

wexner center for the arts

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FRENCH CHOREOGRAPHER JÉRÔME BEL OFFERS WITTY TWIST ON WHAT MAKES A SHOW A SHOW

COLUMBUS DEBUT FEATURES 17 DANCERS PERFORMING TO CLASSIC ROCK SONGS

“Bel’s work is genuine, it is exciting, smart, and great, great fun.”—*Dance Europe*

French choreographer **Jérôme Bel**, a rising talent on the international dance scene, and his 17-member dance company perform *The show must go on* in their Columbus debut **Tuesday, March 29 at**

8 pm in Thurber Theatre at Drake Center.

Connecting with the audience through the common cultural lens of classic songs by The Beatles, David Bowie, Nick Cave, Queen, and others, the performers dress and move like ordinary people, blurring the line between performer and audience while also playfully confronting audience members with their own desire for public spectacle. The shared nostalgia of the songs and the dancers’ wryly witty approach to them gives a whole new meaning to the hoary theatrical catchphrase “the show must go on.” Note: This show contains some nudity.



The show must go on by Jérôme Bel
Photo by Laurent Philippe

Tickets to this show, presented by the Wexner Center, are \$16 for the general public, \$13 for Wexner Center members, and \$10 for students, available at the Wexner Center, 614 292-3535, or Ticketmaster, 614 431-3600 or Ticketmaster.com.

ABOUT JÉRÔME BEL

Born in 1964, Bel lives in Paris and tours worldwide. From 1985 to 1991, he worked with choreographers in France and Italy, including Angelin Preljocaj. In 1992, he worked on the opening ceremony of the Olympic games in Albertville, France. *The show must go on* was a festival hit, and in 2004 he created *The show must go on 2*, as well as *John Cage*—a project for the contemporary music festival Wien-Modern—and a new work for the Paris Opera.

RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES

While at the Wexner Center, Jérôme Bel will meet with students from Ohio State's Department of Dance and Department of Art to discuss the conceptual underpinnings of his work and the impact of the choreographic innovators associated with the Judson Dance Theater of the 1960s. Bel will also provide insight into other choreographers and performers in Europe who are involved in similar investigations that are revitalizing dance abroad.

SEASON AND EVENT SUPPORT

The Wexner Center's 2004–05 dance season is presented by **Huntington**.

Major support for the Wexner Center's 2004–05 performing arts season is provided by 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**.

This event is funded in part by the **Cultural Services of the French Embassy**, **Association Française d'Action Artistique (AFAA)**, and the **National Dance Project (NDP) of the New England Foundation for the Arts**. Lead funding for NDP is provided by the **National Endowment for the Arts** and **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**. Additional funding is provided by **The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** and **The Ford Foundation**.

CALENDAR INFORMATION:

Description: French choreographer Jérôme Bel and his group of 17 dancers perform to classic rock songs, offering a witty twist on what makes a show a show.

Date and time: Tuesday, March 29, 2005 / 8 pm

Location: Thurber Theatre at Drake Center, 1849 Cannon Drive near the stadium.

Tickets: \$16 general public, \$13 members, \$10 students.

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

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

Digital images for the media are available; contact Erik Pepple at epepple@wexarts.org.

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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