

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Karen Simonian, 614 292-9923 or simonian.4@osu.edu

JOHN JASPERSE BRINGS INVENTIVE NEW DANCE WORK TO TOWN

“A remarkable blending of mind, matter and movement...solidifying Jasperse’s leading position in the avant-garde.”—*The New York Times* on *Giant Empty*

Making its Columbus premiere, **John Jasperse Company** performs its latest dance work, ***Giant Empty***, in the Wexner Center Performance Space **November 8–11**. Jasperse’s brainy, precise dance pieces revel in finding moments of wonder in everyday actions and seemingly odd details. Conceptually inventive, his work is meticulously structured and performed with a vitality that reflects the buzz of his radical ideas. “Jasperse is a postmodern wizard...a choreographer who transforms seemingly mundane tasks into fascinating dance phrases,” writes *Time Out New York*.

Giant Empty is an evening-length piece with four dancers, including Jasperse. “The piece is about how people come together and how they go apart,” says Jasperse in *Time Out*. “And that struggle of finding a way to coexist that permits growth.” *Giant Empty* is a collaboration with soundscape designer Michael Floyd and set designer Matthias Bringmann, whose stunning architectural constructions include uneven wooden blocks and ropes that rise from the floor.

The New York Times called it “a compelling dance” that “filled wide open spaces with shifting feeling and suggested that apparently crowded spaces can still be emotional voids. [It] abounded with big choreographic ideas.” *Giant Empty* received its world premiere at the 2001 American Dance Festival in Durham, North Carolina. After its premiere it traveled to Frankfurt, Germany, where it was presented by co-commissioner William Forsythe, artistic director of Ballett Frankfurt. *Giant Empty* is also a featured highlight of Brooklyn Academy of Music’s 2001 Next Wave Festival.

Note: This piece contains some nudity.

news release

THE CHOREOGRAPHER

A native of Maryland, John Jasperse graduated from Sarah Lawrence College in 1985 and began his career as a dancer performing for such choreographers as Lisa Kraus and Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker. His own work has been presented in the U.S., Brazil, Israel, Mexico, Japan, and throughout Europe. A recipient of many prestigious awards, Jasperse recently choreographed his first work for Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project, *See Through Knot*, which received its U.S. premiere during BAM's 2000 Spring Season. Future projects include creating a piece for Lyon Opera Ballet (which performs at the Wexner Center in April) and collaborating with Ballett Frankfurt's William Forsythe. Jasperse has been living and working in New York City for more than 15 years.

RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES

While at the Wexner Center, John Jasperse will conduct a masterclass for students in Ohio State's Department of Dance. Jasperse will discuss the ideas that inform his work *Giant Empty*, including the intricate relationship between architectural space and the human form. Jasperse will also demonstrate how he generates movement ideas for dance from everyday action.

EVENT SUPPORT

Lead support for the Wexner Center's 2000–01 performing arts season is provided by **AT&T** and the **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**.

Major season support is provided by **Philip Morris Companies Inc.**

Additional season support is provided by the **Ohio Arts Council**.

Giant Empty is a coproduction of **Ballett Frankfurt** and **The Brooklyn Academy of Music** in collaboration with co-commissioning partners the **American Dance Festival** and the **Portland Institute for Contemporary Art**.

The John Jasperse Company's performances at the Wexner Center are 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 is provided by **The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**, **Philip Morris Companies Inc.**, **Pennsylvania Council on the Arts**, and the **British Council**.

Promotional support for this concert is provided by **WCBE, 90.5 FM**.

DANCE AT THE WEXNER CENTER

Over the past 12 years, the Wexner Center has not only presented the top international contemporary dance companies, but it has served as a laboratory where choreographers create new work. Among the choreographers who have worked here in residence are Mark Morris, Elizabeth Streb, Savion Glover, Twyla Tharp, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Bebe Miller, and Bill T. Jones. Many dance pieces and companies have made their regional, national, or world premiere at the Wexner Center. The center has served as one of 12 hub sites for the National Dance Project, a consortium of leading arts organizations dedicated to developing new works and providing touring support for innovative dance companies.

CALENDAR INFORMATION

John Jasperse Company: *Giant Empty*

Description: John Jasperse Company performs latest evening-length dance work *Giant Empty* at Wexner Center.

Dates and times: Thursday–Saturday, November 8–10 at 8 pm; Sunday, November 11 at 3 pm.

Location: Wexner Center Performance Space, 1871 North High St. at 15th Avenue.

Tickets: \$16 general public; \$14 Wexner Center members and OSU students.

Ticket outlets: Wexner Center Ticket Office/Information Desk (614 292-3535) and Ticketmaster outlets (614 431-3600).

Public information: 614 292-3535 and www.wexarts.org.

Images of John Jasperse Company available upon request.

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.

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