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2008-
09 SEASON

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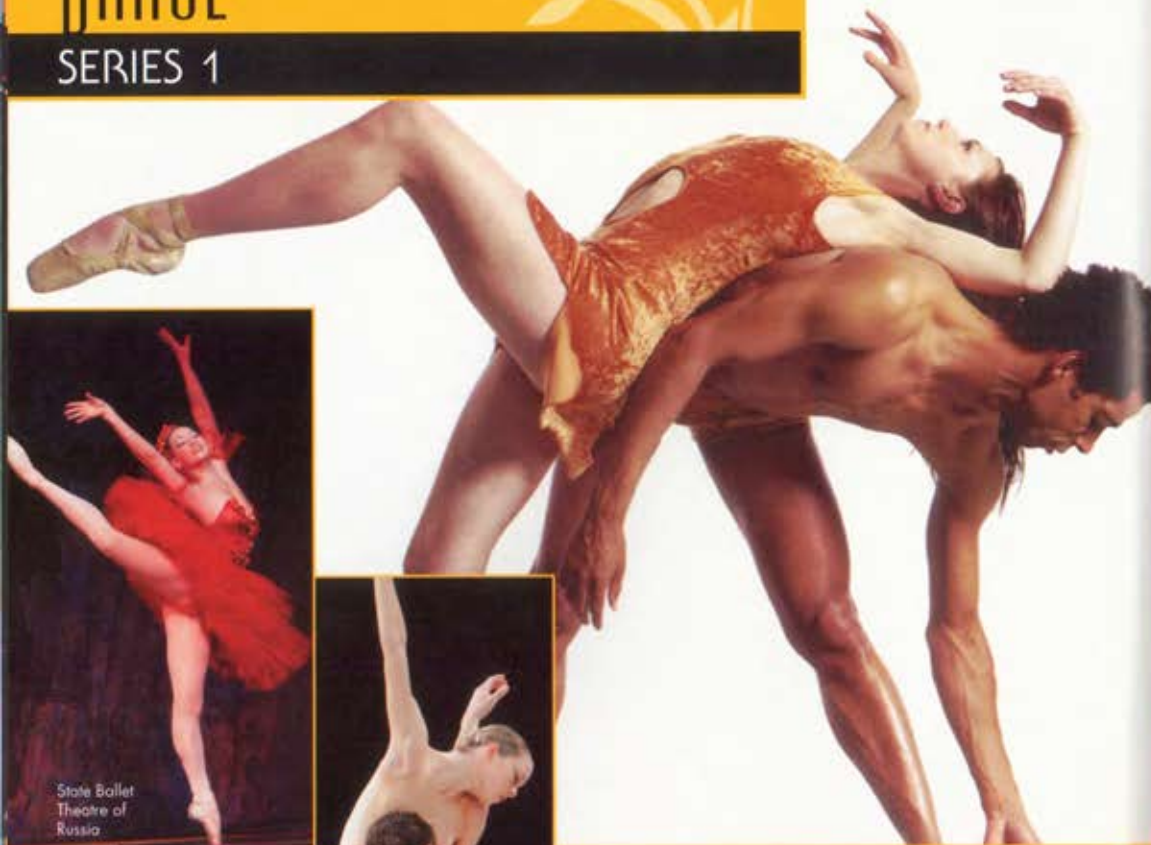
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91 University Place
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Aspen Santa Fe Ballet,
photo by Lois GreenfieldState Ballet
Theatre of
RussiaNederlands Dans Theater II,
photo © Joris-Jan Bos Photography**ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET**

"This fresh, exciting young company from the American heartland was a real discovery for me. I first brought Aspen Santa Fe to McCarter in 2005, and I've been waiting ever since for the chance to get them back. How often do you find a small group of classically trained dancers who can handle the full range of contemporary ballet with European flair? As somebody said, "they raise the bar, and then they jump over it." Their repertoire defines eclectic – everything from David Parsons to Paul Taylor to Twyla Tharp, whose exquisite but rarely seen *Sweet Fields* will be part of their Princeton program. If there's a classically trained company of the future, this could well be it." – WWLJr.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 – 8 pm**GISELLE****State Ballet Theatre of Russia
with Symphony Orchestra**

Although *Giselle* is one-third of classic ballet's great troika, along with *Swan Lake* and *Sleeping Beauty*, it's never been previously danced on the McCarter stage until now – so it's about time, don't you think? Another of Russia's best-kept dance secrets, **The State Ballet Theatre of Russia** hails from the city of Voronezh and made its American debut two seasons ago with a production of *Cinderella*, which *The New York Times* labeled "full of enchantment."

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17 – 7:30 pm**BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY**

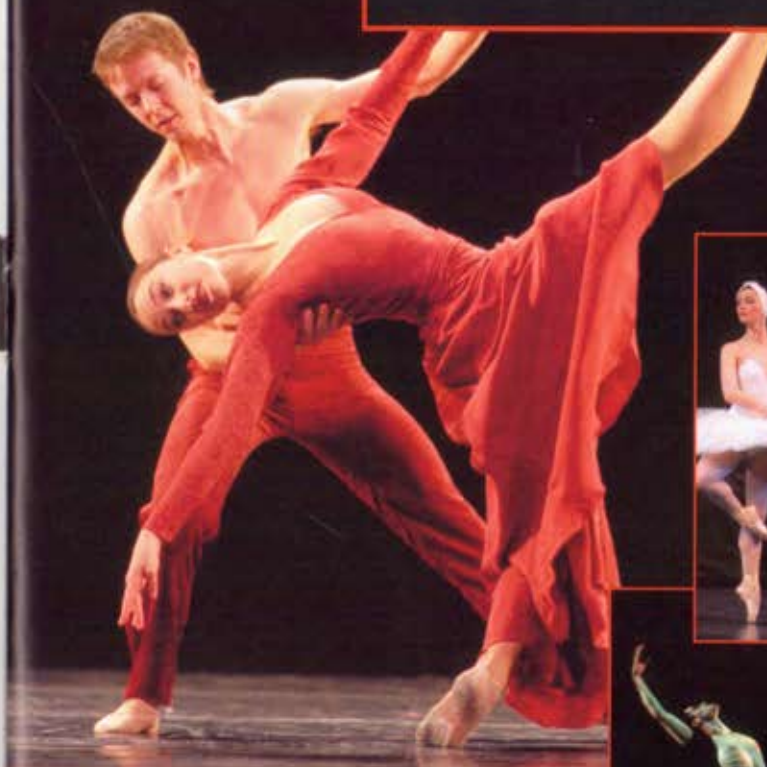
Since assuming the leadership of **Batsheva** in 1990, the choreographer Ohad Naharin has led Israel's leading contemporary dance company to the top ranks of international stature. Absent from McCarter since 2004, it returns in Naharin's *Three* (a hit at last fall's Next Wave Festival at BAM), an expansive three-part work set to music of Bach, Brian Eno and The Beach Boys, of which *The New York Times* said: "His art, packed with his entrancing, poetic texture, rides on a pulse of its own." *Performance contains nudity.*

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2 – 8 pm**NEDERLANDS DANS THEATER II**

Founded by Jiri Kylian, **NDT II** returns to the USA for the first time in years – and to McCarter for the first time since 1994! **Nederlands Dans Theater** is Europe's premier contemporary dance institution and comprises two ensembles, representing two generations of dancers. **NDT I** is too big to fit on the McCarter stage, but **NDT II**, for young, raging talents, consists of sixteen dancers aged up to 23 years. Their technique is astounding; their boundless energy sets the stage alight in works by Kylian, Hans van Manen and others. As always, **NDT II** offers a challenge to its dancers and a promise to the audience.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21 – 8 pmBatsheva
Dance
Company

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago

**HUBBARD STREET DANCE CHICAGO**

"Do I have a favorite dance company? No, but **Hubbard Street** comes close, since McCarter audiences 'discovered' it with me back in 1991 – and it's been part of our dance family ever since. Now under the direction of Jim Vincent, it combines explosive energy, theatrical jazz and the technique of classical ballet into a style uniquely its own. The toast of Chicago dance, its repertoire reads like a who's who of today's superstar choreographers, from Jiri Kylian and William Forsythe to Ohad Naharin and Twyla Tharp." – WWLJr.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12 – 8 pmMark Morris
Dance Group,
photo by
Stephanie
Berger**MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP**

"If I have a favorite contemporary choreographer, it's probably **Mark Morris**, which helps explain why his company has been a regular visitor to our dance series (ten times since 1987). Fearless with his subject matter, be it sex, despair, havoc or sheer joy, he remains (with Twyla Tharp) the only American choreographer of his generation to have extended the expressive scope of dance as an art form. His is also the only dance company today committed to performing to live music, a feature of every performance including this one, which will include *Double* (set to Mozart's *Sonata in D for Two Pianos, K. 448*) and his 2003 masterpiece *V*, set to the Schumann Piano Quintet." – WWLJr.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24 – 8 pm

Russian National Ballet Theatre



Nacho Duato

SWAN LAKE**Russian National Ballet Theatre**

Another of the surprising Russian dance companies you've never heard of makes its McCarter debut in ballet's all-time favorite classic, *Swan Lake*. In fact, its artistic director, Sergei Radchenko, was a principal dancer with the Bolshoi for 25 years. He founded the **RNBT** in Moscow in 1989, during the period of *Perestroika*, when many of the great dancers and choreographers of the Soviet Union's ballet companies were exercising their newly found creative freedom by starting new, vibrant companies, incorporating graduates from the great Russian choreographic schools of Moscow, St. Petersburg and Perm, and dancers from the upper ranks of the same companies.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9 – 7:30 pm**From Spain: Nacho Duato's
COMPANIA NACIONAL
DE DANZA 2**

"When this company made its McCarter debut two seasons ago, it blew the audience away, and people kept asking me, first, who are they; and secondly, when can you get them back? So here they are. The Spanish choreographer **Nacho Duato** is a major figure in international dance – every dance company of consequence has something of his in their repertoire, from our own ABT to the Royal Ballet. He created **CND2** to serve as a link for young dancers (ages 18 to 21) between conservatories, ballet schools and his own parent company. Prepare to be amazed, and maybe even swept off your feet." – WWLJr.

TUESDAY, MAY 19 – 8 pm