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Morris Takes the Tube

By

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Mark Morris is a name that gets bandied about a lot these days. Everyone in the dance world is talking about him and he's been written about at length in such widely varied magazines as *Time* and *People*.

Yet there must be many members of the public who wonder what the fuss is all about.

Viewers will get a chance to check out Mark Morris this coming Friday (October 10) when PBS, Channel 13, will air

an hour-long program in the *Dance In America* series, devoted to Morris and his company.

He and his group of distinctive dancers, 12 in all, perform some seven Morris works, each highly individual and extremely different. His choice of music is eclectic though he does seem to favor the baroque. Particularly good is the full company work to Vivaldi's *Gloria*, while his solo to Handel aria shows off his personal magnetism as

a dancer.

The program also offers insights into Morris's lively personality and lifestyle. He's quite frank about being gay (though it's played down in the program). Some of the magazine articles have tended to emphasize this, wrongly, because no artist should be judged by his sex life, and Morris is a serious artist whose grasp of dance styles and its vernacular is prodigious, to the point where even in a program like this, it

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barely does justice to his vision and invention.

Since the show was taped, Morris has choreographed major ballets for both the Boston — *Mort Subite* — and Joffrey companies, the latter work to be seen for the first time here in the Joffrey City Center season starting October 16.

Perhaps the most exciting appearance of all, however, will be in November during the Brooklyn Academy of Music's *Next Wave* series, when Morris and company will perform a new work to Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*.

So do your homework. Catch Morris on the tube and you'll be up on dance's most invigorating choreographer if not since Balanchine, at least since Twyla Tharp.