

The New Prince of Modern Dance

Hailed by critics nationwide, Seattle's Mark Morris embraces the heritage of the great choreographers.

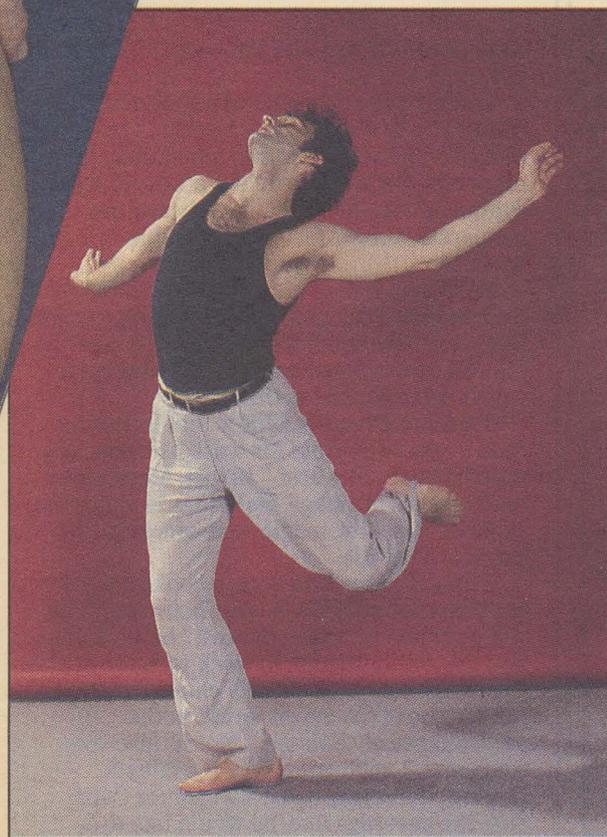
Written by Mary Martinez
Photographed by Carol Rosegg



Ma
ogr
wowe
establi
called h
producti
New York
Morris will
January to
Washington



Mark Morris, a Seattle choreographer and dancer, has wowed the East Coast dance establishment with what one critic called his "outlandishly original" productions. After stints in Boston, New York and on public television, Morris will return to the Northwest in January to teach at the University of Washington.



A single figure, almost ghostlike in an oversized white tunic, floats across a stage soaked in blackness. His limbs glide in fluent geometry, one arm perpendicular to the floor, the other arm and a leg at twisted angles, the liquid body flowing to the strains of Vivaldi. Suddenly the dancer dips, whirls, gallops in movement so exact yet so reckless that the viewer expects him to crumple to the floor in a boneless heap.

With moves like this, Mark Morris gets noticed. Just turned 30, he has been hailed as the country's hottest young choreographer. His innovative technique has won international attention. "He's the clearest illustration we have, at the moment, of the principle of succession and how it works in dance: Each new master assimilates the past in all its variety and becomes our guide to the future," writes Arlene Croce, *The New Yorker* magazine's dance critic.

Morris appears to be thriving on a performance-packed schedule and enough media attention to make him a pop celebrity. He was listed in *Esquire* magazine's 1985 Register of "America's New Leadership Class — Men and Women Under 40 Who Are Changing the Nation." *Time* magazine dubbed him "Seattle's Young Spellbinder." *People* magazine says, "Mark Morris is in." He was the cover story in the September issue of *Dancemagazine*, which described his New York appearances last December as *the* modern dance event of the season.

In mid-October, Morris was featured on public television's Great Performance series. This month he and his troupe perform in Storrs, Conn., Ottawa, Canada, and at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York City. In January Morris returns to Seattle to teach at the University of Washington and to prepare for a March tour through the Midwest and Northeast.

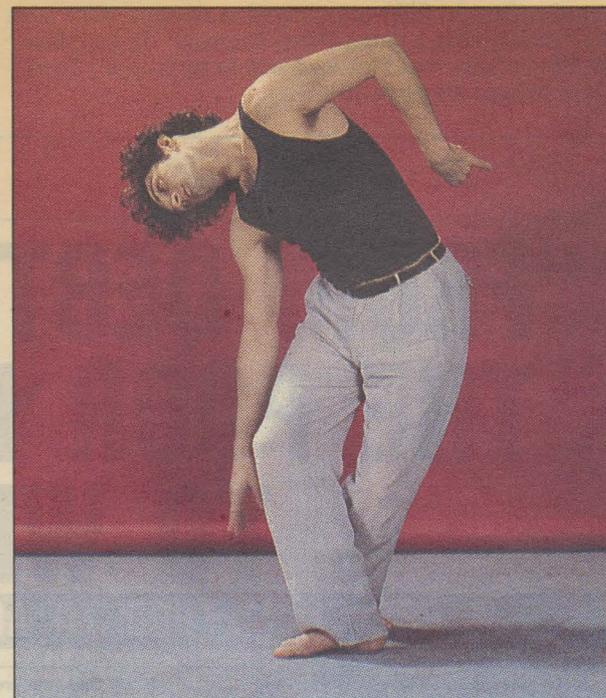
Morris' innovative style first captured attention in 1980 on the East Coast. Critics then described his work as "outlandishly original." And the variety of his work is remarkable. At the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Morris himself, clad in a loincloth, performed a 20-minute solo to an Indian vocal. In "Songs That Tell a Story," first performed in Seattle, dancers dressed in jeans galloped to country gospel music. In Boston his company churned through "Soap Powders and Detergents," wearing white sheets and accompanied by the music of Boston contemporary composer Herschel Garfein. Describing his performances, a reviewer for *The New York Times* noted, "Obviously, for Mr. Morris, movement is the greatest fun in the world."

Freshness and wit are his hallmarks. Yet Morris is quick to point out that his purpose is not to provide his audiences with pure entertainment. "I don't design it so that everybody will go home humming the tune and doing the steps," he says. Rather, he works to achieve compositions that are "interesting to watch, will make people think for a second or see something in a different way." In one of his works, "Lovey," some Seattle viewers detected child abuse as the theme. Morris, however, describes it as a statement on how people fail to relate to one another.

In his piece titled "The Vacant Chair" Morris performed with a paper bag over his head. The paper bag was intended to represent anonymity, and the piece was a tribute to friends and unknown victims of the deadly virus AIDS.

In total, Morris says, his work is neither sad nor happy; it aims to bring to the stage a mosaic of life

MARY MARTINEZ is a free-lance writer living in Pullman, Wash. CAROL ROSEGG is a New York City free-lance photographer.



experience. Drawing on his lifelong interest in dance and a rampant imagination, he marries his choreography to a wide range of themes and music. Socrates, wrestling and detergent are set to Bach, Poulenc, Yoko Ono, raga or country gospel. Hanna-Barbera, folk dances and classic ballet provide inspiration for the movement.

Morris' love for music is evident: With a Sony Walkman as his ever-present traveling companion, he absorbs music constantly, his mind mentally translating sound into visual experience.

His iconoclastic style was recognized in 1984 with a Dance Theater Workshop's prestigious "Bessie" award, the New York dance world's equivalent of the Oscar. He's also won grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council for the Arts, and this year he won a Guggenheim grant.

The dancer, it seems, is born with an ear for music and an eye for motion. Before he could walk, Morris clung to the coffee table and swayed to the music that wafted through his home. His father was a schoolteacher, his mother a lover of dance, particularly flamenco. Starting in those early years, their son flew rather than walked, taking giant Cossack leaps or clicking his heels to invisible castanets.

Formal dance training began at age 9 when his mother took him to see flamenco-great Jose Greco, and Morris announced, "I want to do that." Seattle dance teacher Verla Flowers introduced him to tap, Tahitian, Hawaiian and flamenco, as well as to classical ballet. Within months he perfected and presented a Spanish dance that brought an audience of more than 800 persons to its feet at Seattle's Franklin High School. That marked the first time Morris danced alone on stage. From then on, he was hooked.

Morris had early access to the leaders. When his peers were heading off to camp, 11-year-old Mark went to Portland to audition with the Bolshoi Ballet. The same year, in spite of his youth, he had a special audition with Greco — who, Morris says, encouraged him to pursue his passion for dance.

Morris' choreographic aptitude continued to germinate through high school. Working summers for the Seattle Youth Theater at Woodland Park, he

choreographed two high school musicals and designed recitals for dance students. After graduation, he spent a year studying classical Spanish dance in Madrid. Then he returned to Seattle and was accepted as an apprentice with First Chamber Dance under Perry Brunson. "It was slave labor," he recalls, "but I learned how to work really hard and how to hear music better."

At 19 Morris felt he was due for a pilgrimage to New York. "You have to go, at some point, as a dancer or any sort of performing artist. You have to know it, to know about it," he says. Arriving in 1976, within weeks he landed a job with Eliot Feld. He went on to cultivate a rich repertory of dance and choreography with such names as Laura Dean, Hannah Kahn, Lar Lubovitch, Twyla Tharp

and Dance Theater Workshop.

These experiences took Morris through Europe and the Middle East, broadening the scope of his work and talent. Asia had the greatest influence on his work, he says now, affecting how he hears and constructs music.

The Mark Morris Dance Group made its debut in 1980 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. The company, composed of dancers Morris had worked with previously, was an "ad hoc" creation, he says. Yet it continues to thrive.

"My group is certainly motley," Mark says with pride. "They are all adults with their own opinions and their own ways of dancing, and I like that. That makes it more fun and more exciting."

In spite of the obvious logistical inconveniences, Morris makes his home in Seattle. A "scenic sandwich," he calls Seattle, referring to that city's location between the Olympics and the Cascades. Strolling through the cold rain wearing shorts and a shirt from Value Village and a necklace and earring, he obviously defies the stolid stereotype of those who live and work in the Pacific Northwest.

"I grew up here," he says. "I was gone for

Teaching one semester at a time at the University of Washington "grounds" Morris after months of frantic scheduling.

eight or nine years, and I'm back. I belong here."

Teaching one semester at a time at the University of Washington, he says, "grounds" him after months of frantic scheduling, affords rehearsal space and provides access to video equipment. Besides that, friends and the temperate climate form an agreeable backdrop.

More than half of his 13-member company lives in New York and shuttles between coasts. But "they love coming here," Morris says. Like all professional dancers, they accept a vagabond existence as their lot.

But Morris readily admits that he has no need to get away from his work because "it's exactly what I like best." In fact, Mark never really leaves the stage. He brings to dance the singular mischief, magic, and verve that he extracts from life.

With the immediate future booked, what next? Armed with his Guggenheim grant, he will continue to "make dances," he says. He also has commitments to work with the Seattle Opera, for which he already choreographed the "Dance of the Seven Veils" in the performance of "Salome." Morris also sees commercial applications for his talents. Having choreographed a TV spot for Capri Sun, the beverage line, he would like to do more advertising work because that's "something that can happen quickly, make a lot of money and is fun."

"FROM DEBTS TO RICHES, THE POOR MAN'S ROAD TO WEALTH"

A PROVEN METHOD TO ACHIEVE FINANCIAL FREEDOM!

- Are you making all the money you want?
- Are you your own boss?
- Are you free to come and go as you please?
- Is the system working for you instead of you working for the system?
- Do you have all the toys you want, like Exotic Cars, a Boat or even an Airplane?
- Are you taking enough time off?
- Do you own properties including a beautiful home.

LET ME SHOW YOU HOW I MADE THE SYSTEM WORK FOR ME, AND HOW YOU CAN MAKE IT WORK FOR YOU TOO.

And that is merely the beginning: "From Debts To Riches The Poor Man's Road to Wealth," will show you how you can achieve an income of up to \$5,000.00 per month, just by spending a few hours per day following the easy to read instructions in my book. In it YOU WILL LEARN:

- How to PASS any credit investigation
- How to WIPE OUT all of your DEBTS, if you so wish, and still MAINTAIN AAA CREDIT.
- How to achieve FINANCIAL SECURITY, and a life of luxury, in less than 90 days.
- How to raise all the CAPITAL you need.

Let me show you how to become a Millionaire and, how to live the "Life of the Rich and Famous." You will be able to enjoy a complete and different life style with your family and friends.

"From Debts to Riches, The Poor Man's Road to Wealth", will show you, how to get out of debt without jeopardizing your present life style, how to improve your income and even how to take your money and turn it into millions. You will learn to make as much money as you want and pay very little taxes. Most importantly it will show you the well kept secret techniques, many people are using, to become the millionaires of today, and how you too can become a part of that group.

To accomplish all of the things contained in "From Debts to Riches, The Poor Man's Road to Wealth", there are some things that you DON'T NEED."

- You don't need to be a genius
- You don't need to have an education
- You don't need to sell anything
- You don't need to visit anyone
- And you don't need to even move out of home.

All you need is YOU. And the DESIRE to change your life for the better once and for all.

First and foremost, if you are presently in debt and you feel that the bills are about to ruin your life, and that between the calls, the letters and the credit agencies, you are going to lose your mind. RELAX! You are still in control of your destiny. That's right! The first step is to get PERMANENT Debt Relief once and for all, by following the simple legal method explained in my book.

Debt Relief in Less than 2 Hours. This method is very legal and respectable. It is not stigmatizing bankruptcy; it does not ruin your credit and much less your life, your reputation will not be affected and not even your family or friends will know.

It will stop your creditors in their tracks! And they won't be able to call or visit you, garnish your wages, seize your car, or take your property away from you. You will learn how to settle your debts (if you so desire) for 5 cents on the dollar and how to wipe them out all together. No more Bills, no more Bill Collectors, no more letters and no more telegrams.

"From Debts To Riches The Poor Man's Road To Wealth" will show you, How to establish AAA credit in 60 days or less. Your credit is extremely important because your success will hinge upon it. You will read about the guarded secrets of how Credit Agencies rate your credit, how the Credit System Works. You will be able to control your credit status on a permanent basis and you will be able to add to your credit report any information, if you so wish, regardless of your employment history, or salary and that is just the beginning!

You can have all the credit cards you want. You will learn how to PASS any Credit Investigation by any Bank or Financial Institution, you will learn how to OBTAIN the credit card of your choice such as VISA, Master Card, American Express, Discover, Diners Club, just to name a few, PLUS any furniture you want for your home FREE.

Move into a \$250,000.00 or more without paying a dime. "From Debts to Riches, The Poor Man's Road To Wealth" will show you, how to get that car of your dreams, brand new, every year (like a Mercedes Benz, Cadillac, BMW or any other luxury car) ABSOLUTELY FREE.

You will learn how to travel around the world for several months or even several years, enjoying yourself for practically no money. Your expense will be merely a few cents in postage stamps. All you have to do is follow the simple instructions.

One thing that you have to understand at this point is that this is not an offer for you buy a more expensive program and although this program is well worth a few hundred dollars, we are offering it to you for only \$19.98. You will not receive, another offer from us. You will receive "From Debts To Riches, The Poor Man's Road To Wealth" in its entirety, from us. No ifs ands or buts.

In the publication you will learn these exciting things, never before revealed in any publication.

- How to raise all the capital you need
- How banks determine your credit rating
- How to get a college degree from an accredited school without going to college or taking correspondence courses
- How to clear your credit report from any derogatory information.
- A large valuable list of lending institutions ready to give you a line of credit without even checking your credit history.
- How to use your credit cards, once you get them to invest and increase your wealth.

... Plus much more!

How to raise \$100,000.00 just on your signature. Yes, YOU can borrow that much and no one will bother you, with either paying the interest and or the loan.

Loans and grants to start or expand your business. Did you know that you can get up to \$150,000.00 (business risk loan) without repaying the money? This and more secrets are available in "From Debts To Riches, The Poor Man's Road to Wealth" Pick up your pen and order now. What if you don't like it? Send it back and you will receive a \$19.98 refund. This book is guaranteed to change your life!

The techniques and methods that you will learn, will make all the difference in the world. You will no longer be at the mercy of your Boss, Some Bank, Financial Institution and or any Credit Agency trying to tell you how you should run your life. You will take command. You will even be able to take a bankruptcy off your credit report. No one will be able to stop your growth. No one will be able to capitalize on your past bad fortune. You will be on your way to wealth and happiness.

You will be able to use the system any way you want to your own advantage. You will be in the driver's seat. You will be able to get out of the 9 to 5 rat race, regardless of your sex, creed, color, age or origin. If you can read and understand English you will be in command, once you get the material.

With this information and knowledge, you will be able to achieve financial security in a very short time. Don't delay. Don't let this opportunity slip by. Take full charge now. Do something about your future today! Remember, "When you don't have money, decisions are made for you, when you have the money, you make the decisions." The secrets in this book are used by thousands of wealthy people, the same people that have the exotic cars, boats, airplanes and other people who work for them. They have the best homes, enjoy the best private clubs and beach resorts and live the "Life of the Rich and Famous".

**ORDER NOW, YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF!
YOUR FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS!**

Rush Order Form

TIME PUBLICATIONS

279 S. Beverly Drive
Suite 1071
Beverly Hills, CA 90212-3898

Please Rush me a copy of my book "From Debts To Riches, The Poor Man's Road to Wealth". It is agreed that if I don't like it for any reason I can return the material and receive my \$19.98 refund immediately.

With this understanding here is my \$19.98

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

Please add \$2.00 for shipping and handling. All foreign orders please add \$4.00. Thank You