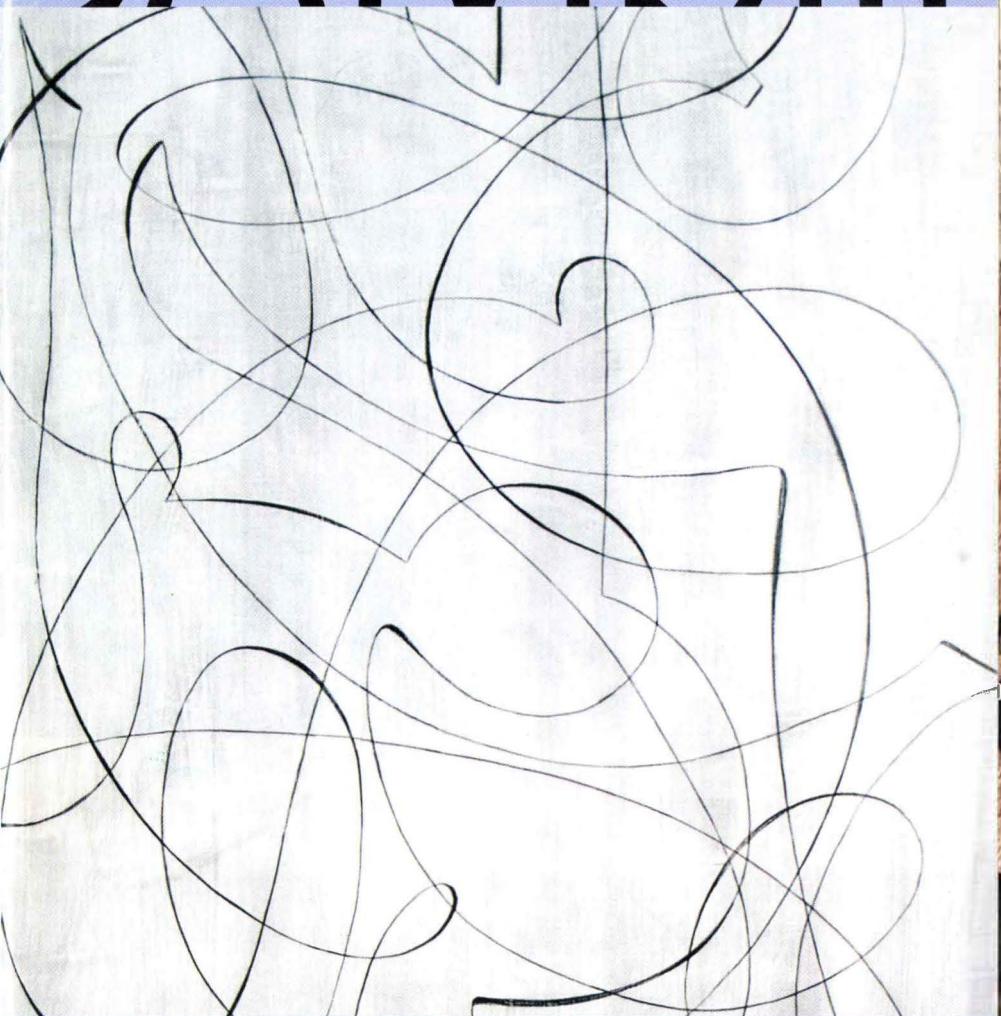


2010 Next Wave Festival

DEC 2010

# BAMbill



Elliott Puckette, *Untitled*, 2008

Published by:



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# 2010 Next Wave Festival

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## Mark Morris Dance Group

Artistic Director, Mark Morris  
Executive Director, Nancy Umanoff

present

# The Hard Nut

Approximate running time: two hours, including one intermission

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House  
Dec 10, 11 & 15—18, 2010 at 7:30pm  
Dec 12 & 19 at 3pm

Featuring the **Mark Morris Dance Group**  
and **MMDG Music Ensemble**  
with the **Brooklyn Youth Chorus**  
Conducted by **Robert Cole**  
Choreography by **Mark Morris**

Music by **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky** (*The Nutcracker*, Op. 71)  
Set design by **Adrianne Lobel**  
Costume design by **Martin Pakledinaz**  
Lighting design by **James F. Ingalls**  
Production based on the work of **Charles Burns**  
Based on the book by **E.T.A. Hoffman**, *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*

*The Hard Nut* is the annual Richard B. Fisher Next Wave Presentation, which receives special support from the Peter Jay Sharp Foundation.

*BAM 2010 Next Wave Festival is part of Diverse Voices at BAM sponsored by Time Warner Inc.*

*Leadership support for the Next Wave Festival provided by The Ford Foundation.*

*Major support for dance at BAM provided by The Harkness Foundation for Dance and The SHS Foundation.*

# Mark Morris Dance Group

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SAMUEL BLACK   JOE BOWIE   ELISA CLARK  
RITA DONAHUE   DOMINGO ESTRADA, JR.   LAUREN GRANT  
JOHN HEGINBOTHAM   AARON LOUX   LAUREL LYNCH  
DALLAS McMURRAY   AMBER STAR MERKENS   MAILE OKAMURA  
SPENCER RAMIREZ   WILLIAM SMITH III   NOAH VINSON  
JENN WEDDEL   JULIE WORDEN   MICHELLE YARD

SHAWN GANNON   DAVID LEVENTHAL   JUNE OMURA   KRAIG PATTERSON

JULIE FIORENZA   LESLEY GARRISON   JENNIFER JONES   BRIAN LAWSON

CLAUDIA MacPHERSON   JUSTIN D. MELVIN   KANJI SEGAWA

BRADLEY SHELVER   UTAFUMI TAKEMURA

Artistic Director

**MARK MORRIS**

Executive Director

**NANCY UMANOFF**

**MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE**

**ROBERT COLE**, Conductor

**THE BROOKLYN YOUTH CHORUS**

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MetLife Foundation is the Mark Morris Dance Group's Official 30th Anniversary Sponsor.

Major support for the Mark Morris Dance Group is provided by  
Brooklyn Community Foundation, JP Morgan Chase Foundation,  
Fund for the City of New York, The Andrew W. Mellon 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, 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.

# Cast

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Marie	Lauren Grant
Fritz	June Omura
Louise/Princess Pirlipat	Julie Worden
Dr. Stahlbaum/King	Mark Morris
Mrs. Stahlbaum/Queen	John Heginbotham
Housekeeper/Nurse	Kraig Patterson
Drosselmeier	William Smith III
Nutcracker/Young Drosselmeier	David Leventhal
Barbie Doll	Elisa Clark
Robot	Spencer Ramirez
Party Guests	Joe Bowie, Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada Jr., Shawn Gannon, Dallas McMurray, Amber Star Merkens, Maile Okamura, Noah Vinson, Michelle Yard
Changers	Spencer Ramirez, Bradley Shelver
Rat King	Utafumi Takemura
Rat Soldiers	Julie Fiorenza, Lesley Garrison, Jennifer Jones, Laurel Lynch, Claudia MacPherson, Jenn Weddel
G.I. Joe Soldiers	Samuel Black, Brian Lawson, Aaron Loux, Justin D. Melvin, Kanji Segawa
Snow	Samuel Black, Elisa Clark, Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada Jr., Julie Fiorenza, Lesley Garrison, Jennifer Jones, Brian Lawson, Aaron Loux, Laurel Lynch, Claudia MacPherson, Dallas McMurray, Justin D. Melvin, Amber Star Merkens, Maile Okamura, Spencer Ramirez, Kanji Segawa, Utafumi Takemura, Noah Vinson, Jenn Weddel, Julie Worden, Michelle Yard
Rat Queen	Jenn Weddel
Spanish	Domingo Estrada Jr., Michelle Yard
Arabian	Brian Lawson, Aaron Loux, Laurel Lynch, Justin D. Melvin, Amber Star Merkens
Chinese	Julie Fiorenza, Kanji Segawa, Utafumi Takemura
Russian	Samuel Black, Rita Donahue, Lesley Garrison, Claudia MacPherson, Dallas McMurray, Jenn Weddel
French	Elisa Clark, Maile Okamura, Spencer Ramirez, Noah Vinson
Suitors	Brian Lawson, Kanji Segawa
Dentist	Shawn Gannon
Flowers	Samuel Black, Elisa Clark, Rita Donahue, Domingo Estrada Jr., Lesley Garrison, Jennifer Jones, Aaron Loux, Laurel Lynch, Dallas McMurray, Amber Star Merkens, Maile Okamura, June Omura, Noah Vinson, Michelle Yard

# Synopsis

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## ACT I

Dr. and Mrs. Stahlbaum's annual Christmas Eve party. Their children Fritz, Marie, and Louise wait in the den. Party dances: polka, hokey-pokey, hesitation, stroll, bump, waltz. Friend of the family Drosselmeier brings animated toys that he's made. He gives a Nutcracker to the children. Fritz breaks it. The children fight. Dr. Stahlbaum changes the subject. The guests go home. The family goes to bed. The housekeeper cleans up.

Marie can't sleep and comes downstairs to see if the Nutcracker is resting comfortably. At midnight she is frightened by rats. Everything in the room grows to giant size. G.I. Joes led by the Nutcracker battle rats led by the mutant Rat King. Marie kills the Rat King with her slipper. She falls unconscious. The Nutcracker is transformed into a young man. Marie is tucked in. A worried Drosselmeier makes his way through the blizzard.

—curtain—

## ACT II

Marie is in a fever. Drosselmeier comes to see if Marie is resting comfortably and tells her one of his stories:

### THE HARD NUT

Once upon a time a King and a Queen had a beautiful baby girl named Pirlipat. The Queen's old enemy the Rat Queen threatened to ruin little Pirlipat. The nurse and the cat were left to guard the baby at night. While the nurse and cat slept, the Rat Queen destroyed Princess Pirlipat's face. The Royal Family was horrified by the sight of their formerly beautiful daughter. The Rat Queen explained that the Princess would regain her beauty only after a young man cracked the hard nut, Krakatuk, with his teeth and stepped backwards seven times. The King commanded Drosselmeier to find the hard nut or face decapitation. Drosselmeier set off in search of the hard nut. He traveled the world for 15 years before finding it back at home.

The ugly teenage Pirlipat watched as one young man after another attempted to crack the hard nut. The last one to try was Drosselmeier's own nephew. He succeeded. On his seventh step backward he stepped on the Rat Queen, killing her. Pirlipat became beautiful and rejected the young Drosselmeier as he started to become ugly—like a nutcracker...

At this point Marie interrupts the story and offers her love to young Drosselmeier. Mrs. Stahlbaum acknowledges her daughter's new maturity with a flower dance. Everyone in the world joins Marie and young Drosselmeier in celebrating their love. The two go away together forever.

## EPILOGUE

Louise and Fritz are sent to bed.

—curtain—

# Who's Who

**PYOTR ILYITCH TCHAIKOVSKY** (1840—93) began his career as a civil servant. In 1862 he gave up his job and enrolled at the St. Petersburg Conservatory. He was offered the Professorship of Harmony at the newly opened Moscow conservatory in 1866. After the success of his first piano concerto he began a correspondence with Nadezhda von Meck, a wealthy widow, whose financial support enabled him to devote himself to composition. They remained correspondents until a misunderstanding in 1890 ended their relationship, but they never actually met. Tchaikovsky entered a disastrous marriage in 1877, possibly in an attempt to conceal his homosexuality; a separation followed an attempted suicide after only 11 weeks of marriage. Despite his subsequent depressions he managed to produce his most successful opera, *Eugene Onegin* (1877—78), his Fourth Symphony (1878), and his Violin Concerto (1878) during this period. In 1881 he gave up teaching at the conservatory and for the next seven years was deeply involved in composition. His death from cholera in St. Petersburg, after imprudently drinking unboiled water, occurred soon after the first performance of his Symphony No. 6 (*Pathétique*) in 1893.



Photo by Amber Star Merken

**MARK MORRIS** was born on August 29, 1956, in Seattle, WA, where he studied with Verla Flowers and Perry Brunson. In the early years of his career, he performed with the dance companies of 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 time there were three evening-length dances: *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*; *Dido and Aeneas*; and *The Hard Nut*. In 1990, he founded the White Oak Dance Project with Mikhail Baryshnikov. Morris is a ballet choreographer and has created seven works for the San Francisco Ballet since 1994 and received commissions from many others. His work is also in the repertory of the Pacific North-

west Ballet, Boston 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, Gotham Chamber Opera, English National Opera, and the Royal Opera, Covent Garden. In 1991, he was named a fellow of the MacArthur Foundation. He has received ten 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 "for being an American ambassador for classical music at home and abroad." He is the subject of a biography, *Mark Morris*, 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 Award for lifetime achievement. In 2010, he received the prestigious Leonard Bernstein Lifetime Achievement Award for the Elevation of Music in Society.

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 US in 1991 as one of the world's leading dance companies, performing across the US and at major international festivals. Based in Brooklyn, 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 at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. MMDG also appears regularly in New York; Boston; Fairfax, VA; and Seattle. MMDG made its debut at the Mostly Mozart Festival in 2002 and at the Tanglewood



# Who's Who

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Music Festival in 2003 and has since been invited to both festivals annually. From the company's many London seasons, it has also garnered two Laurence Olivier Awards. MMDG is noted for its commitment to live music, a feature of every performance on its international touring schedule since 1996. MMDG collaborates with leading orchestras, opera companies, and musicians including cellist Yo-Yo Ma on the Emmy Award-winning film *Falling Down Stairs* (1997); percussionist and composer Zakir Hussain, 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 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 September 2001, the Mark Morris Dance Center opened in Brooklyn to provide a home for the company, rehearsal space for the dance community, outreach programs for local children, and a school offering dance classes to students of all ages. For more information, visit [www.mmdg.org](http://www.mmdg.org).

**THE MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE** formed in 1996, performs with the Dance Group throughout the season at home and on tour and has become integral to the company's creative life. The core group of accomplished musicians is supplemented by a large roster of regular guests, including cellist Yo-Yo Ma and pianist Emanuel Ax. Recently, the ensemble traveled with the company to Moscow, Russia, to perform Mark Morris' *Dido & Aeneas*. While in Brooklyn, members of the ensemble continue to participate in the Mark Morris Dance, Music and Literacy Project in the New York City public school system.

**ROBERT COLE** (conductor) received his MA in music from the University of Southern California School of Music where he studied with Ingolf Dahl. He then studied opera with Fritz Sweig and symphonic repertoire with Richard Lert in Los Angeles and later with Leonard Bernstein and Leon Barzin at the Tanglewood Music Center and Hans Swarowsky in Europe. Cole served as associate conductor of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and was the executive director and music director of the Ballet Society of Los

Angeles. From 1986—2009 he was director of Cal Performances at the University of California, Berkeley and also general director of the Berkeley Festival & Exhibition, an international festival of early music he founded in June of 1990. He has appeared as conductor of the Kirov Orchestra with the Perm Ballet at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg as part of the White Nights Festival. Recently he conducted Giselle for Nina Ananiashvili at the Edinburgh Festival and Spoleto Festival, USA and since 1996 he has conducted *The Hard Nut* with the Mark Morris Dance Group at BAM, Sadler's Wells in London, Bard College Festival, and Cal Performances in Berkeley. In 1995 Cole was awarded the title of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the government of France.

The **BROOKLYN YOUTH CHORUS**, now in its 19th season, is one of the country's leading children's choruses and the ensemble of choice for internationally renowned orchestras and artists. Under the direction of founder and artistic director Dianne Berkun, BYC has an international reputation for programmatic and artistic excellence. The Chorus studies and performs a wide range of music—classical and nonclassical—and has an active commissioning program to develop new works across a variety of genres. The Chorus has performed with renowned artists such as Elton John, Lou Reed, and John Legend and under the batons of Marin Alsop, Robert Spano, Leon Botstein, and many others. In 2002, BYC debuted with the New York Philharmonic under Lorin Maazel in *On the Transmigration of Souls*, for which the Chorus won a Grammy Award. The Chorus receives its training from the Brooklyn Youth Chorus Academy (BYCA)—a performance-based vocal music education program serving over 300 students annually in six ensembles. The Chorus draws students from all over the city and reflects the broad diversity of the Metropolitan area.

## DESIGNERS

**ADRIANNE LOBEL** (scenic design) past projects for Mark Morris: *Platée* (Royal Opera, London, Edinburgh, New York City Opera); *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* (La Monnaie, Brussels; BAM); *The Hard Nut* (La Monnaie, BAM); *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Brussels); *Orfeo ed Euridice* (BAM, US tour). Sets for Broadway: *On the*

# Who's Who

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*Town*, directed by George C. Wolfe; *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Tony Award-winning *Passion*, *Twelve Dreams* (Lincoln Center), all directed by James Lapine. European commissions include: *Lady in the Dark* (Royal National Theatre, London), *Street Scene* (Houston Grand Opera), both directed by Francesca Zambello. Projects for Peter Sellars: *The Rake's Progress* (Chatelet, Paris); *Nixon in China* (BAM; Bobigny, Paris; Amsterdam); *The Marriage of Figaro* (Pepsico Summerfare, NY; Bobigny, Paris); *Così fan tutte* (Pepsico Summerfare); *The Magic Flute* (Glyndebourne Festival, England); *The Mikado* (Chicago Lyric Opera). Honors: Lucille Lortel, Obie, Long Wharf's Murphy Award, Emmy, and Jefferson Awards; and Drama Desk, Maharam, and Fanny nominations. Lobel teaches graduate set design at NYU and in 2004 produced and designed *A Year with Frog and Toad*, a musical based on the children's books by her father. Her most recent collaboration with MMDG is on the Purcell opera, *King Arthur*.

**MARTIN PAKLEDINAZ** (costume design) has designed costumes for theater, opera, and dance. He has collaborated with Mark Morris on works for MMDG, San Francisco Ballet, and Boston Ballet, and worked with the New York City Ballet, including Christopher Wheeldon's recent *The Nightingale and the Rose*. Pakledinaz's New York credits include *Gypsy*, starring Patti Lupone and directed by Arthur Laurents; *The Pirate Queen*; *The Pajama Game* (Tony Award nomination); *The Trip to Bountiful*; *Thoroughly Modern Millie*; *Wonderful Town*; *The Wild Party*; *A Year with Frog and Toad*; *Kiss Me, Kate*; *Golden Child*; *The Diary of Anne Frank*; *Waste*; and *The Life*. His work in opera includes *Rodelinda* for the Metropolitan Opera; *Tristan and Isolde* for the Paris Opera/Bastille, directed by Peter Sellars with video installations by Bill Viola; as well as two other world premiere works directed by Sellars, *L'Amour de Loin* and *Adriana Mater*, composed by Kaija Saariaho with librettos by Amin Maalouf. Upcoming projects include *Grease* on Broadway and *Iphigénie en Tauride*, a co-production of the Seattle and Metropolitan Operas. He has been awarded two Tony Awards and an Obie, Drama Desk, and Lucille Lortel award, among others.

**JAMES F. INGALLS** (lighting design) designs for Mark Morris include *Orfeo ed Euridice* (Metropolitan Opera); *King Arthur* (English National

Opera); *Sylvia*, *Sandpaper Ballet*, *Maelstrom*, and *Pacific* (San Francisco Ballet); *Platée* (Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, New York City Opera); *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*, *Dido and Aeneas*, and *The Hard Nut* (Mark Morris Dance Group); *Ein Herz* (Paris Opera Ballet); and the initial White Oak Project tour. His work for Lincoln Center includes *Zaide*, *Ainadamar*, and Bach Cantatas, all directed by Peter Sellars, and Renaissance Muse, directed by Mark Lamos. At the Metropolitan Opera, Ingalls has also designed *An American Tragedy*, *Salome*, *Benvenuto Cellini*, *The Gambler*, *War and Peace*, and *Wozzeck*. Most recently he designed *A Flowering Tree* and *La Passion de Simone* (New Crowned Hope at the Barbican Centre, London), *Dr. Atomic* (Holland Festival/De Nederlandse Opera, San Francisco Opera), and *The Cherry Orchard* at Oregon Shakespeare Festival. He often collaborates with Saint Joseph Ballet in Santa Ana, CA.

**CHARLES BURNS** was born in Washington, DC. He currently lives in Philadelphia with his wife, painter Susan Moore, and their two daughters, Ava and Rachel. His illustrations and comics have been widely published in Europe and the US in such magazines as *RAW*, *Time*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Believer*, and *Rolling Stone*. His books include *Thrilling Defective Stories* (Pantheon, 1988), *Blood Club* (Kitchen Sink, 1991), *Skin Deep* (Penguin Books, 1992), *Facetasm* (Gates of Heck, 1992), *Black Hole* (Fantagraphics, 2004), and *X'ed Out* (Pantheon, 2010).

## DANCERS

**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 Tay-



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lor 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 Battle-works Dance Company, before joining MMDG in 2006. Clark has also worked with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, as assistant to Robert Battle. She has been on the faculty at the American Dance Festival and teaches for MMDG. She is a recipient of the 2009 Princess Grace Modern Dance Honorarium Award.

**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 kraig 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 works with choreographers Leslie Scott at BODYart Dance; Mary Seidman at Mary Seidman & Dancers; and Christian von Howard at Von Howard Project. He made his debut with the Mark Morris Dance Group during *The Hard Nut* at Cal Performances in Berkeley in 2007 and became a company member in 2009.

**JULIE FIORENZA** was born in South Korea and grew up in Massachusetts where she trained at the Academy of Dance Arts and Boston Ballet. After receiving a BFA in dance from Alvin Ailey/Fordham University in 2004, she performed and taught throughout the country as a member of Ailey II and Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company. She played lead dance roles in two regional productions of *The King and I* and also performed in *Orfeo ed Euridice* and *Turandot* at the Metropolitan Opera. She first worked with MMDG in *Romeo & Juliet*, *On Motifs of Shakespeare* in 2008 and has since performed in productions of *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* and *The Hard Nut*.

**SHAWN GANNON** received his early dance training with Dorothy Wescott Rosen and first danced with MMDG from 1994—2004. Originally from Dover, NJ, he was a featured soloist

in *Resurrection* (2002) and was part of the original cast for *The Argument* (1998), and he danced the bird solo in *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*. Along with Morris, Gannon has the distinct honor of being one of a handful of men to have performed Ted Shawn's historical solo, *Mevlevi Dervish*. He has also performed with Lee Theodore's Dance Machine, Mark Dendy Dance Group, Laura Dean Dancers and Musicians, and Jane Comfort and Company.

**LESLEY GARRISON** grew up in Swansea, IL, and received her early dance training at the Center of Creative Arts in St. Louis, MO and Interlochen Arts Academy in Interlochen, MI. She studied at the Rotterdamse Dansacademie in Rotterdam, Holland and graduated cum laude from the Conservatory of Dance at the State University of New York at Purchase in 2007 receiving the Modern Dance Faculty Award. She has performed with the Kevin Wynn Collection, Nelly Van Bommel's NØA Dance, and Sidra Bell Dance New York. She first danced with MMDG three seasons ago in *L'Allegro il Penseroso ed il Moderato* and has toured with Morris' *Romeo & Juliet*, *On Motifs of Shakespeare* and *The Hard Nut*. She has also performed in Morris' production of *Orfeo ed Euridice* with the Metropolitan Opera. Garrison teaches modern dance at the Mark Morris Dance Center and assists the Dance for PD classes.

**LAUREN GRANT**, born and raised in Highland Park, IL, has danced with the Mark Morris Dance Group since 1996. Appearing in over 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*, and 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 the faculty at MMDG's school and also teaches dance internationally.

**JOHN HEGINBOTHAM** is from Anchorage, AK. He received his BFA from the Juilliard School 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,

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Heginbotham works regularly with members of the Brooklyn Parkinson Group. He joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1998.

**JENNIFER JONES** was raised in Lakeland, FL. She received her MFA from New York University in 2008 and her BFA with a focus in ballet performance from the University of South Florida in 2006. Her choreography has been selected as a representative of USF at the American College Dance Festival for the Southeastern Division, as well as chosen to be performed in the Celebra-zione Festival in Milan, Italy. She has danced in works by Mark Morris, Jose Limón, Jessica Lang, Ronald K. Brown, Chris Yon, Deborah Jowitt, and Jim Martin, among others. She is currently a guest artist with Skybetter and Associates, will be in the production of Mark Morris' *Orfeo ed Euridice* at the Metropolitan Opera in Spring 2010, and is in her third season with the Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company.

**BRIAN LAWSON** began his dance training in Toronto at Canadian Children's Dance Theatre. There he worked with choreographers such as David Earle, Carol Anderson, and Michael Trent. Lawson spent a year studying at the Rotterdamse Dansacademie and earned his BFA at Purchase College this year. At Purchase, he has had the opportunity to perform works by Merce Cunningham and Nelly van Bommel.

**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 the MMDG/Brooklyn Parkinson Group'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 received a 2008–10 Bessie Award for his performance work with Morris. He is married to fellow dancer Lauren Grant.

**AARON LOUX** grew up in Seattle, WA, and began dancing at the Creative Dance Center as a member of Kaleidoscope, a youth modern dance

company. He began his classical training at the Cornish College Preparatory Dance Program and received his BFA from the Juilliard School in 2009. He danced at the Metropolitan Opera and with Arc Dance Company before joining MMDG as an apprentice in 2010.

**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 TEA (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.

**CLAUDIA MacPHERSON** was born in Wisconsin but calls Kentucky home. She received her BFA in dance from Alvin Ailey/Fordham University. Since graduating she has worked with Eva Dean Dance, the Kevin Wynn Collection, SuriCo, and the Tattooed Ballerinas. MacPherson first performed with the Mark Morris Dance Group in *The Hard Nut* in 2007 and has since appeared in Mark Morris' productions of *Romeo & Juliet*, *On Motifs of Shakespeare* and *Orfeo ed Euridice* at the Metropolitan Opera. Most recently she toured Scotland performing a new work by Morris, *Cease Your Funning*, set to a selection of Beethoven's Scottish songs for the variety dance show *Off Kilter*.

**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 performed with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007.

**JUSTIN D. MELVIN** grew up in Newark, NJ, and began his dance training at Arts High School under the direction of Ronnie D. Carney and Kim Richardson. He also studied at the Ailey School,

# Who's Who

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Joffrey Ballet, and American Ballet Theatre's summer intensive in Bermuda. Melvin received his BFA from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts under the direction of Ethan Stiefel. While at UNCSA, he performed works by Mark Morris, Jose Limón, Lar Lubovitch, Larry Keigwin, Janis Brenner, George Balanchine, Merce Cunningham, and Donald McKayle. Since graduating, Melvin has performed with Janis Brenner and Dancers and is a company member with the Lustig Dance Theater based in New Brunswick. In 2011, he will perform with the Metropolitan Opera in Mark Morris' *Orfeo ed Euridice*. *The Hard Nut* marks his first performance with MMDG.

**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 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. Star Merkens joined MMDG in 2001.

**MAILE OKAMURA** is originally from San Diego, CA. She was a member of Boston Ballet II in 1992–93 and Ballet Arizona in 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.

**JUNE OMURA** was born in New York, grew up in Birmingham, AL, and graduated from Barnard College with honors in Dance and English. She first studied with Mark Morris in 1986, and joined MMDG in 1988. In 2005, she received a New York Dance and Performance Award ("Bessie") for her career with the company. Omura and her husband are the proud parents of twin girls and a son. She is grateful to her family, Mark Morris, and MMDG for their love and support.

**KRAIG PATTERSON** was born in Trenton, NJ. He was inspired to pursue a career in dance after performing in high school musicals. He continued his formal dance training via scholarships from the Princeton Ballet, the Ailey School, the Graham School, and the Cunningham

Studio. He received his BFA from the Juilliard School in 1986, and danced with MMDG from 1987–1999. Patterson, also known as bopi, has performed with Mark Haim, the Danny Lewis Repertory Ensemble, Ohad Naharin, Neta Pulvermacher, and the White Oak Dance Project. In 1996, Mikhail Baryshnikov invited him to choreograph a new piece for the White Oak Dance Project, *make like a tree...*; he created three additional works for the company. Patterson also served as an artist in residence at George Mason University, Princeton University, Cornish College for the Arts, and Barnard/Columbia Colleges, among others. He has been a guest faculty member at Barnard/Columbia College, Sarah Lawrence College, International Summer School of Dance-Japan, and American Dance Festival. He started his own dance company in 1996, bopi's black sheep / dances by kraig patterson, which is currently in residence at Borough Manhattan Community College's Tribeca Theater.

**SPENCER RAMIREZ** began his training in Springfield, VA, studying under Melissa Dobbs, Nancy Gross, Kellie Payne, and Marilyn York. From there, he continued training at the Maryland Youth Ballet with Michelle Lees, Christopher Doyle, and Harriet Williams. In 2008, he entered the Juilliard School under the direction of Lawrence Rhodes and performed works by Jose Limón, Jerome Robbins, Sidra Bell, and Fabien Prioville. Ramirez joined MMDG as an apprentice in July 2010.

**KANJI SEGAWA** began his training with his mother, Erika Akoh, and studied ballet with Kan Horiuchi in Tokyo, Japan. In 1997 he came to the US to study at the Ailey School under a Japanese government fellowship. Segawa has been a member of Battleworks Dance Company, Jennifer Muller/The Works, and Ailey II. He has also performed with Aszure and Artists and Morphoses with choreographer Jessica Lang. He first performed with MMDG in *The Hard Nut* in London in 2004 and has since appeared in Morris' productions of *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*; *Romeo & Juliet*, *On Motifs of Shakespeare*; *King Arthur* with the English National Opera; and *Orfeo ed Euridice* with the Metropolitan Opera. He also performed *Cease Your Funning*, a world premiere piece by Morris, touring in the production *Off Kilter* in Scotland.

# Who's Who

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**BRADLEY SHELVER** trained at the National School of the Arts in Johannesburg and the Ailey School. He has danced with the Alvin Ailey Repertory Company, Elisa Monte Dance Company, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Ballet Hispanico, the Francesca Harper Project, Limón Dance Company, Phoenix Dance Theater (UK), and in projects with Jiri Kylian, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Co., Lar Lubovitch Dance, the Universal Ballet, Metropolitan Opera Ballet, Radio City Music Hall, and in productions with the Mark Morris Dance Group. He has toured internationally as a solo artist and has choreographed works for companies in the US, Israel, Sweden, Denmark, and Italy, as well as creating works for the schools of the Royal Danish and Royal Swedish Ballets. He is artistic director of Bradley Shelver Contemporary Dance Theater, and is on the faculty of schools and universities worldwide. He is resident choreographer for Oure Contemporary Dance in Denmark. His book, *Performance Through the Dance Technique of Lester Horton*, will be published by L'epos in 2010.

**WILLIAM SMITH III** grew up in Fredericksburg, VA, and attended George Mason University under a full academic and dance talent scholarship. Smith graduated magna cum laude in 2007 and received achievement awards in performance, choreography, and academic endeavors. While at George Mason he performed the works of Mark Morris, Paul Taylor, Lar Lubovitch, Doug Varone, Daniel Ezralow, Larry Keigwin, Susan Marshall, and Susan Shields. Smith's own piece, *3-Way Stop*, was selected to open the 2006 American College Dance Festival Gala at Ohio State University and his original choreography for a production of *Bye Bye Birdie* garnered much critical praise. An actor as well, his regional theater credits include Tulsa in *Gypsy*, Mr. Mistoffelees in *Cats*, and Dream Curly in *Oklahoma!*. Previously he danced with Parsons Dance from 2007 to 2010. He joined MMDG in 2010.

**UTAFUMI TAKEMURA** received her BFA with honors in dance from State University of New York at Purchase and her MFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts where she was a recipient of the Siedman Award for Dance. She has performed and taught with numerous companies and choreographers in New York City and abroad and currently dances with Pam

Tanowitz Dance, Freefall, and Paz Tanjuaquio. She has been happily performing in *The Hard Nut* since 1993 and *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* since 2002.

**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 Longmont, CO, where she grew up. 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, Venci 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 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 she attended New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where she graduated with a BFA. Yard joined MMDG in 1997.

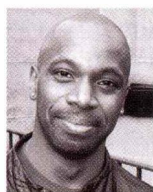


MARK MORRIS

DANCE GROUP



Samuel Black



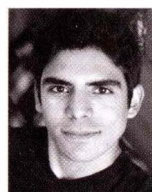
Joe Bowie



Elisa Clark



Rita Donahue



Domingo Estrada Jr.



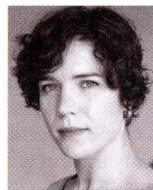
Lauren Grant



John Heginbotham



Aaron Loux



Laurel Lynch



Dallas McMurray



Amber Star Merkens



Maile Okamura



Spencer Ramirez



William Smith III



Noah Vinson



Jenn Weddel



Julie Worden



Michelle Yard



Shawn Gannon



David Leventhal



June Omura



Kraig Patterson



Julie Fiorenza



Lesley Garrison



Jennifer Jones



Brian Lawson



Claudia MacPherson



Justin D. Melvin



Kanji Segawa



Bradley Shelver



Utafumi Takemura



# MMDG Music Ensemble

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## **Violin I**

Jesse Mills, *Concertmaster*  
Anna Elashvili  
Maxim Moston  
Benjamin Russell  
Tai Murray  
Rob Moose  
Omar Guey  
Sebu Sirinian

## **Violin II**

Georgy Valtchev, *Principal*  
Cordelia Hagmann  
Kiku Enomoto  
Mae Barizo  
Michael Nicholas  
Lisa Tipton

## **Viola**

Jessica Troy, *Principal*  
Nadia Sirota  
Irena Momchilova  
Todd Low

## **Cello**

Wolfram Koessel, *Principal*  
Alexander Scheierle  
Andrew Janss

## **Double Bass**

Doug Balliett, *Principal*  
Logan Coale

## **Flute**

Lance Suzuki  
Jeremiah Duarte Bills

## **Piccolo**

Andrew Rehrig

## **Oboe**

Alexandra Knoll

## **English Horn**

Nick Masterson

## **Clarinet**

Todd Palmer  
Pascal Archer

## **Bass Clarinet**

Sarah Beaty

## **Bassoon**

Seth Baer  
Damian Primis

## **French Horn**

Michael Atkinson  
David Byrd-Marrow  
Theodore Primis  
Chad Yarbrough

## **Trumpet**

Sycil Mathai  
Kyle Resnick

## **Trombone**

Tom Hutchinson  
Brian Mahany

## **Bass Trombone**

Patrick Herb

## **Tuba**

Andrew Bove

## **Harp**

Bridget Kibbey

## **Timpani**

Matthew Gold

## **Percussion**

Eric Poland  
Sean Ritenauer

## **Celeste**

Colin Fowler

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## **BROOKLYN YOUTH CHORUS ACADEMY**

### **Dianne Berkun,**

Artistic Director

David Wade Acevedo

Rose Adams

Emily Akpan

Josephine Attal

Lucy Bales

Alexandra Barea-Heney

Adriana Beltran

Taylor Boria

Dominique Callahan

Alexandra Caruso

Declan Christenberry

Rochae Clarke

Stephanie Collins

Ciara Cornelius

Sofia D'Alessandro

Arielle De Souza

Emily Donato

Ayanna Donovan

Essien Duke

Raamiah Edwards

Chelsea Fingal

Julia Finnegan

Harry Fosbinder-Elkins

Talia Fuchs

Alison Gim

Margaret Grabar-Sage

Lydia Green

Maxine Gross

Nadia Grisar

Miranda Halle

Grace Hamilton

Erin Hartnett

Asia Harvey-Wright

Tomasyn Hayes

Bryanna Henry

Symone Henry

Ella Hester

Sarah Hill

Usha Houeix

Milo Hughes

Genevieve Hynes

Imani Isaac

Sarah Jensen

Adar Johnson

Camille Johnson

Lucinda Kahn

Caterina Kenworthy

Lauren Kingsley

Raquel Klein

Olivia Knutsen

Eve Kummer-Landau

Sonia Lawrence

Zayyir Lee

Anna Lentz

Rachel Liss

Juliana LoPiccolo

Lily Maass

Michelle Madias

Alice Markham-Cantor

Lucy McCabe

Maeve McNamara

Anna McNeil

Maggie Mihalcik

Mary Miller

Jake Montagnino

Louise Palmer

Nadege Philogene

Lily Pisano

Kyla Randall

Nathaniel Redding

Helen Rouner

Roselise Russo

Sebastian Santoro

Juliet Schlefer

Audrey Seery

Kamala Silvey

Maria Smith

Brooke Sumrall

Katie Sundsted

Ilanah Torres

Veronica Towers-Dioso

Natalie Turner-Wyatt

Rachel Vales

Tiarah Vergara

Kaitlyn Vincent

Anne Wenk

Abigail West-Claixon

Bolivia Williams

Gavin Yancey

Susan Yassky

# Mark Morris Dance Group

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## MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP STAFF

Artistic Director **Mark Morris**  
Executive Director **Nancy Umanoff**

## PRODUCTION

Technical Director **Johan Henckens**  
Assistant Technical Director **Matthew Eggleton**  
Technical Assistant **Dirk Loomans**  
Rehearsal Director **Matthew Rose**  
Lighting Supervisor **Michael Chybowski**  
Costume Coordinator **Stephanie Sleeper**  
Wardrobe Supervisor **Katherine M. Patterson**  
Sound Supervisor **Jim Abdou**  
Hair & Make-up Supervisor **Leslee Newcomb**  
Assistant Hair & Make-up Supervisor **Sara Beukers**

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Finance Associate **Marea Chaveco**  
Company Manager **Sarah Robinson**  
Management Assistant **Shanleigh Philip**

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**Lauren Cherubini**  
Director of Marketing **Christy Bolingbroke**  
Special Projects Manager **Alexandro Pacheco**  
Development Associate **Kelly Sheldon**  
Development Assistant **Moss Allen**  
Marketing Assistant **Ashley Matthews**  
Office Assistant **Jay Selinger**

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School Director **Sarah Marcus**  
Dance for PD Program Manager **David Leventhal**  
School Administrator **Diane Ogunusi**  
School Bursar **Marc Castelli**

## DANCE CENTER OPERATIONS

Studio Manager **Karyn Treadwell**  
Production and Facilities Manager **Matthew Eggleton**  
Assistant Facilities Manager **Chris Sperry**  
Front Desk Manager **Jackie Busch**  
Music Coordinator **Bruce Lazarus**  
Maintenance **Gregory Collazo, Jose Fuentes, Orlando Rivera**

Costumes constructed by **Martin Adams; Anne Maskrey; Euro Co.; Vincent Costumes; Woody Shelp; Izquierdo Studios; Eric Winterling, Inc.; and Paul Chang Tailors**. A very special thanks to **Robby Duiveman** and costume intern **Hannah Kittel**.

Costumes refurbished by **Allison Duncil** and **Millar Kelley**.

Booking Representation **Michael Mushalla (Double M Arts & Events)**  
Media and General Consultation Services **William Murray (Better Attitude, Inc)**  
Legal Counsel **Mark Selinger (McDermott, Will & Emery)**  
Accountant **O'Connor Davies Munns & Dobbins, LLP**  
Orthopaedist **David S. Weiss, MD (NYU-HJD Department of Orthopaedic Surgery)**  
Hilot Therapist **Jeffrey Cohen**  
Physical Therapist **Marshall Hagins, PT, PhD**

Thanks to **Maxine Morris**.

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

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For more information contact:

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP, 3 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11217—1415  
Tel: (718) 624-8400 | Fax: (718) 624-8900 | [info@mmdg.org](mailto:info@mmdg.org) | [www.mmdg.org](http://www.mmdg.org)

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