



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

92ND STREET Y HARKNESS DANCE CENTER
Renata Celichowska, Director

Presents the 13th Annual

92ND STREET Y HARKNESS DANCE FESTIVAL

WEEK 4:

Dušan Týnek Dance Theatre

In an Evening Entitled

String(s) Theory

Including the World Premiere of

Fleur-de-lis

Music: HEINRICH IGNAZ FRANZ VON BIBER, MICHAEL GALASSO et al.

Lighting/Set Design: RODERICK MURRAY

Costume Design: KAREN YOUNG

Technical Director: ELLIE RABINOWITZ

Wednesday, **March 7**; Thursday, **March 8**, and Saturday, **March 10 — 8 pm**
Sunday, **March 11 — 2 pm and 7 pm**

PERFORMANCE LOCATION: Ailey® Citigroup Theater at the Joan Weill Center for Dance
(405 West 55th Street at 9th Avenue)

BOX OFFICE: Tickets at \$20 (\$10 for students/seniors, \$16 for groups of 10+) can be
purchased at www.92Y.org/HarknessFestival | 212.415.5500

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The 92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Festival is made possible through the generous support of the Harkness Foundation for Dance, the Mertz Gilmore Foundation, Jody and John Arnhold, Altria Group, Inc., the New York State Council on the Arts, and Capezio/Ballet Makers Dance Foundation.

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NEW YORK, NY: JANUARY 25, 2007—Dušan Týnek Dance Theatre takes the stage for the fourth week of the 13th annual **92ND STREET Y HARKNESS DANCE FESTIVAL**. *The New York Times*' Jennifer Dunning named the company's 2006 season one of the top five highlights of the year. For the Festival, DTDT offers an evening entitled *String(s) Theory*, which includes the world premiere of *Fleur-de-Lis*. Also on the program are two acclaimed works from 2006, *Košile* and, in an excerpt, *ScENes*. Connecting all three pieces, and giving the evening its name, is the idea of strings, both in terms of the instrumental music accompanying the dances and physics' String Theory. Just as that theory explains the relationship between groups of particles that transmit forces and groups of particles that make up matter, Týnek says, so "each of the three dances in this program contends with natural and supernatural forces and the human reaction to them."

Says Renata Celichowska (born, like Týnek, in Czechoslovakia), Director, 92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Center and the presenter of the Festival, "Dušan is not afraid to try to evoke a beautiful image or make a bold statement."

Fleur-de-Lis, a work for three couples set to violin sonatas by Baroque composer Heinrich Ignaz Franz von Biber, is a three-part abstract meditation on the power of religious imagery in a secular context. In the first section, "Annunciation," three couples represent Týnek's assessment of the powerful exchange between an overpowering divine force and an ordinary young girl. "I'm not trying to tell the story of the Annunciation," says Týnek. "I'm trying to distill the essence of it – the manipulation involved in that interaction."

"Trinity" (a concept frequently symbolized in art by the fleur-de-lis), the second section, is a series of animated "tableaux vivants" inspired by 10 Caravaggio paintings of scenes from the life of Jesus Christ. Rather than focus on the central figure, however, Týnek examines the characters Caravaggio painted around Christ (the unseen third person who makes this dance duet into a "trio") to create his own images.

The concluding section, "Resurrection," is about rebirth, resuscitation and recovery from a fall. Echoing the final chapter in the story of Christ, the dance does not explain or represent the concept of resurrection, but explores the forces that can drive a person from an inert state to an animated one.

When DTDT premiered *Košile*, the second piece in the evening, in 2006, Jennifer Dunning compared its "forthrightness" and "clarity" to work by Mark Morris and Antony Tudor, while noting that Týnek's "fascinating choreographic vocabulary and imagination" are "entirely his own." Set to an eclectic selection of pieces for strings, the dance is based on 19th century Czech ballads in which a wedding shirt (*košile*) is the central motif, symbolizing transformation, predestination, love and punishment.

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ScENes (*sen* is the Czech word for dream), the third work on the bill, is a collection of dream-like sketches set to music by contemporary violinist and composer Michael Galasso. In this program, the company will dance one section from the work, "Nympholepsy." The word means the state of demonic enthusiasm seen in someone possessed by a nymph. The action on stage seems otherworldly; the long red skirts Týnek's dancers wear are both sculptural and lush, and as the dancers and the fabric move, they together create a sense of mystery and deep emotion.

***Please see page 4 for the last week of the
92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Festival.***

Dušan Týnek Dance Theatre began in 2002 and has performed at the Kitchen, Joyce SoHo and DTW. The company has also held residencies at Bard College and the Windhover Center for the Performing Arts in Rockport, MA. DTD is participating in the 2007 Dance Across Borders Symposium at Bard College and will be touring Eastern Europe later this year. In addition to Mr. Týnek, the company's dancers, heralded by the Gay City News as a "superb ensemble", include Alexandra Berger, Ann Chiaverini, Matthew Dailey, Nicholas Duran, Eden Mazer, Elisa Osborne, and Aaron Walter.

Dušan Týnek started studying ballroom dancing as a child in Czechoslovakia. But when he came to Bard College in the U.S., it was as a science major. While taking zoology classes, he studied ballet, African dance, flamenco and the modern styles of José Limon and Merce Cunningham, and finally his passion for dance led him to set aside his scientific work. He performed with the Cunningham repertory company, and danced with Douglas Dunn and Lucinda Childs before joining Ton Simons's company in the Netherlands. He returned to New York and started his own company in 2002. He has taught dance in Prague, Rockport, MA, at Bard College and at the North Carolina School of the Arts and will set "Nympholepsy" on dance students at the LaGuardia School of the Arts this spring.

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ABOUT THE 92ND STREET Y HARKNESS DANCE CENTER

Renata Celichowska, Director

In 1935, what is now the 92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Center provided a home to the fledgling modern dance movement and its leader, Martha Graham. Among the great artists who have created, performed and taught at the Y are Alvin Ailey, Merce Cunningham, Jerome Robbins, Agnes de Mille, Erick Hawkins, Robert Joffrey, Pearl Lang, and Donald McKayle, building the foundation for contemporary dance as we know it. In recent years, they have been joined by today's dance stars, like David Parsons, Zvi Gotheiner, Keely Garfield, Neil Greenberg, Bill T. Young, Maia Claire Garrison, David Dorfman and Sean Curran. With the generous support of the Harkness Foundation for Dance, the Center continues to nurture the teaching, creation and performance of modern dance, serving adults, children and dance professionals through classes, professional development programs like the 92nd Street Y Dance Education Laboratory and performance programs like the 92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Festival, the Y's annual showcase for contemporary dance. The 92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Center is part of the Y's arts-education division, the 92nd Street Y School of the Arts. For more information, please visit www.92Y.org/dance.

ABOUT THE 92ND STREET Y SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Robert Gilson, Director

The 92nd Street Y's arts-education division, the 92nd Street Y School of the Arts, comprises the Harkness Dance Center (estab. 1935), the School of Music (estab. 1917) and the Art Center (estab. 1930). Together they offer instruction to adults, teenagers and children of all ages and interests, as well as master classes and, in the case of dance, performance opportunities and professional performances. The School of the Arts's Educational Outreach initiative provides in-school dance, music and art education to 7,000 economically disadvantaged New York City elementary-school children. The Y's Scholarship Program enables all New Yorkers to enjoy the School of the Arts's programs regardless of income level. For more information, please visit www.92Y.org/arts.

ABOUT THE 92ND STREET Y

Sol Adler, Executive Director

Founded in 1874 by a group of visionary Jewish leaders, the 92nd Street Y has grown into a wide-ranging cultural, educational and community center serving people of all races, faiths and backgrounds. The 92nd Street Y's mission is to enrich the lives of the over 300,000 people who visit each year—both in person and through the Y's satellite, television, radio and Internet broadcasts. The organization's East Side headquarters (1395 Lexington Avenue) and West Side outpost (35 West 67th Street) offer comprehensive performing arts, film and spoken word events; courses in the humanities, the arts, personal development and Jewish culture; activities and workshops for children, teenagers and parents; and health and fitness programs for people of every age. Committed to making its programs available to everyone, the 92nd Street Y awards nearly \$1 million in scholarships annually and reaches out to 8,000 public school children through subsidized arts education programs. For more information, please visit www.92Y.org.

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COMING UP IN THE 92ND STREET Y HARKNESS DANCE FESTIVAL:

WEEK 5

ZviDance: *Gertrud & Les Noces*

- Wednesday, **March 14**; Thursday, **March 15**, and Saturday, **March 17 — 8 pm**
- Sunday, **March 18 — 2 pm and 7 pm**

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