

For Immediate Release

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TWYLA THARP RETURNS TO WEXNER CENTER WITH NEW WORKS

DANCE ICON BRINGS SUPERLATIVE NEW COMPANY TO TOWN

“Nonstop energetic intricacy.”—*The New York Times*, on Twyla Tharp Dance

In one of the dance highlights of the year, **Twyla Tharp Dance** performs two critically acclaimed works Friday, **February 1 at 8 pm** in the Wexner Center’s Mershon Auditorium. Tharp, a local favorite since her first Wexner Center-sponsored residencies a decade ago, is world-renowned for choreography that displays her trademark wit alongside bravura athleticism. Her superlative new troupe, featuring dancers drawn from American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, and the Joffrey Ballet, will perform her *Mozart Clarinet Quintet K. 581* and *Surfer at the River Styx*. This marks Tharp’s fifth appearance at the Wexner Center. Immediately following the performance, Tharp will hold a **discussion with the audience**.

THE SHOW

The New York Times called both works in this performance “virtuoso showpieces.” *Mozart Clarinet Quintet K. 581*, named after its score and described as “lyrical and sunny” by the *The New York Times*, highlights Tharp’s “trademark combination of ballet and modern vocabulary” (*Dance Magazine*). *Surfer at the River Styx* is inspired by Euripides’ *Bacchae* and features a commissioned percussion score by Donald Knaack played on an arsenal of found objects; *New York* magazine called the piece “gritty and compelling.” Both works premiered at the American Dance Festival in Durham, N.C., in 2000.

TWYLA THARP

Since founding her first company in 1965, Tharp has had a sweeping influence on modern dance. As a dancer, choreographer, and director, Tharp has created one of the most prodigious bodies of work in the modern history of dance, creating more than 120 dances, choreographing five Hollywood movies, and directing several television shows. She has been recognized with major awards and honors, including a

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MacArthur “genius” award, the Laurence Olivier Award, and an American Dance Festival Award. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the recipient of 17 honorary doctorates. Her autobiography *Push Comes to Shove* was published in 1992.

Tharp’s current and widely acclaimed six-member company includes former members of the Joffrey Ballet, New York City Ballet, and American Ballet Theatre. Wrote the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* of this new troupe: “In addition to technical brilliance, they possess a remarkable combination of discipline and spontaneity, sharp attack and lyricism, and welcome maturity. What a pleasure they were to watch.”

Tharp has a long history with the Wexner Center. She was the recipient of a Wexner Center Residency Award in the 1991–92 season; she’s had two additional multiple-week residencies, in 1992—which featured the premiere of *Cutting Up*, performed with Mikhail Baryshnikov—and in 1994.

For further information on Tharp visit www.twylatharp.org.

RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES

While on campus, Twyla Tharp will meet with Ohio State Department of Dance and College of the Arts faculty as well as staff members of the Lawrence and Lee Theatre Research Institute, which maintains her archives. At this session, Tharp will be familiarized with Ohio State’s pioneering work in the utilization of new digital technologies for dance education, dance documentation, and as a creative tool. From hypermedia forms of providing contextual material to the exploration of sophisticated motion capture technology, Ohio State is among the nation’s leaders in conducting research into the interface of new media and the arts.

EVENT SUPPORT

Lead support for the 2001–02 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** and the **Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation**.

Twyla Tharp Dance is presented at the Wexner Center with major support from **Bank One**. This is a **Heartland Arts Fund Program** supported by the **National Endowment for the Arts** and the **Ohio Arts Council**. Promotional support is provided by **Classical 89.7 WOSU-FM** and **WBNS 10TV**.

CALENDAR INFORMATION FOR Twyla Tharp Dance

Description: New works performed by renowned choreographer Twyla Tharp's all-new company; presented by the Wexner Center for the Arts.

Date and time: Friday, February 1 at 8 pm.

Location: Mershon Auditorium at the Wexner Center, 1871 N. High St. at 15th Avenue on the campus of The Ohio State University.

Tickets: \$36, \$32, \$28 general public; \$32, \$28, \$24 members/OSU students. \$5 High 5 tickets for middle and high school students available at Ticketmaster outlets.

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

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

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Images of Tharp and her 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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