

wexner center
for the arts

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WEXNER CENTER'S 02-03 SEASON IN PERFORMING ARTS

FROM HIGH-TECH TO LO-FI, BEEFHEART TO BADMINTON, ICELANDIC ELECTRONICA TO BRAZILIAN RHYTHMS

The Wexner Center's 2002-03 performing arts season moves full speed ahead with groups from nearly 15 countries from around the globe. Coming on the heels of a successful season (27 shows sold out in 2001-02), the upcoming year features a full roster of music, dance, theater, and multimedia performance works, featuring hot new artists (Múm, Big Art Group, The Builders Association/moti roti), new work from consistent favorites (Mark Morris Dance Group, The Wooster Group), and, in general, the best of the new in music, dance, and theater from around the world (Grupo Corpo Dance Theater, Tabla Beat Science, ZT Hollandia, and more).

Due to gallery renovations later in the season that will affect access to the Performance Space, some shows that normally would have been booked in that space will be presented in Mershon Auditorium's intimate black-box-style Mershon Stage, with the audience on risers on the stage.

Tickets for performing arts events go **on sale to members June 3**. With the exception of the summer shows, **public ticket sales begin September 3**.

As with last season, more events will be announced as the year progresses.

SEASON SUPPORT

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**.

news release

PERFORMING ARTS VENUES

Wexner Center Performance Space (within the Wexner Center), 1871 N. High St. at 15th Ave. Capacity 150–425, depending on the show.

Mershon Auditorium (adjoins the Wexner Center), 1871 N. High St. at 15th Ave. Capacity 2,477.

Mershon Stage (audience and performers on the stage), 1871 N. High St. at 15th Ave. Capacity 114.

Sullivant Hall Theatre (just south of the Wexner Center), 1813 N. High St., The Ohio State University. Capacity 300.

Thurber Theatre at Drake Center, 1849 Cannon Dr. near the stadium, The Ohio State University. Capacity 600.

Weigel Hall (just north of the Wexner Center), 1866 College Rd., The Ohio State University. Capacity 720.

The King Arts Complex Theater, 867 Mt. Vernon Ave. Capacity 444.



PHONE NUMBERS AND WEB SITE

Wexner Center Ticket Office: 614-292-3535. After September 3, tickets for events starting in the fall will also be available through Ticketmaster, 614-431-3600.

General Wexner Center information: 614-292-3535 or or www.wexarts.org

Membership information: 614-688-3870 or www.wexarts.org/mem

THE PERFORMING ARTS SCHEDULE

Wexner Center Residency Award 2002–03

Improbable Theatre

Braff's Neck (working title)

Meet the Improbables

Informal discussion

Tuesday, July 9 / 7 pm

Location: Wexner Center Performance Space

Admission: Free

Improbable Theatre, the ever-inventive English storytellers who brought us *70 Hill Lane* and *Spirit*—and who were part of the *Shockheaded Peter* team—are the recipients of the Wexner Center Residency Award in performing arts for 2002–03. During their creative residency here in July, the Improbables will develop *Braff's Neck*, which will be completed later and presented at the Wexner Center—one of the international commissioning partners of *Braff's Neck*—in the fall of 2003.

Braff's Neck will see Julian Crouch, Phelim McDermott, and Lee Simpson, the artistic directors of Improbable, working with a diverse team of collaborators including sound designer Darron L West, a key member of The SITI Company. This modern-day miracle play features a central character who can't shake the noose he's created from a lifetime of mean-spirited contrariness. It's sure to be replete with surprising and humorous narrative turns, a rich visual sense, and charged soundscapes.

On July 9, the members of Improbable Theatre will talk about the development of *Braff's Neck* and their creative process.

Music

Orchestra Baobab

Tuesday, July 16 at 8 pm

Location: Weigel Hall, 1866 College Road (adjacent to Wexner Center)

Tickets: Public \$18, members \$16, OSU students \$12. Tickets on sale to the public July 1.

"One of West Africa's greatest bands ever."—*Folk Roots*

Aptly tagged "Africa's Buena Vista Social Club," Orchestra Baobab from Senegal became musical legends in the 1970s, playing at Dakar's Baobab Club. The group's top players, along with Youssou N'Dour's, Super Etoile, Super Diamano and other key bands, established Senegal's reputation as a catalyst for new musical ideas in Africa. The recent reissue of Orchestra Baobab's classic album *Pirate's Choice* (to be

followed up with brand new material) has reignited avid interest in the band and its buoyant sound. Seductive, lilting grooves reveal a deft assimilation of Cuban rumba influences as crucial to the emergence of Afropop. Orchestra Baobab's openness to music trends from Mali and throughout West Africa has also signaled a new pan-African spirit that transcends the continent's national and cultural boundaries. Orchestra Baobab brings its rippling guitar lines, smoldering saxes, and mesmerizing vocals to town in its Columbus debut.

Music

Múm

With Kippi Kaninus

Friday, July 19 at 10 pm

Location: Wexner Center Performance Space. Standing room only.

Tickets: Public \$12, members and OSU students \$10. Tickets on sale to the public July 1.

The Wexner Center is known for bringing bands with buzz to the black-box Performance Space. Next up is Múm, an Icelandic boy/girl band performing a mid-summer, late-night Performance Space show. This group, just emerging on the international scene, combines analog and digital electronica with a wide array of instruments, including accordion, melodica, and glockenspiel alongside guitar, bass, and cello, all of them integrated with synthesizers, electronics, and sumptuous vocal melodies. British magazine *JockeySlut* called Múm (pronounced "moom") an "utterly charming" band; *Ministry* magazine (UK) called its sound "blissful." The band's most recent release *finally we are no one* on London's FatCat label offers a preview of Múm's sound. Icelandic electronica artist Kippi Kaninus opens the show. Performance Space shows have been selling out quickly; early ticket-buying is encouraged. Performance Space shows have been selling out quickly; early ticket-buying is encouraged for this concert.

Music

Ethan Iverson's Bad Plus

Friday, August 16, 2002 at 8 pm

Location: Wexner Center Performance Space

Tickets: Public \$14, members \$12, OSU students \$9. Tickets on sale to the public July 1.

"One of the brightest, most original young pianists in jazz"—*Down Beat*

Young jazz pianist Ethan Iverson and his group Bad Plus bring their smartly crafted jazz to the Performance Space. Iverson is receiving his due for his strong original compositions and distinctive playing, and Bad Plus—his trio featuring bassist Reid Anderson and wild-card drummer David King—is also gaining notice for an unexpected selection of cool covers. Taking on Nirvana, ABBA, and others, these musicians update pop tunes as legit jazz standards while bringing a sense of big fun to the proceedings.

Music

Fast 'n Bulbous: The Captain Beefheart Project

Sunday, September 29 at 7 pm

Location: Weigel Hall, 1866 College Rd. (adjacent to Wexner Center)

Tickets: Public \$16, members \$14, OSU students \$10. \$5 High 5 tickets available for middle and high school students at Ticketmaster locations.

"I fell completely for their rampant party spirit...the band's joyful noises did justice to Beefheart's nature-boy ardor for flesh and grit."—*Village Voice*

The tribute project Fast 'n Bulbous performs new all-instrumental arrangements of Captain Beefheart classics, two decades after the cantankerous American art-rock icon abandoned making vanguard music to dedicate himself to a career as a painter. His musical legacy and cult status have continued to grow as successive generations have thrilled to the discovery of Beefheart and The Magic Band's seemingly anarchic explosion of jagged rhythms, free jazz feel, and the skewed surrealist poetry of the lyrics.

Former Magic Band guitarist Gary Lucas and saxophonist Phillip Johnston (of The Microscopic Septet) recently created the tribute project Fast 'n Bulbous. *Rolling Stone* lauded their debut at New York's Knitting Factory club: "Johnston's brass scores hit the R&B meat and twisted swing that Beefheart embedded in spidery guitars....Lucas on searing bottleneck guitar celebrated the rock in Beefheart's extremes." Preceding Fast 'n Bulbous's set here, Gary Lucas will share a generous selection of **rare vintage video clips** of Captain Beefheart and The Magic Band culled from his extensive personal collection.

Dance

Vincent Sekwati Mantsoe

Four performances October 3–6:

Thursday–Saturday, October 3–5 at 8 pm

Sunday, October 6 at 3 pm

Location: Wexner Center Performance Space

Tickets: Public \$16, Wexner Center & The King Arts Complex members \$14, OSU students \$10

"A compelling and striking presence....each dance is a personal journey."—*Metro* newspaper (London)

South Africa's Vincent Sekwati Mantsoe is a leading figure in today's renaissance of contemporary dance from Africa. Like the striking duo Salia nī Seydou, who astonished local dance fans when the group came to the Wexner Center, Mantsoe embeds traditional African dance forms within his highly expressive contemporary approach that draws from modern, jazz, ballet, and other dance traditions from around the globe. This powerful solo program will allow him to demonstrate the fluid dynamism and driving physical force that have cemented his international reputation. "Such a charismatic performer....every gesture and movement resonates with meaning," wrote Toronto's *Globe and Mail*. This show is presented in association with The King Arts Complex.

Music

Aly Bain and Ale Möller

Friday, October 11 at 8 pm

Location: Weigel Hall, 1866 College Rd. (adjacent to Wexner Center)

Tickets: Public \$16, members \$14, OSU students \$10. \$5 High 5 tickets available for middle and high school students at Ticketmaster outlets.

"Shows just how cultures merge and mingle into each other over time...such wonderful playing."—*All Music Guide*

Master fiddler and founding member of Boys of the Lough Aly Bain teams up with Swedish multi-instrumentalist Ale Möller (of ECM Records' vanguard-roots Nordan project and the Swedish avant-folk trio Frifot) for this special duet outing that illuminates the connections between Nordic and Celtic musics. Traditional sounds meld with modern ideas as these soulful players intertwine in concert as they did on their debut CD release *Fully Rigged* for the NorthSide label. Ale Möller's mandola and wind instruments perfectly complement Aly Bain's Shetland Islands fiddle stylings, as well as his forays into the haunting hardanger fiddle from Norway, for this forward-thinking folk fest.

Theater

The Wooster Group: *To You, The Birdie! (Phèdre)*

Five performances October 15–19:

Tuesday–Friday, October 15–18 at 8 pm

Saturday, October 19 at 8 pm

Location: Wexner Center Performance Space

Tickets: Public \$22, members \$18, OSU students \$14

“Exhilarating...inspired.”—*New York Times*

“An astonishing invention and completely, utterly nuts. If it weren't so nuts, it wouldn't be so astonishing.”—*New York Observer*

The Wooster Group's latest production radically and riotously retools Racine's *Phèdre*, a classic tragedy of doomed love among the royals at court in ancient Greece. Its title, *To You, the Birdie!*, is The Wooster Group's jumpcut allusion to courtly contests of badminton (*au courant* when Racine's play first debuted in Paris in the 17th century), which echo the wicked gamesmanship in love and politics that revolve around the helplessly forlorn Phèdre. With fierce badminton rackets swinging *pas de deux*-style, amplified like the thunder of the gods, the protagonists clash while the goddess Venus capriciously referees. Kate Valk's portrayal of the romantically tormented queen is a marvel, and the entire ensemble delivers inspired performances. With hilariously ribald humor and sophisticated multimedia brilliance, *To You, The Birdie!* unfolds as a many-layered morality tale. As *The Village Voice* wrote, the play is “as much a valid reading of *Phèdre* as it is a resonant meditation on our time.” This marks the Woosters' third trip to the Wexner Center.

The show is presented with the support of the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts.

Dance

Ballet Preljocaj: *Le Sacre du Printemps (The Rite of Spring)*

Monday, October 21 at 8 pm

Location: Wexner Center's Mershon Auditorium

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

"Incredible virtuosity...right down to the magic of the last moment once silence falls again."—*La Marseillaise*

The local debut of leading French contemporary company Ballet Preljocaj will feature two recent works that demonstrate the choreographic intelligence of artistic director Angelin Preljocaj, who regularly juxtaposes reinvigorated classics with original works. This evening features two pieces: *Helikopter* and *Le Sacre du Printemps*.

In *Helikopter*, Preljocaj's skilled company lifts off from "Helikopter Quartet," vanguard composer Karlheinz Stockhausen's majestic score, that doubles the Arditti Quartet's strings with the turbine roar of a quartet of whirring helicopter blades.

Preljocaj, who previously created the acclaimed suite *Hommage to the Ballets Russes*, now revitalizes *Le Sacre du Printemps*, Ballet Russes' daring collaboration with Stravinsky that sparked a riot upon its Paris premiere. Ballet Preljocaj's appropriately edgy interpretation is true to the primal impulses Stravinsky's forceful score summons. As Preljocaj expresses it, "The music unceasingly carries along with it a slowly rising force of desire. In the face of this ancestral mechanism, the bodies of the dancers, drunk with exhaustion, have no choice but to participate in this ritual. Bringing the clan together around an impulse that is when all is said and done, biological, the *Rite of Spring* reminds us that as long as men and women continue in their spiritual, cultural or intellectual quest, they will inevitably stumble against this weakness."

Sponsor, Fellow, and Donor Circles members are entitled to two free tickets to either Ballet Preljocaj or *Alladeen* as a benefit of their membership (subject to availability).

This event is presented with the support of the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts.

Dance

Grupo Corpo Dance Theater

Tuesday, October 29 at 8 pm

Location: Wexner Center's Mershon Auditorium

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

"Dazzling...the sensuality of samba and the technical prowess of ballet...with energy to burn."—*Boston Globe*

Grupo Corpo, Brazil's foremost modern dance theater ensemble, blends unmatched visual flair, virtuosity, Afro-Brazilian dance traditions, and vibrant contemporary forms in its exuberant productions. Juxtaposing loose, hip-swaying Carnival rhythms with breathtakingly rapid footwork and elegant grace, Grupo Corpo will perform its recent works *O Corpo* and *21*, set against stunning backdrops. This show is presented in association with BalletMet.

Theater

ZT Hollandia: *Quick Lime*

Four performances January 9–11, 2003

Thursday–Friday, January 9–10 at 8 pm

Saturday, January 11 at 3 & 8 pm

Location: Mershon Stage (audience and performers on stage; limited seating)

Tickets: Public \$16, members \$14, OSU students \$10

"I have to do something!" screamed Marinus van der Lubbe, a simple-minded leftwing Dutch bricklayer turned revolutionary martyr (and still a controversial figure) who torched Hitler's Reichstag in 1933 as a solitary act of defiance hoping to stem the rising tide of Nazi tyranny. Instead, Hitler used this act of rebellion to justify the arrest of thousands, win his election, and then suspend the constitution to establish his dictatorship (while also sentencing van der Lubbe to death). The outstanding Dutch theater ensemble ZT Hollandia drew on van der Lubbe's letters and diaries to create *Quick Lime*—a critically acclaimed *Woyzeck*-inspired portrait of the inner turmoil of a tormented soul who acted on his conscience but was turned into a pawn by the wheels of history. Fans of The SITI Company and da da kamera will feel an instant affinity for this solo tour-de-force performance expertly staged by ZT Hollandia.

Theater

Big Art Group: *Shelf Life*

Four performances: January 30–February 1:

Thursday– Friday, January 30–31 at 8 pm

Saturday, February 1 at 3 & 8 pm

Location: Mershon Stage (audience and performers on stage; limited seating)

Tickets: Public \$16, members \$14, OSU students \$10

“A satirical circus...a whirling send-up of materialism run amok.”—*Back Stage*

Brash young director Caden Manson’s Big Art Group has won rabid fans in New York’s Downtown scene with ingenious and hysterical productions that work as much like live-action films as theater productions. Big Art Group’s shows—resembling shadowplays for a cyber generation—employ a battery of home video cameras to build a barrage of wacky lo-fi imagery, and to split the audience’s attention between the multiscreen video projections that front the stage and the antics of the actors partially screened behind them. But that’s just the mechanical side of Big Art Group. *Shelf Life* skewers America’s rampant obsession with possessions, parodying our shop-’til-you-drop consumerism through the giddy interplay of its cast of wiggled-out Gen-Y’ers keen to acquire things, more things...and maybe each other. *Shelf Life* offers a zoom-in, closeup view of the next generation of imaginative talent.

This event is presented with the support of the National Performance Network.

Theater

Richard Maxwell / New York City Players: *Drummer Wanted*

Five performances February 20–23:

Thursday–Friday, February 20–21 at 8 pm

Saturday, February 22 at 3 & 8 pm

Sunday, February 23 at 3 pm

Location: Mershon Stage (audiences and performers on stage; limited seating)

Tickets: Public \$16, members \$14, OSU students \$10

“No American theater artist working today manages to elicit such complex responses from such seemingly simple material.”—*New York Times*

The *New York Times* calls young writer-director Richard Maxwell “one of the most innovative and essential artists to emerge from American experimental theater in the past decade.” Maxwell brings his latest Wexner Center-commissioned production to town—a personal-injury lawsuit musical called *Drummer Wanted*. The show has the dark humor and starkly poignant scenes of Maxwell’s *House* and *Boxing 2000* from past seasons, but with new twists in store.

This two-actor show involves the claustrophobic Freudian world of an adult metalhead drummer, played to perfection by Pete Simpson of Blue Man Group, who still lives at

home with mom. Ellen LeCompte brings brittle comic understatement to her role as the long-suffering mother who counters her son's outbursts of arrested adolescence with vague support for his floundering nest-leaving schemes. Punctuated with hilarious power ballads, *Drummer Wanted*—an American musical attuned to our landscape of failing strip malls—adds new dimensions to Maxwell's signature style.

This event is presented with the support of the National Performance Network.

Dance

Mark Morris Dance Group

Saturday, March 1 at 8 pm

Location: Wexner Center's Mershon Auditorium

Tickets: Public \$34, \$30, \$25; members \$30, \$26, \$21; OSU students \$20 and \$15. \$5 High 5 tickets for middle and high school students available at Ticketmaster outlets.

"V is a life-affirming new dance by Mark Morris, not only one of his best pieces in many years but also one of the few great works that modern dance has produced in a decade."—*New York Times*

One of America's foremost choreographers and dance companies returns to the Wexner Center. This program will feature Mark Morris's recent work *V*, already being hailed as a masterpiece. Accompanied by a live ensemble performing the music of Schumann, and with jubilant bursts of pure dancing as well as contemplative passages, *V* brings to mind images of deep human connections through shared communal action. The *V* of the title refers to the Roman numeral for 5 and the quintet of musicians playing its touching score, to the V-shaped formations of the dancers like birds in flight, and now, retroactively, to V-for-victory in this work the company has dedicated to city of New York. The *New York Times* praised *V* soundly: "Feeling is breathed into form throughout....a testament to the human spirit."

In addition to *V*, the group will perform a selection of new work Mark Morris has created since his last visit to the Wexner Center with cellist Yo-Yo Ma.

Music

Tabla Beat Science

**featuring Zakir Hussain, Ustad Sultan Khan, Bill Laswell and Karsh Kale
with special guests Gigi, Sultan32, MIDival Punditz, DJ Disc**

Sunday, March 2 at 7 pm

Location: Wexner Center's Mershon Auditorium

Tickets: Public \$26, \$22, \$18; members \$24, \$20, \$16; OSU students \$16 and \$12 ;
\$5 High 5 tickets for middle and high school students available at Ticketmaster outlets.

"This revolutionary tribe of musical geniuses entranced the crowd."—*San Francisco Chronicle*

Maverick producer, transcultural musical provocateur, composer, and bassist Bill Laswell first put together the supergroup Tabla Beat Science as one of his myriad adventuresome recording projects. The group's debut release, *Tabla Beat Science—Tala Matrix*, on Laswell's Axiom label, was widely hailed for its heady synthesis of classical Indian rhythms and futuristic electronica played by an all-star assemblage of Indian master musicians and contemporary innovators.

Tabla Beat Science's success has now resulted in performing a limited number of live performance dates, including what promises to be one of the most anticipated concerts on the Wexner Center's 2002–03 season. Classical Indian percussionist Zakir Hussain—one of the world's foremost tabla players—and Ustad Sultan Khan on sarangi (a stringed instrument) bring their deep knowledge of Indian musical tradition to the hypnotic mix stirred by Laswell's dub bass rhythms, multi-instrumentalist Karsh Kale, and their crew of digital music explorers and DJ turntablists. Adding to the heady brew is Ethiopian singer Gigi, who blew away the packed house here when she opened for Baaba Maal last season. Together, the pulsing, percussion-powered trance music will transport everyone with a taste for bold sonic excursions.

Music

Wayne Shorter Quartet

Thursday, April 3 at 8 pm

Location: Weigel Hall, 1866 College Rd. (adjacent to Wexner Center)

Tickets: Public \$22, members \$18, OSU students \$14. \$5 High 5 tickets available for middle and high school students at Ticketmaster outlets.

“A true jazz legend.”—*All About Jazz*

Jazz saxophonist and composer Wayne Shorter came to wide prominence as a founding member of groundbreaking fusion group Weather Report as well as his string of outstanding recordings as a leader. His stellar career is also enjoying fresh attention with his recent work that continues to confirm his status as one of jazz’s most eloquent masters. *Rolling Stone’s* jazz critic summed it up when he called Shorter “the most self-effacing great musician of the past twenty years. As stunning a composer as saxophonist.” With a fantastic band featuring pianist Danilo Perez, bassist John Patitucci, and drummer Brian Blade, this show is sure to be a highlight on this year’s jazz calendar.

This event is presented by the Wexner Center in association with the Ohio State School of Music Jazz Festival.

Theater

The Builders Association / moti roti: *Alladeen*

Friday and Saturday, April 4 and 5 at 8 pm

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

Tickets: Public \$16, Members \$14, OSU students \$10

“Brilliant pop theater marriage of East and West.”—*The Guardian* (UK)

The age-old *Arabian Nights* tale of Aladdin is the point of departure for *Alladeen*, which takes its themes of the desire for wish fulfillment and transformation from the ancient Silk Route into the age of the Internet. The show is a collaboration between The Builders Association, an ascendant New York City multimedia performance ensemble directed by Marianne Weems, and designers Keith Khan and Ali Zaidi of moti roti, an installation art/performance spectacle team from London noted for rich visuals and keen socio-political insights. Together they survey their culturally hybrid home cities (plus Bangalore, India, a center of international telemarketing and the East-to-West technology brain drain) while examining the ways identity shape-shifts when diverse Third World and First World cultures collide.

Co-commissioned by the Wexner Center, *Alladeen* employs a state-of-the-art web of technology and live performance. Flamboyant Bollywood-inspired sequences, striking

video imagery and special effects, and an atmospheric electronic score summon again the sly genie who promises to make rags-to-riches dreams come true.

Sponsor, Fellow, and Donor Circles members are entitled to two free tickets to either *Alladeen* or Ballet Preljocaj as a benefit of their membership (subject to availability).

This show is presented at the Wexner Center with support from the Heartland Arts Fund.

Dance

Tere O'Connor Dance

Three performances: Thursday–Saturday, May 1–3 at 8 pm

Location: Sullivant Hall, 1813 N. High St., just south of Wexner Center

Tickets: Public \$15, members \$12, OSU students \$10

“A deeply felt poetics of dance...marked by elegance, empathy and wit.”—*Artforum*

Noted New York choreographer Tere O'Connor makes his Columbus debut in this program co-sponsored by OSU's top-rated Department of Dance. O'Connor and his company will perform his recent work *Choke*, a witty piece dealing with an array of unexpressed emotions drawn from impromptu sidewalk encounters. “Intensely physical, full of skewed angles, halting poses and recognizable gestures...O'Connor's world is a complex one, indeed,” wrote Minneapolis's *Star Tribune*. In addition, he will unveil a new work that contrasts tender and violent exchanges, played out against a set inspired by Italian Renaissance painter Piero della Francesca.

Presented by The Ohio State University Department of Dance and the Wexner Center.

Dance

Les Ballets C. de la B.: *Foi*

Wednesday, May 21 at 8 pm

Location: Wexner Center's Mershon Auditorium

Tickets: Public \$25, \$21; members \$21, \$17; OSU students \$14. \$5 High 5 tickets available for middle and high school students at Ticketmaster outlets.

“Excellent...an eye for detail.”—*De Morgan* (Belgium)

The 1996 U.S. debut here of vanguard Belgian dance theater ensemble Les Ballets C. de la B., with the haunting *La Tristeza Complice* and its score performed by 10 accordionists, remains one of the most talked-about dance events in the Wexner Center's history. Bringing together trained dancers with street performers of all ages, Les Ballets C. de la B. create sweeping imagistic vistas of the rough-and-tumble realities of everyday life in contemporary Europe, where the young, immigrants, and the underclass struggle to find their place in ever-accelerating cultural shifts. Their

singular work, with a metaphoric power that runs throughout their emotion-packed performances, has struck a responsive chord with audiences around the world.

Les Ballets C. de la B. (pronounced lay ballet say duh la bay) return for the only American performance of their next work *Foi*, spearheaded by Belgian/Moroccan dancer and choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, soon after its premiere at home in Ghent. With a live choir of polyphonic singers performing ancient village songs and medieval scores, *Foi* explores the timeless role of faith and myth in sustaining belief and survival. The clash and fusion of the old and contemporary as delineated by this wildly eclectic group of unparalleled performers promises to deliver another evening to long remember.

Music

Fanfare Ciocarlia

Saturday, May 24 at 8 pm

Location: Weigel Hall, 1866 College Rd. (adjacent to Wexner Center)

Tickets: Public \$16, members \$14, OSU students \$10. \$5 High 5 tickets for middle and high school students available at Ticketmaster outlets.

World music fans fondly recall the Wexner Center's Gypsy Caravan concert that introduced a cavalcade of gypsy music from Rajasthan to Spain, and featured the local debut of such breakout groups as Musafir and Taraf de Haïdouks. Subsequently, the producers of Gypsy Caravan organized a second edition of this multi-act festival that duplicated most of the bands from the original Gypsy Caravan lineup with one notable addition—the sensational

12-piece gypsy ensemble Fanfare Ciocarlia from Romania. Now they're available for their own U.S. tour, including a stop at the Wexner Center. Fanfare Ciocarlia is a gypsy brass band whose festive, high-energy sound lights up village celebrations with musical fireworks. A hit at international festivals, Fanfare Ciocarlia brings dizzyingly quick tempos and intricate rhythms steeped in the traditions handed down through the ages. Their festive, high-energy sound lights up village celebrations and concert halls alike with musical fireworks.

**PARTNERSHIP EVENTS PRESENTED IN ASSOCIATION
WITH THE WEXNER CENTER**

Columbus Symphony Orchestra: *African Portraits*

Christopher Wilkins, Conductor

Hannibal Lokumbe, Composer

Friday & Saturday, January 17 & 18 at 8 pm

Location: Wexner Center's Mershon Auditorium

Tickets: Public \$20–\$45; Wexner Center members \$18–\$43; OSU students \$10, available at the Wexner Center Ticket Office, 614-292-3535.

Media contacts: Linda Brill or Rebecca Woods at the CSO, 614-228-9600

Web site: www.columbussymphony.com

Noted composer Hannibal Lokumbe's oratorio *African Portraits* is a depiction of slavery and its troubled legacy that draws upon the rich musical heritage of spirituals, blues, and jazz forged by slaves and their descendents in America. For *African Portraits*, the CSO is joined by a gospel choir, a jazz band, an African drum ensemble, and more. In addition to *African Portraits*, this symphony concert will also include works by Leonard Bernstein and Aaron Copland. This event is presented by the Columbus Symphony Orchestra in association with the Wexner Center for the Arts.

BalletMet: *Ballet in Scarlet and Gray*

Four performances Thursday–Sunday, March 13–16:

March 13 at 7:30 pm

March 14–15 at 8 pm

March 16 at 2 pm

Location: Wexner Center's Mershon Auditorium

Tickets: Public \$48, \$35, \$25; discounts for Wexner Center members and BalletMet subscribers

Ticket offices: 614-292-3535 (Wexner Center); 614-229-4848 (BalletMet)

Media contact: J. Grant Bunting at BalletMet, 229-4860 ext. 160.

Web site: www.balletmet.org

The Wexner Center's annual partnership with BalletMet features a special collaborative program this year celebrating both BalletMet's 25th anniversary and Ohio's 200th Birthday. On the program is a world premiere from acclaimed choreographer James Kudelka, artistic director of The National Ballet of Canada; David Nixon's *Gershwin Dances*; and the premiere of *Across the Field* by Susan Hadley of the OSU Department of Dance, who brings together the OSU Marching Band (The Best Damn Band in The Land) and dancers from OSU and BalletMet in

what promises to be a rousing finale. This concert is presented by BalletMet, OSU's Department of Dance, and the OSU Marching Band in association with the Wexner Center.

(PARTNERSHIP EVENTS, CONTINUED)

Dance

Ronald K Brown / Evidence: *Walking Out the Dark*

Saturday, May 3 at 8 pm

Location: The King Arts Complex, 867 Mt. Vernon Ave.

Tickets: Public \$20, Wexner Center and The King Arts Complex members \$15, students/seniors \$18, youth 3–12 \$5 (through The King Arts Complex ticket office). \$5 High 5 tickets for middle and high school students available at Ticketmaster outlets.

Ticket offices: 614-645-0642 (The King Arts Complex), 614-292-3535 (Wexner Center), or 614-431-3600 (Ticketmaster).

Media contact: Mark Cardwell at The King Arts Complex, 614-645-5464.

Web site: www.thekingartscomplex.com

The Wexner Center's annual partnership with The King Arts Complex sees the return of star choreographer Ronald K Brown and his company Evidence, who have thrilled audiences on previous visits. Evidence will perform its latest work, *Walking Out the Dark*, with its central image of the spirit guide drawn from Brown's research into the traditions of West Africa, Bahia, and Cuba. Merging ritualistic movement with his contemporary dance forms, Ronald K Brown creates charged dance theater scenarios that are enlivened by his highly adept ensemble.

This show is presented by The King Arts Complex in association with the 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.