



HARRIS THEATER

FOR MUSIC AND DANCE  
MILLENNIUM PARK

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**HARRIS THEATER HOSTS  
SAN FRANCISCO BALLET'S 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
AND CHICAGO DEBUT OF NEW WORKS  
SEPTEMBER 16-21, 2008**

Chicago Engagement to Showcase Renowned Choreographers with  
Live Music Performed by the Chicago Sinfonietta

CHICAGO – The Harris Theater in Millennium Park has announced the San Francisco Ballet will celebrate their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary by performing selections from their New Works Festival of 10 world premieres from 10 renowned choreographers in a special Chicago engagement September 16-21, 2008. Chicago audiences will get the opportunity to experience a selection of new works choreographed by such dance luminaries as Mark Morris, Paul Taylor, Christopher Wheeldon, James Kudelka, Margaret Jenkins, Yuri Possokhov, Julia Adam, Val Caniparoli, Jorma Elo and Stanton Welch. Additionally, the Chicago Sinfonietta will accompany all performances by the San Francisco Ballet. The Harris Theater is located at 205 E. Randolph St. in Millennium Park.

**United Airlines** is the official and exclusive airline for the Harris Theater's presentation of San Francisco Ballet.

Chicago kicks off the San Francisco Ballet's limited four-city national tour. The Company is slated to perform at New York City Center (October 8-19, 2008), Orange County Performing Arts Center in Costa Mesa, CA (November 11-16, 2008) and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. (November 25-30, 2008) for a total of 32 performances.

Michael Tiknis, managing director of the Harris Theater, remarked, "When we were presented the opportunity to host the San Francisco Ballet and be among the first to present this fantastic program, we knew it would be a great extension of the Harris Theater's mission. With its focus on new works, and significant artistic partnerships, the program represents a natural continuation of our vision for the Theater." Tiknis added, "We are thrilled to share in this amazing national event, with our colleagues at New York City Center, the Kennedy Center, and Orange County Performing Arts Center and look forward to celebrating this occasion with Chicago audiences who continue to show great support for dance!"

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## **HARRIS THEATER FIRST STOP IN SF BALLET NATIONAL TOUR**

**Page 2 of 4**

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Joan Harris, Chairman of the Harris Board of Trustees, explained, "The San Francisco Ballet's long tradition of great artistic expression and support of new works is fundamentally aligned with the vision we have at the Harris Theater and we are thrilled to play a part in the 75th Anniversary Celebration of such an important, internationally renowned institution. We look forward to welcoming this esteemed company from the Pacific coast."

"United Airlines is pleased to further its partnership with the Harris Theater and bring the internationally renowned San Francisco Ballet to Chicago," said Sonya Jackson, president - United Airlines Foundation. "We are committed to supporting the arts community here in Chicago and in all of our hub cities, particularly with our strong partnerships in San Francisco. As Chicago's hometown airline, we look forward to watching this innovative dance program at the Harris Theater."

### **About the Choreographers:**

A native of Ottawa, Canada, **Julia Adam**'s career has led her from dancing with the National Ballet of Canada, to San Francisco and a budding career as a choreographer. Her 1991 creation of *The Medium is the Message* for the San Francisco Ballet workshop led to her nomination for an Isadora Duncan (Izzy) Award in the company of Mark Morris and Alonzo King, who was the eventual winner. Adam has created works for the Marin Ballet, Bay Area Dance Series, Alberta Ballet and the Lawrence Pech Dance Ensemble.

A former member of the San Francisco Ballet, **Val Caniparoli** has created works for his former company as well as Ballet West where he was recently named resident choreographer.

**Jorma Elo** is the resident choreographer of the Boston Ballet where he has created three world premieres including *Sharp Side of Dark*, *Plan to B* and most recently, *Carmen*.

**Margaret Jenkins** studied with Merce Cunningham prior to returning to San Francisco. Jenkins' choreographic work has been commissioned by the New Dance Ensemble in Minneapolis, the Repertory Dance Theatre in Salt Lake City, the Oakland Ballet, the Cullberg Ballet and Ginko, a modern dance company in Tokyo, Japan. She has received commissions from the National Dance Project, the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Arizona State University, the University of Arizona, and Columbia College in Chicago, as well as being a recipient of a National Dance Residency Project grant.

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**HARRIS THEATER FIRST STOP IN SF BALLET NATIONAL TOUR****Page 3 of 4**

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**James Kudelka** is one of North America's foremost dance artists recognized for his ability to marry classic tradition with modern movement. He has more than 59 original works to his credit and has worked with the National Ballet of Canada, Les Ballet des Jazz de Montreal, Toronto Dance Theatre and American Ballet Theatre as well as solo artists such as Margie Gillis and Peggy Baker.

Dancer, choreographer and director **Mark Morris** performed with Lar Lubovitch, Hannah Kahn, Laura Dean, Eliot Feld, and the Koleda Balkan Dance Ensemble before establishing his own company, the Mark Morris Dance Group, in 1980. Morris has created work for the San Francisco Ballet as well as commissions from the American Ballet Theatre, Boston Ballet and the Paris Opera Ballet. Notable works include 1981's *Gloria* set to Vivaldi, *Championship Wrestling* based on an essay by Roland Barthes, *L'Allegro, Il Penseroso, ed Il Moderato* (1988) and *Dido and Aeneas* (1989), a dance version of the Virgil Thomson–Gertrude Stein opera *Four Saints in Three Acts* (2001), the ballet *The Garden* (2001) and *All Fours* (2004).

Former star soloist with the Martha Graham Dance Company, **Paul Taylor** is considered by many to be the greatest living choreographer who recognizes richness of everyday movements. Among the dancers to move through his company on the way to starting their own were Laura Dean, Twyla Tharp, Dan Wagoner and Senta Driver. Through these students and through the continued productions of his dance company, Paul Taylor's work continues to inspire people throughout the world.

After receiving his dance training at Moscow Ballet School, **Yuri Possokhov** danced with the Bolshoi Ballet before joining the Royal Danish Ballet. In 1994, he joined the San Francisco Ballet as a principal dancer. As a choreographer, Possokhov's credits include *Songs of Spain*, *A Duet for Two* and *Impromptu Scriabin* for former San Francisco Ballet Soloist Felipe Diaz, which he performed at the 1997 Jackson International Ballet Competition. In 2000, Possokhov completed *5 Mazurkas* for Marin Dance Theatre. Possokhov's *Study In Motion*, set to the music of Alexander Scriabin, premiered during the Company's 2004 Repertory Season, and was also performed on the Company's tour to London in 2004 and during the 2005 Repertory Season. His latest work for San Francisco Ballet, *Reflections*, premiered during the Company's 2005 Repertory Season. In February 2006, Possokhov's *Cinderella* was premiered by the Bolshoi Ballet. Following his retirement as a principal dancer from the Company, Possokhov was named choreographer in residence in May 2006.

**HARRIS THEATER FIRST STOP IN SF BALLET NATIONAL TOUR****Page 4 of 4**

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**Stanton Welch** is the artistic director of the Houston Ballet. He is also one of the most sought after choreographers of his generation, having created works for such prestigious international companies as Houston Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, The Australian Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet and Royal Danish Ballet.

**Christopher Wheeldon** performed with the Royal Ballet Company before becoming a member of the New York City Ballet. At the age of 28, Wheeldon quit dancing and became NYCB's first artist in residence, where he choreographed the well received *Polyphonia*. He has also worked with the Boston Ballet, the Royal Ballet and the San Francisco Ballet and Pennsylvania Ballet.

**Harris Theater for Music and Dance**

Now in its fourth year of operation, the Harris Theater for Music and Dance continues to host the most diverse offerings of any venue in Chicago, featuring the city's world-renowned music and dance institutions and acclaimed national and international companies. Offering more than a state-of-the-art facility, the theater is a partner to these organizations, providing subsidized rental, technical expertise, and marketing support. The theater's intimate downtown setting, perfect acoustics and impeccable sightlines have earned the venue much critical acclaim as the finest performing arts facility in Chicago. As the theater approaches its fifth season, it continues to develop each season as both a partner and as a presenter, seeking the most vivid and significant local and national companies with which to develop new programming and new audiences. The Harris Theater's presentation of the San Francisco Ballet is another step in the theater's development as a nationally recognized venue for the most important and cutting-edge artistic performances.

**San Francisco Ballet**

As America's oldest professional ballet company, San Francisco Ballet has enjoyed a long and rich tradition of artistic "firsts" since its founding in 1933, including performing the first American productions of *Swan Lake* and *Nutcracker*, as well as the first twentieth-century American *Coppélia*. San Francisco Ballet is one of the three largest ballet companies in the United States. Guided in its early years by American dance pioneers and brothers Lew, Willam, and Harold Christensen, San Francisco Ballet currently presents more than one hundred performances annually, both locally and internationally. Under the direction of Helgi Tomasson for more than two decades, the Company has achieved an international reputation as one of the preeminent ballet companies in the world. In 2005, San Francisco Ballet won the prestigious Laurence Olivier Award, its first, in the category of "Outstanding Achievement in Dance," for its 2004 London tour. In 2006, San Francisco Ballet was the first non-European company elected "Company of the Year" in *Dance Europe* magazine's annual readers' poll.

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