

wexner center
for the arts

For immediate release: October 11, 2002

**Media contacts: Karen Simonian, 614 292-9923 or simonian.4@osu.edu
Alison Wales, 614 688-3261 or wales.5@osu.edu**

**LEADING FRENCH DANCE COMPANY PRESENTS EDGY
“RITE OF SPRING” IN LOCAL DEBUT**

“Incredible virtuosity...right down to the magic of the last moment once silence falls again.” —*La Marseillaise*, on Ballet Preljocaj

Leading French contemporary dance company **Ballet Preljocaj** makes its local debut **Monday, October 21 at 8 pm** in Mershon Auditorium with two pieces, *Le Sacre du Printemps (The Rite of Spring)* and *Helikopter*. Led by renowned director Angelin Preljocaj, this celebrated company is known for presenting reinvigorated classics alongside original works.

THE PROGRAM

The main piece of the evening is Preljocaj’s fresh perspective on the classic *Le Sacre du Printemps*. Ballet Preljocaj offers a new take on the daring masterpiece that sparked a riot upon its Paris premiere when presented by composer Igor Stravinsky and Les Ballets Russes in 1913. Preljocaj previously has created a full evening program titled *Hommages to the Ballets Russes* which features such works as *Parade*, *Les Noces* and *Le Spectre de la Rose*. Preljocaj’s appropriately edgy interpretation of *Le Sacre* is true to the primal impulses summoned by Stravinsky’s forceful score. This piece contains nudity and is intended for mature audiences.

In *Helikopter*, the skilled company lifts off from “Helikopter Quartet,” vanguard composer Karlheinz Stockhausen’s majestic score that couples the Arditti Quartet’s strings with the turbine roar of a quartet of whirring helicopter blades.

THE CHOREOGRAPHER

Angelin Preljocaj is among the foremost choreographers working in Europe today. Over the past two decades, he has created innovative works for the Paris Opera Ballet, the New York City Ballet, the Munich Ballet, and the Festival of Avignon, among others. He has created adaptations of works for the Monte Carlo Ballet, the Helsinki Ballet, Ballet Gulbenkian, the National Ballet of Finland, and the Deutsche Oper of

news release

Berlin. Preljocaj, who has had his own company since 1984, won a Bessie Award in 1997 and has received many other international awards.

PREPERFORMANCE TALK

A preperformance talk will be held at 7 pm, led by Myroslava M. Mudrak, associate professor in Ohio State's Department of History of Art. She will discuss the Paris-based dance company Les Ballets Russes and Sergei Diaghilev, its Russian founder, who collaborated with such groundbreaking artists as Stravinsky, Nijinsky, Picasso, de Chirico, and Matisse.

EVENT SUPPORT

Ballet Preljocaj is funded in part by the **National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts**, with lead funding from the **National Endowment for the Arts** and the **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**. Additional funding provided by the **Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** and **Philip Morris Companies Inc.**

Major support for the Wexner Center's 2002-03 performing arts season is provided by **Bank One** and the **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**.

Additional season support is provided by the **Ohio Arts Council** and the **Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation**.

Promotional support is provided by **WBNS 10 TV** and **Classical 89.7 WOSU-FM**.

CALENDAR INFORMATION FOR BALLET PRELJOCAJ:

Description: French contemporary dance company Ballet Preljocaj presents *Le Sacre du Printemps* and *Helikopter*.

Date and time: Monday, October 21 at 8 pm. Preperformance talk at 7 pm.

Running time: 120 minutes, including a 20 minute intermission.

Location: Mershon Auditorium at the Wexner Center, 1871 N. High St. at 15th Avenue on The Ohio State University campus. Preperformance talk in Film/Video Theater.

Tickets: \$29, \$23, \$17 general public; \$25, \$19, \$14 Wexner Center members; \$15, \$10 OSU students; \$5 High 5 tickets available for middle and high school students at Ticketmaster outlets.

Ticket outlets: Wexner Center, 614/292-3535; Ticketmaster outlets, 614/431-3600.

Public information: www.wexarts.org/pa/ or 614/292-3535

Media contacts: Karen Simonian, 614/292-9923 or simonian.4@osu.edu

Alison Wales, 614/688-3261 or wales.5@osu.edu.

Images available upon request.

WEXNER CENTER

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.

###30###