

**wexner center**  
for the arts  
the ohio state university

**department of dance**  
*college of the arts*  
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

For immediate release

**Bebe Miller Company Performs Award-Winning *Verge* in Three-Show Run  
Presented by OSU Department of Dance and Wexner Center for the Arts**

**Performances mark regional premiere of the critically acclaimed piece**

**“An exquisitely seamless blend of set, lighting, music and movement, ‘*Verge*’  
draws one into a layered world that is all-encompassing.”**

***The New York Times***

The acclaimed **Bebe Miller Company** performs the Midwestern premiere of Miller’s latest work, the award-winning ***Verge***, at Ohio State’s Sullivant Theatre February 14-16 at 8 pm. The production is being presented through a partnership between OSU’s Department of Dance, where Miller is a faculty member, and the Wexner Center for the Arts, which has supported Miller for a decade. It marks the first time the evocative *Verge* – which recently won three coveted Bessie Awards, in choreography, music, and lighting and set design -- has been presented anywhere off the East coast.

The collaborative project, conceived as a series of intimate duets and trios, smartly blends movement and spoken text to examine the power of touch. First performed last year at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York City, *Verge* garnered rave reviews. Wrote the *New York Times*, “Almost imperceptibly, Ms. Miller brings her dancers closer as a group and as partners, shades their characters and establishes the four as sentient human beings in a world that becomes less and less a void.”

Adds Miller, “*Verge* is a very intimate quartet exploring the most basic layers of social relationships. The evening-length work goes from text and high-movement to the intimate behavior of a couple.” She says the piece, performed on a starkly beautiful set, is theatrical in feel. “The dancers are breaking new

ground by dealing with the theatrical aspects of the piece,” she says. “They speak in looped conversations that seem familiar to us”

Last September, *Verge* won three prestigious Bessie Awards at the New York Dance and Performance Awards. The award is named after the legendary Bessie Schönberg, and is the dance equivalent of the New York theatre community’s Tony Award. Miller previously won two Bessies during the 1980s.

*Verge* will be performed by the company’s four dancers who originally premiered the piece, Ted Johnson, Melissa Wynn, Darrell Jones and Angie Hauser Robinson, an alumna from the Ohio State Department of Dance. The work also features subtle soundscapes by Hahn Rowe, Michael Mazzola’s sensitive lighting, and Scott Pask’s set, which sharply contrasts the comfort of a favorite room with the stark sense of the surrounding void.

### **Bebe Miller**

Miller, who earned an MA in dance at Ohio State in the 1970s, has been making dances for more than 20 years. The native New Yorker formed the Bebe Miller Company in 1985, and returned to Columbus last year as full professor in the Department of Dance, where she also had been a frequent visiting artist. With OSU students, she developed a new work, *Prey* (2000) and presented her piece, *Tiny Sisters*, in a student performance. Last spring, she led Ohio State dance students in presenting excerpts from her work, *Blessed*, at an OSU Dance performance in downtown Columbus.

Over the years, the Wexner Center has commissioned and presented her work several times; in 1993, the Wexner Center commissioned *Nothing Can Only Happen Once*, which had its world premiere at the Wexner Center. Her piece *Going to the Wall* was co-commissioned by the Wexner Center and presented there in 1998 along with *The Hendrix Project*. Other projects at the Wexner Center include the world premiere of *Hidden Boy*, a collaboration between Miller and Jay Bolotin, and *Three*, a collaborative film made with choreographer Ralph Lemon and Issac Julien, a filmmaker involved in a creative residency at the Wexner Center at the time.

Miller has worked with many noted composers, visual designers, lighting designers, theatre directors and writers. Her commissioned work can be found in such companies as PACT Dance Company in South Africa, Oregon Ballet Theatre, Boston Ballet, Phoenix Dance Company in England and Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, among others. She has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation.

**The OSU Department of Dance and the Wexner Center for the Arts present *Verge*, performed by the Bebe Miller Company, at 8 pm Thursday, Feb. 14 through Saturday, Feb. 16, at Sullivant Theatre, 1813 N. High St. on Ohio State's campus. Tickets are \$12 Wexner Center members, \$15 general public, and \$10 Ohio State students with ID. For information and tickets, call the Wexner Center box office at (614) 292-3535.**

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Media contacts:

OSU Department of Dance: Victoria Ellwood, (614) 292-6299

Wexner Center for the Arts: Karen Simonian, (614) 292-9923