

THE ROYAL NEW ZEALAND BALLET

THE TELECOM SEASON OF

halo



DRIFTING ANGELS BY ERIC LANGUET
DRINK TO ME ONLY WITH THINE EYES BY MARK MORRIS
HALO BY DOUGLAS WRIGHT
NATIONWIDE TOUR, MARCH 2000

www.nzballet.org.nz

NATIONAL SPONSOR

Telecom
NEW ZEALAND

NATIONAL SPONSOR

 **Meridian Energy**

FUNDED BY

TE MANATU TAONGA
MINISTRY FOR CULTURE AND HERITAGE

THE TELECOM SEASON OF

halo

Drifting Angels

Choreographer: Eric Languet, reproduced by Turid Revfeim

Set design: Andrew Thomas

Lighting: Phil Blackburn, realised by Marc Simpson

Music: *Tabula Rasa* by Arvo Pärt

Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes

Choreographer: Mark Morris, staged by Tina Fehlandt

Costume design: Santo Loquasto

Lighting: Michael Chybowski, realised by Marc Simpson

Music: Virgil Thomson – 13 piano études

Pianist: David Guerin

Nicholas Giles-Palmer (understudy)

halo

Choreographer: Douglas Wright

Set and costume design: Michael Pearce

Text writer: Jo Randerson

Lighting: Marc Simpson

Music: Pérotin

Length of programme:

Drifting Angels: 26 minutes

Interval: 20 minutes

Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes: 26 minutes

Interval: 20 minutes

halo: 40 minutes

Tour dates:

4 March, The Regent Theatre, Palmerston North

8 March, The Regent Theatre, Dunedin

10 – 11 March, The Theatre Royal, Christchurch

15 – 19 March, Sky City Theatre, Auckland

23 – 26 March, WestpacTrust St James Theatre, Wellington
in association with the New Zealand Festival 2000

Programme written and compiled by: Jane Wynyard

Cover photo and photo this page: Ross Brown

Printed by: Wyatt and Wilson

Made
to Move
2000



New Zealand Festival 2000

welcome

Welcome to The Royal New Zealand Ballet's first season of year 2000, and the beginning of a new millennium. With this programme of outstanding choreography we plan to take you on a fantastic journey of human emotion.

We are delighted to once again offer you Eric Languet's poetic and beautiful piece *Drifting Angels*. The acquisition of Mark Morris' *Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes* marks a milestone in the Company's repertoire. Working with a dance maker of such magnitude is awesome and inspiring. Douglas Wright's wonderful and challenging new work, *halo*, once again affirms The Royal New Zealand Ballet as an outstanding contemporary dance company, and Douglas as one of the finest choreographers in the country.

Each time we return to the stage with a new programme we do so feeling confident that we bring you the best New Zealand can offer. We are absolutely certain the evening will entertain and move you, and we look forward to welcoming you back for many more performances by The Royal New Zealand Ballet.

We also want to say thank you to all our sponsors, Friends and audiences throughout the country who continue to give us such loyal and generous support.



Photo: Stephen A'Court

Sue Paterson
General Manager

Matz Skoog
Artistic Director

TELECOM WELCOME

Telecom has enjoyed a long and beneficial collaboration with The Royal New Zealand Ballet. Since 1991, it has been our pleasure to support them in achieving the highest standards of creative excellence.

The Telecom Season of *halo* is a wonderful opportunity to continue our focus on making contemporary dance more accessible to New Zealanders. Each work is an exquisite exploration of the hopes, fears and dreams that lie at the heart of all of us. We are fortunate indeed in having the collective talents of Douglas Wright, Mark Morris and Eric Languet to help us in this exploration.

Douglas Wright has given us some of the most compelling dance performances we have witnessed in this country. Through *halo*, we look forward to sharing another step in his artistic journey.

The Mark Morris Dance Group captivated us with their performance in the 1998 New Zealand Festival.

Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes is another opportunity for New Zealanders to experience a work by one of the world's most influential choreographers.

Those lucky enough to see a previous production of Eric Languet's *Drifting Angels* will welcome the chance to revisit this haunting and memorable work. Others will welcome the opportunity to experience its mystical qualities for the first time.

As our world becomes increasingly online, at work and at home, the thrill of live performance of great art to feed our souls becomes essential. Please enjoy and reflect on the performance you are about to experience.

Jane Austin
General Manager, Communications
Telecom NZ Ltd

drink to me only with thine eyes

A chance to perform one of Mark Morris' works is a special honour, so The Royal New Zealand Ballet is privileged to be able to perform Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes as part of the halo triple bill.

Set to 13 piano études by the late American composer Virgil Thomson, Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes is a magical and abstract ballet performed by 12 dancers in uniform white. Originally created for American Ballet Theatre in 1988, the work featured Mikhail Baryshnikov in the original cast. Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes has received rave reviews worldwide and has been described as colourful, complex in structure, dynamic in range and rich in humour.

The score will be performed centre-stage by Wellington-based pianist David Guerin.



Photo: Mira, Courtesy of: American Ballet Theatre

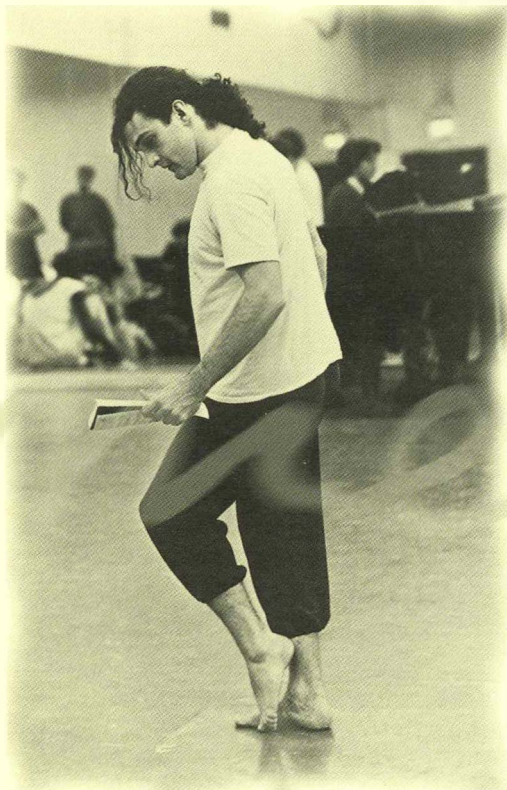


Photo: Chantal Regnault

MARK MORRIS – *Choreographer*

Mark Morris was born on 29 August, 1956 in Seattle, Washington, where he studied as a young man with Verla Flowers and Perry Brunson.

He performed with a variety of companies in the early years of his career, including the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, Hannah Kahn Dance Company, Laura Dean Dancers and Musicians, Eliot Feld Ballet, and the Koleda Balkan Dance Ensemble.

He formed the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1980, and has since created over 100 works for the Dance Group, as well as choreographing dances for many ballet companies, including the San Francisco Ballet, the Paris Opera Ballet, and American Ballet Theatre.

From 1988 to 1991 he was Director of Dance at the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels, the national opera house of Belgium. During his tenure there, he created 12 pieces including three evening-length works: *The Hard Nut* (his comic book-inspired version of *The Nutcracker*); *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*; and *Dido and Aeneas*, and founded the White Oak Dance Project with Mikhail Baryshnikov.

Morris is noted for his musicality – he has been described as “undeviating in his devotion to music” – and for his “ability to conjure so many contradictory styles and emotions”.

He has worked extensively in opera as both a choreographer and a director. Most recently, he directed and choreographed a Royal Opera, Covent Garden production of Rameau's *Platée* which premiered at the Edinburgh International Festival in 1997.

Morris was named a Fellow of the MacArthur Foundation in 1991, and he is the subject of a biography by Joan Acocella (Farrar, Straus & Giroux).

VIRGIL THOMSON 1896 – 1989 – *Composer*

Awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his work, American composer Virgil Thomson was one of the most prolific and most successful composers of classical music in the States. He wrote numerous scores in various styles for ballets, operas, orchestras, choral works, chamber music, film scores and plays.

Thomson was born in Kansas City and studied at Harvard University. In 1921, he studied with the renowned teacher Nadia Boulanger in Paris and remained there until 1940. While in Paris, Thomson met many of the great writers, composers and painters of that time including Cocteau, Stravinsky and Satie.

He collaborated with the famous writer Gertrude Stein on a number of operas including their most famous and provocative work, *Four Saints in Three Acts*.

In 1940, Thomson moved to New York where he was made chief music critic with the New York Herald Tribune. He eventually left the paper to devote himself full time to his music career.

Included in many of Thomson's honours and awards are the Pulitzer Prize, a Brandeis Award, the gold medal for music from the American Academy and the Institute of Arts and Letters, the National Book Circle Award, the Kennedy Center Honors, the National Music Council Award and 20 honorary doctorates.

The études that make up the score for *Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes* were written in 1943 and 1951 and are variations on familiar folk tunes.

They include: *Chromatic Double Harmonies*, *Repeating Tremolo*, *Fingered Fifths*, *Double Glissando*, *Oscillating Arm*, *Pivoting on the Thumb*, *Alternating Octaves*, *Double Sevenths*, *Broken Arpeggios*, *Parallel Chords*, *Ragtime Bass*, *For the Weaker Fingers* and *Tenor Lead*.

The performances of 13 piano études by Virgil Thomson are given by permission of G Schirmer (Australia) Pty Ltd.



Tina Fehlandt

TINA FEHLANDT – Assistant to Mark Morris

Tina Fehlandt grew up in Wilmington, Delaware, where she began her dance training at age five. She has been a member of the Mark Morris Dance Group since its inception in 1980. She has staged Mark's work on Repertory Dance Company of Canada, Concert Dance Company of Boston, New York University Tisch School of the Arts, University of Minnesota, San Francisco Ballet and American Ballet Theatre. Fehlandt has also appeared with the White Oak Dance Project.

MICHAEL CHYBOWSKI – Lighting Designer

Michael Chybowski has recently designed Laurie Anderson's *Moby Dick and Other Stories*, and *Wit*, with Kathleen Chalfant, at the Union Square Theater. As resident designer at A.R.T. in Cambridge for the past two seasons, he has designed *The Bacchae*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *A Jungle of Cities* and *The Wild Duck*, *Phaedra*, and *The Merchant of Venice*. Other recent work in New York includes *The Grey Zone*, directed by Doug Hughes, which received the Lucille Lortel Award for best Off-Broadway lighting design, *A Question of Mercy* in its premiere at New York Theatre Workshop, and *Waiting for Godot* at Classic Stage Company. Upcoming projects include Andre Serban's *Hamlet* at the Public Theater in New York and productions in Princeton, Cambridge and Los Angeles. He is the recipient of the 1999 Obie and Maharam awards.

SANTO LOQUASTO – Costume Designer

Santo Loquasto is widely known as a designer for theatre, film and dance. His work in New York theatre won him both Tony and Drama Desk awards for his set design of *Café Crown* in 1989 and for costume design for *The Cherry Orchard* in 1977 and *Grand Hotel* in 1990. Other awards include an Obie, a Joseph Maharam award and Outer Critic's Circle awards. He received Tony nominations for set designs for *The Championship Season*, *What the Wine Cellars Buy*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *American Buffalo* and *The Suicide*.

Most recently he designed costumes for *Ragtime* (for which he received a Tony nomination) and *Fosse*. He has worked with Woody Allen on 20 films. His costume designs for Allen's *Zelig* and production designs for *Radio Days* and *Bullets Over Broadway* received Academy Award nominations. Loquasto has worked with Mark Morris, Jerome Robbins, Glen Tetley, Helgi Tomasson, Agnes de Mille, James Kudelka, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Dana Reitz, Twyla Tharp and Paul Taylor. Loquasto is a graduate of King's College and Yale Drama School.

DAVID GUERIN – Pianist

As one of New Zealand's foremost pianists, David Guerin is in big demand as a soloist, chamber music player and accompanist throughout the country.

He has appeared as a concerto soloist with the Auckland Philharmonia and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, tours New Zealand on a regular basis giving concerts for the New Zealand Music Federation and is a national recording artist.

Born in Wellington and presently living on the Kapiti Coast, Guerin studied at Victoria University of Wellington, the University of Auckland (where he graduated with an M Mus degree) and the Musikhochschule in Cologne, West Germany.

His teachers have included Judith Clark, Janette McStay, Aloys Kontarsky, Wilhelm Hecker and members of the Amadeus Quartet.



Photo: Martha Swope, Courtesy of: American Ballet Theatre

A strong commitment to the performance of music by New Zealanders has been a feature of Guerin's career and several composers have written pieces especially for him. He gained critical praise for his performance of Bach's *Goldberg Variations* in a major dance collaboration with renowned choreographer Michael Parmenter and has also earned outstanding critical and audience praise for his solo performances of the *Variations* around the country.

As well as having many private pupils, Guerin has taught at the Conservatorium of Music at Wellington Polytechnic. He is presently working as a pianist for the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and, outside music, as an editor and social science researcher.



David Guerin