

Chicago Tribune

FALL PREVIEW: DANCE

Fall preview: dance must-sees

By Sid Smith, Special to the Tribune
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This unusually fertile fall season is heavily front-loaded, with the first weekend in October something of a historic feast. Here are but a few highlights:

1 **Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company.** Jones' eagerly awaited full-length dance-theater piece, "Fondly Do We Hope ... Fervently Do We Pray," explores **Abraham Lincoln** in music, dance and text, a premiere commissioned by the **Ravinia Festival** as the culmination of its Lincoln bicentennial. Sept. 17 and 19 at Ravinia, Highland Park; 847-266-5100 or ravinia.com

2 **Mikhail Baryshnikov and Ana Laguna in "Three Solos and a Duet."** Misha returns in works by Alexei Ratmansky, Benjamin Millepied and Mats Ek, Laguna's husband. Sept. 25-27 at the Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph Drive; 312-334-7777 or harristheaterchicago.org

3 **Merce Cunningham Dance Company.** Unlike recent engagements, this first since Cunningham's death will be in a small theater ideal for viewing his extraordinarily intense, revolutionary movement, seen here in "events," the troupe term for excerpts from works arranged expressly for this engagement. Oct. 1-3 at the Dance Center of **Columbia College**, 1306 S. Michigan Ave.; 312-369-8330 or colum.edu/dancecenter

4 **Hubbard Street Dance Chicago.** The troupe's fall line-up, its first outing since Glenn Edgerton took over as artistic head, includes the premiere of a new piece by Jorma Elo, Nacho Duato's "Jardi Tancat," Alejandro Cerrudo's "Lickety Split" and Lucas Crandall's "The Set." Oct. 1-4 at the Harris; 312-334-7777 or harristheaterchicago.org

5 **Nora Chipaumire and Thomas Mapfumo.** Contemporary dance artist and Zimbabwe native Chipaumire teams up with musician Mapfumo and his band, Blacks Unlimited, in a work about the migrant in the modern world and the meaning of being African in a

borderless era. Oct. 1-4 at the Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Ave.; 312-397-4010 or mcachicago.org

6 Miami City Ballet. The troupe run by **Edward Villella** returns to our area after a long absence, with **George Balanchine's** "Symphony in Three Movements" and "Valse Fantasie" as well as **Twyla Tharp's** "In the Upper Room" on the bill. Oct. 2-4 at the Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Congress Pkwy.; 800-982-2787 or ticketmaster.com

7 Luna Negra Dance Theatre. The company fetes its 10th anniversary with a retrospective of favorites, a guest appearance by the Ravinia Festival's Welz Kauffman and the premiere of "Danzon," by Eduardo Vilaro, to live music by Paquito D'Rivera and the Turtle Island Quartet. Oct. 9 and 10 at the Harris; 312-334-7777 or harristheaterchicago.org

8 "Othello." Lar Lubovitch's 1997 full-length ballet based on Shakespeare's tale of jealousy, deceit and betrayal, with music by Elliot Goldenthal, gets a belated Chicago premiere. Oct. 14-25 at the Auditorium; 800-982-2787 or ticketmaster.com

9 River North Chicago Dance Company. The popular troupe turns 20, celebrating with a new work by Frank Chaves, the welcome return of his Cuban blowout "Habaneras," Sherry Zunker's revised "Reality of a Dreamer" and a family matinee tracing the history of dance. Nov. 7 at the Harris; 312-334-7777 or harristheaterchicago.org

10 Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet. This acclaimed, sought-after group will bring works by Crystal Pite, Didy Veldman and Jo Stromgren. Nov. 14 and 15 at the Auditorium; 800-982-2787 or ticketmaster.com