

2010 Spring Season



Robin Williams, *Pocahontas*, 2009

2010 Spring Season

Brooklyn Academy of Music

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Presents

Mark Morris Dance Group

Approximate running time: one hour and fifty minutes, including one intermission	Choreography by Mark Morris BAM Howard Gilman Opera House Feb 23, 25—27, 2010 at 7:30pm
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Looky—New York premiere

Socrates—World premiere

—intermission—

Behemoth

BAM 2010 Spring Season is sponsored by Bloomberg.

Leadership support provided by The Jerome Robbins Foundation, Inc.

Major support for BAM Dance provided by The Harkness Foundation for Dance and The SHS Foundation, with additional support from Mary L. Griggs & Mary Griggs Burke Foundation.

Mark Morris Dance Group

CRAIG BIESECKER SAMUEL BLACK JOE BOWIE ELISA CLARK RITA DONAHUE
DOMINGO ESTRADA, JR. LAUREN GRANT JOHN HEGINBOTHAM
DAVID LEVENTHAL LAUREL LYNCH BRADON McDONALD DALLAS McMURRAY
AMBER STAR MERKENS MAILE OKAMURA NOAH VINSON
JENN WEDDEL JULIE WORDEN MICHELLE YARD

with
JEAN-PAUL FOUCHÉCOURT, tenor
COLIN FOWLER, piano

Artistic Director **MARK MORRIS**

Executive Director **NANCY UMANOFF**

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Lighting Supervisor **Keri Thibodeau**
Wardrobe Supervisor **Katherine M. Patterson**
Sound Supervisor **Jim Abdou**

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MetLife Foundation is the Mark Morris Dance Group's Official Tour Sponsor.

Major support for the Mark Morris Dance Group is provided by Brooklyn Community Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, JP Morgan Chase Foundation, The Howard Gilman Foundation, William Randolph Hearst Foundation, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, Jane Stine and R.L. Stine and Trust for Mutual Understanding.

The Mark Morris Dance Group New Works Fund is supported by The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Meyer Sound/Helen and John Meyer, The PARC Foundation and Poss Family Foundation.

The Mark Morris Dance Group's performances are made possible with public funds from New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency; and National Endowment for the Arts Dance Program.

Mark Morris Dance Group

Looky

(New York Premiere)

Music by **Kyle Gann**—*Studies for Disklavier*—"Tango de Chiesa," "Despotic Waltz," "Bud Ran Back Out," "Despotic Waltz," "Folk Dance for Henry Cowell," "Texarkana"

Costume design by **Elizabeth Kurtzman, Isaac Mizrahi, Martin Pakledinaz,**

Katherine M. Patterson, Susan Ruddle, Christine Van Loon

Lighting design by **Michael Chybowski**

Craig Biesecker, Samuel Black, Joe Bowie, Elisa Clark, Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada Jr., Lauren Grant, John Heginbotham, David Leventhal, Laurel Lynch, Bradon McDonald, Dallas McMurray, Amber Star Merkens, Maile Okamura, Noah Vinson, Jenn Weddel, Julie Worden, Michelle Yard

Commissioned by the Poss Family Foundation

Premiere: May 15, 2007—Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA

Music by special arrangement with the composer.

—pause—

Socrates

(World Premiere)

Music by **Erik Satie**—*Socrate*—"Portrait de Socrate," "Bords de l'Ilissus," "Mort de Socrate"

Costume design by **Martin Pakledinaz**

Lighting design and décor by **Michael Chybowski**

I. Portrait of Socrates

II. On the banks of the Ilissus

III. Death of Socrates

Tenor **Jean-Paul Fouchécourt**; piano **Colin Fowler**

Craig Biesecker, Samuel Black, Elisa Clark, Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada Jr., Lauren Grant, John Heginbotham, Bradon McDonald, Dallas McMurray, Amber Star Merkens, Maile Okamura, Noah Vinson, Jenn Weddel, Julie Worden, Michelle Yard

—intermission—

Behemoth

Costume design by **Christine Van Loon**

Lighting design by **Michael Chybowski**

Craig Biesecker, Samuel Black, Elisa Clark, Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada Jr., Lauren Grant, John Heginbotham, David Leventhal, Laurel Lynch, Bradon McDonald, Amber Star Merkens, Maile Okamura, Noah Vinson, Julie Worden, Michelle Yard

Premiere: April 14, 1990—Halles de Schaerbeek, Brussels, Belgium

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

Please note there has been a change in the order of this evening's performance.
Casting is as listed in the program.

Behemoth (1990)

Costume design by Christine Van Loon

Lighting design by Michael Chybowski

—*pause*—

Looky (2007)

Music by Kyle Gann - Studies for Disklavier - "Tango da Chiesa,"

"Despotic Waltz," "Bud Ran Back Out,"

"Folk Dance for Henry Cowell," "Texarkana"

Costume design by Elizabeth Kurtzman, Isaac Mizrahi,

Katherine M. Patterson, Martin Pakledinaz, Susan Ruddle,

Christine Van Loon

Lighting design by Michael Chybowski

—*intermission*—

Socrates (world premiere)

Music by Erik Satie – Socrate – "Portrait de Socrate,"

"Bords de L'Illissus," Mort de Socrate"

Costume design by Martin Pakledinaz

Lighting design and décor by Michael Chybowski

I. Portrait of Socrates

II. On the banks of the Illissus

III. Death of Socrates

Socrates costume execution by Tricorne, Inc., and costume painting by Mary Macy.

Socrates titles, Roger Nichols © 1985

Who's Who

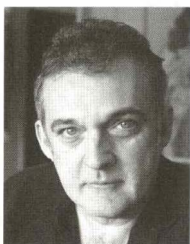


Photo: Amber Star Markers

MARK MORRIS was born on August 29, 1956, in Seattle, WA, where he studied as a young man with Verla Flowers and Perry Brunson. In the early years of his career, he performed with Lar Lubovitch, Hannah Kahn, Laura Dean, Eliot Feld, and

the Koleda Balkan Dance Ensemble. He formed the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1980, and has since created more than 120 works for the company. From 1988—1991, he was Director of Dance at the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels, the national opera house of Belgium. Among the works created during his tenure were three evening-length dances: *The Hard Nut*; *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*; and *Dido and Aeneas*. In 1990, he founded the White Oak Dance Project with Mikhail Baryshnikov. Morris is also much in demand as a ballet choreographer. He has created seven works for the San Francisco Ballet since 1994 and received commissions from American Ballet Theatre, and the Boston Ballet, among others. His work is also in the repertory of the Pacific Northwest Ballet, Dutch National Ballet, New Zealand Ballet, Houston Ballet, English National Ballet, and The Royal Ballet. Morris is noted for his musicality and has been described as “undeviating in his devotion to music.” He has worked extensively in opera, directing and choreographing productions for The Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, English National Opera, and The Royal Opera, Covent Garden. Morris was named a Fellow of the MacArthur Foundation in 1991. He has received nine honorary doctorates to date. In 2006, Morris received the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Mayor’s Award for Arts & Culture and a WQXR Gramophone Special Recognition Award. He is the subject of a biography by Joan Acocella (Farrar, Straus & Giroux) and Marlowe & Company published a volume of photographs and critical essays entitled *Mark Morris’ L’Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato: A Celebration*. Morris is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society. In 2007, he received the Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival lifetime achievement award.

The **MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP** was formed in 1980 and gave its first concert that year in New

York City. The company’s touring schedule steadily expanded to include cities both in the US and in Europe, and in 1986 it made its first national television program for the PBS series *Dance in America*. In 1988, MMDG was invited to become the national dance company of Belgium, and spent three years in residence at the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels. The company returned to the United States in 1991 as one of the world’s leading dance companies, performing across the US and at major international festivals. Based in Brooklyn, NY, the company has maintained and strengthened its ties to several cities around the world, most notably its West Coast home, Cal Performances in Berkeley, CA, and its Midwest home, the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts in Urbana, IL. MMDG also appears regularly in New York, NY; Boston, MA; Fairfax, VA; and Seattle, WA. MMDG made its debut at the Mostly Mozart Festival in 2002 and at the Tanglewood Music Festival in 2003 and has since been invited to both festivals annually. From the company’s many London seasons, they have also garnered two Laurence Olivier Awards. MMDG is noted for its commitment to live music, a feature of every performance on its full international touring schedule since 1996. MMDG collaborates with leading orchestras, opera companies, and musicians including cellist Yo-Yo Ma in the Emmy Award-winning film *Falling Down Stairs* (1997); Indian composer Zakir Hussain, Mr. Ma and jazz pianist Ethan Iverson in *Kolam* (2002); The Bad Plus in *Violet Cavern* (2004); pianists Emanuel Ax, Garrick Ohlsson, and Yoko Nozaki for *Mozart Dances* (2006); and with the English National Opera in *Four Saints in Three Acts* (2000) and *King Arthur* (2006), among others. MMDG’s film and television projects also include *Dido and Aeneas*, *The Hard Nut*, two documentaries for the UK’s South Bank Show, and PBS’ *Live From Lincoln Center*. In the fall of 2001, MMDG opened the Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn, NY, housing rehearsal space for the dance community, outreach programs for local children, as well as a school offering dance classes to students of all ages. For more information, visit www.mmdg.org.

The **MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE**, formed in 1996, performs with the Dance Group at home and on tour and has become integral to the company’s creative life. The core group, supplemented by musicians from a large roster of regular guests, also presents concerts at the Mark Morris Dance Center

Who's Who

and other venues, and participates in the Mark Morris Dance, Music, and Literacy Project in the New York City public school system.



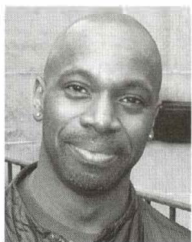
CRAIG BIESECKER, from Waynesboro, PA, received a BS in Music Education from West Chester University of Pennsylvania. While teaching music in Philadelphia, he studied ballet with John White, Margarita de Saa, and Bryan Koulman and worked

with choreographers Tim and Lina Early. In New York City he has worked with Pascal Rioult, Carolyn Dorfman, New York Theater Ballet, Mark Dendy, and Gerald Casel. Biesecker joined MMDG in 2003.



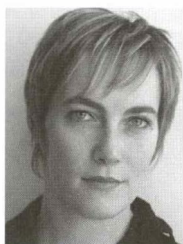
SAMUEL BLACK is originally from Berkeley, CA, where he began studying tap at the age of nine with Katie Maltsberger. He received his BFA in Dance from SUNY Purchase, and also studied at the Rotterdamse Dansacademie in Holland.

He has performed in New York with David Parker, Takehiro Ueyama, and Nelly van Bommel. Black first appeared with MMDG in 2005, and became a company member in 2007.



JOE BOWIE was born in Lansing, MI, and began dancing while attending Brown University where he graduated with honors in English and American Literature. In New York he has performed in the works of Robert Wilson and Ulysses Dove and also

danced with the Paul Taylor Dance Company for two years before going to Belgium to work with Mark Morris in 1989.

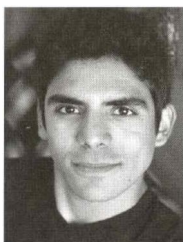


ELISA CLARK received her early training from the Maryland Youth Ballet, and her BFA from The Juilliard School, under the direction of Benjamin Harkavy. She danced with Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, Nederlands Dans Theater, and Battleworks Dance

Company, before joining MMDG in 2006. Clark has also worked with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, as assistant to Robert Battle. She has been on faculty at the American Dance Festival and teaches for MMDG. She is a 2008—09 Princess Grace Modern Dance Honorarium Award Winner.



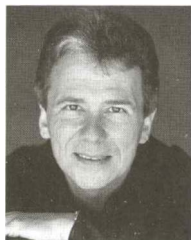
RITA DONAHUE was born and raised in Fairfax, VA, and attended George Mason University, where she graduated with honors in Dance and English in 2002. She danced with bopi's black sheep/dances by Craig Patterson and joined MMDG in 2003.



DOMINGO ESTRADA, JR., a native of Victoria, TX, has recently acquired a BFA in Ballet and Modern Dance at Texas Christian University. Currently, he also works with choreographers Leslie Scott, BODYart Dance; Mary Seidman, Mary Seidman & Dancers; and Christian von

Howard, Von Howard Project. He made his debut with the Mark Morris Dance Group during *The Hard Nut* at Cal Performances, Berkeley, in 2007 and became a company member in 2009. Estrada would like to thank God, his family, and all who support his passion!

Who's Who

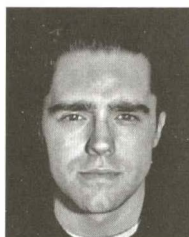


JEAN-PAUL FOUCHÉCOURT

(tenor) is universally acknowledged as one of the main interpreters of the French baroque repertoire. Although his performances and more than 65 recordings of works by Rameau, Lully, and

Campra have received huge acclaim, he has in the last few years developed repertoire, from Berlioz to Offenbach, Britten, and Verdi. His career has taken him to major opera houses and orchestras around the world. He has performed numerous roles with Les Arts Florissants under the baton of artistic director William Christie, Les Musiciens du Louvre conducted by Marc Minkowski, Netherlands Opera, Metropolitan Opera, Antwerp Opera, Paris Opera, Aix en Provence Festival, Chorégies d'Orange, Théâtre des Champs Elysees, Edinburgh Festival, Opéra de Lyon, Geneva Opera, Salzburg Festival, Berlin Philharmonic, Opéra de Bordeaux, Saito Kinen Festival, Boston Symphony Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, and BBC Proms. He has worked with conductors such as James Levine, Marc Minkowski, William Christie, Rene Jacobs, Charles Dutoit, Seiji Ozawa, Myung-Whun Chung, Valery Gergiev, James Conlon, and Sir Simon Rattle. Fouchécourt is well known for his portrayal of Rameau's *Platée* having performed the part at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Paris Opera, Opéra de Bordeaux, Geneva Opera, New York City Opera, and the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra. Engagements in the 09/10 season include the title role in *Platée* at Paris Opera; King Ouf in *L'Etoile* with the Geneva Opera, for Austin Lyric Opera, New York City Opera, and at the Deutsche Staatsoper Berlin; a concert of Offenbach with Orchestre de la Suisse Romande; and Frantz in a film of *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* for France Televisions. Future projects include Monsieur Triquet in *Eugene Onegin* at Paris Opera, Berlioz's *Romeo et Juliette* with Boston Symphony Orchestra, and his return at King Ouf in *L'Etoile* at the Deutsche Staatsoper Berlin.

COLIN FOWLER (piano) hails from Kansas City, KS and began studying piano at the age of five. After attending Interlochen Arts Academy, he received his Bachelors and Masters Degrees at The Juilliard School, where he studied organ with Gerre Hancock and piano with Abbey Simon. He



has played and directed music across the country, at venues including Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and The Library of Congress. Fowler has also performed with the American Brass Quintet, Deborah Voight, James Galway, and at many of the churches and synagogues in New York. Broadway credits include the recent revival of *42nd Street* and the current production of The Tony Award winning musical, *Jersey Boys*. Fowler is the Chair of the Theory and Ear Training department at Nyack College, where he is a full-time professor and conductor of the Nyack College Chorale. He has played with the MMDG Music Ensemble since 2006.



LAUREN GRANT, born and raised in Highland Park, IL, has danced with the Mark Morris Dance Group since 1996. Appearing in more than 40 of Mark Morris' works, she performs leading roles in *The Hard Nut* and *Mozart Dances*. Grant has been featured in *Time Out*

New York, Dance Magazine, the book *Meet the Dancers*, and is the subject of a photograph by Annie Leibovitz. She graduated with a BFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Grant is on faculty at MMDG's school and also teaches dance internationally. She is married to fellow dancer David Leventhal.



JOHN HEGINBOTHAM is from Anchorage, AK. He is a graduate of The Juilliard School (BFA '93) and has danced in the companies of Susan Marshall, Pilobolus Dance Theater (guest artist), John Jasperse, and Ben Munisteri. His choreography is featured in

the work of recording artists Fischerspooner, and in *Champ: A Space Opera* (New York International Fringe Festival). As a teacher, Heginbotham works regularly with members of the Brooklyn Parkinson Group. He joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1998.

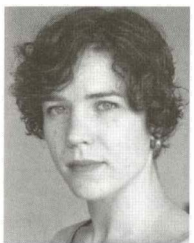
Who's Who



DAVID LEVENTHAL

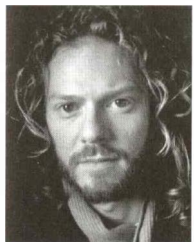
has danced with MMDG since 1997. He performs principal roles in *The Hard Nut*; *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*; and *Romeo and Juliet, on Motifs of Shakespeare*. He is a faculty member of the Mark Morris Dance Center in

Brooklyn, and teaches technique and repertory at schools and universities. He is one of the founding teachers of MMDG's Dance for PD program, and leads classes around the world for people with Parkinson's disease. Raised in Newton, MA, he received his early training from Boston Ballet School, and graduated from Brown University with honors in English Literature. He is married to fellow dancer Lauren Grant.



LAUREL LYNCH began her dance training in Petaluma, CA. After a few too many Nutcrackers she moved to New York to attend The Juilliard School where she performed works by Robert Battle, Margie Gillis, José Limón, and Ohad Naharin. Since graduation in May

2003, Lynch has danced for Dušan Týnek Dance Theatre, Sue Bernhard Danceworks, Pat Catterson, Stephan Koplowitz, and T.E.A. (Transpersonal Education and Art). She performed at the Festival Oltre Passo in Lecce, Italy and appeared as a guest artist with Petaluma City Ballet. Lynch performed with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007.



BRADON McDONALD

received his BFA from The Juilliard School in 1997. He danced with the Limón Dance Company for three years and was the recipient of the 1998 Princess Grace Award. He has choreographed and presented his own works

internationally, served as choreographer for seven Juilliard Opera Company productions under director

Frank Corsaro, and was the choreographic assistant to Donald McKayle at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. McDonald joined MMDG in 2000.



DALLAS McMURRAY,

from El Cerrito, CA, began dancing at age four, studying jazz, tap, and acrobatics with Katie Maltsberger, and ballet with Yukiko Sakakura. He received a BFA in dance from the California Institute of the Arts. McMurray

performed with the Limón Dance Company in addition to works by Jiri Kylian, Alonzo King, Robert Moses, and Colin Connor. He joined MMDG performed with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007.



AMBER STAR MERKENS

is originally from Newport, OR, where she began her dance training with Nancy Mittleman. She received her BFA from The Juilliard School in 1999 and then danced with the Limón Dance Company for two years. She is a recipient of

the 2001 Princess Grace Award and has presented her own choreography both in New York and abroad. Merkens joined MMDG in 2001.

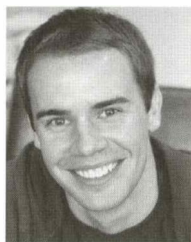


MAILE OKAMURA is

originally from San Diego, CA. She was a member of Boston Ballet II from 1992—93 and Ballet Arizona from 1993—96. She has danced with choreographers Neta Pulvermacher, Zvi Gotheiner, and Gerald Casel, among

others. Okamura began working with MMDG in 1998 and became a company member in 2001.

Who's Who



NOAH VINSON received his BA in Dance from Columbia College Chicago, where he worked with Shirley Mordine, Jan Erkert, and Brian Jeffrey. In New York, he has danced with Teri and Oliver Steele and the Kevin Wynn Collection. He began working with

MMDG in 2002 and became a company member in 2004.



JENN WEDDEL received her early training from Boulder Ballet Company near where she grew up in Longmont, CO. She holds a BFA from Southern Methodist University and also studied at Boston Conservatory, Colorado University, and The

Laban Center, London. Since moving to New York in 2001, Weddel has created and performed with RedWall Dance Theater, Sue Bernhard Danceworks, Vencil Dance Trio, Rocha Dance Theater, TEA Dance Company, and with various choreographers including Alan Danielson and Ella

Ben-Aharon. Weddel performed with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007.



JULIE WORDEN graduated from the North Carolina School of the Arts and joined MMDG in 1994.



MICHELLE YARD was born in Brooklyn, NY, and began her professional dance training at the New York City High School of the Performing Arts. Upon graduation she received the Helen Tamiris and B'nai Brith awards. For three years she was a scholarship

student at the Alvin Ailey Dance Center, and attended New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where she graduated with a BFA. Yard joined MMDG in 1997. Mom, thank you.

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Thanks to Maxine Morris.

Sincerest thanks to all the dancers for their dedication, commitment, and incalculable contribution to the work.

Additional funding has been received from the Altman Foundation; The Buck Family Foundation; Capezio Ballet Makers Dance Foundation; Joseph and Joan Cullman Foundation for the Arts, Inc.; The Harkness Foundation for Dance; The Iovino Family Foundation; Leon Lowenstein Foundation; Materials for the Arts; McDermott, Will & Emery; The David & Mildred Morse Charitable Trust Foundation; New England Foundation for the Arts; USArtists International; and the Friends of the Mark Morris Dance Group.

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