New York. This was also its first audition off George Mason's Fairfax campus, and a momentous step towards reaching prospective students outside the mid-Atlantic area who were able to meet George Mason faculty and share in a bit of the classroom experience through the audition process. The audition was held at the new Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn which opened in September 2001, directly across from the Brooklyn Academy of Music. The Dance Department will audition there again on January 24, 2004.

A professional caliber student company, the George Mason University Dance Company performed Mr. Morris' *Marble Halls* as part of their Spring 2001 Gala Concert. Another work, *A Lake*, created by Mr. Morris for the White Oak Dance Project, will be performed at the George Mason University Dance Company 2004 Spring Gala on Friday and Saturday, April 8 and 9, 2004 at the Center for the Arts.

Mark Morris is a Friend of GMU Dance

Friends of Dance was established in 1998 to solicit scholarship support to attract prospective students to its program. In Summer 2001, an Advisory Board was created and adopted this mission statement: **To support the artistic development of the Department of Dance through scholarship funds and enhanced educational and performance opportunities.**

Recognizing the importance of including an artistic presence, the Board created an Honorary Chair and unanimously agreed that Mr. Morris' philosophy and artistry made him the ideal choice. In Fall 2002, Mr. Morris accepted the invitation to serve as the Honorary Chair of the Friends of Dance Advisory Board.

An Invitation

Would you like to help George Mason's Dance Department continue to attract talented students destined for fulfilling professional careers? If so, please visit our table in the lobby this evening to receive more information, or mail back the form on the back of this insert.

I want to become a 2003-2004 Friend of Dance! Please enroll me as:

☐ Contributor (\$50-99) ☐ Friend (\$100-199) ☐ Patron (\$200-499)

☐ Benefactor (\$500-999) ☐ Commissioner (\$1,000+)

☐ Please accept my gift to Friends of Dance (\$___)

Name: _____
(as you would like it listed in the concert program)

Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

☐ Enclosed is my check made payable to *GMU Foundation*.

Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

Cardholder name _____

Signature _____

Card number _____

Exp. Date _____

Special Notes:

Please return to:
Friends of Dance, George Mason University
4400 University Drive, MSN 3D4
Fairfax, VA 22030-4444

Or

Drop off at the Friends of Dance table in the lobby tonight