



Wells Fargo Center for the Arts
Enrich. Educate. Entertain.

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2008-09 DANCE SERIES BEGINS SEPTEMBER 23

From classical to cutting edge, three world-class dance performances heat up the stage, elate the senses, and speak to the heart in Sonoma County.

Santa Rosa, CA (August 26, 2008) – On September 23, the critically-acclaimed American Ballet Theatre II (ABT II) brings "...a moving panorama of American Ballet at its peak" (*The Washington Post*) to the stage in Sonoma County. Featuring the youthful talents of the apprentice company of the world-famous American Ballet Theatre, the presentation will launch a series of three world-class dance performances at Santa Rosa's Wells Fargo Center for the Arts. The second presentation in the series comes in January, as the Arts Center presents "Wonderboy," a provocative new theater work from the renowned Joe Goode Performance Group. And, in March the Center celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the universally acclaimed Alvin Ailey Dance Theater with a special performance by Ailey II.

Arts & Education Programs Director Anita Wiglesworth said she is especially pleased with the Center's Dance Series and its performances ranging in discipline from classic to contemporary. "It's thrilling to be able to provide our community with the opportunity to have close contact with world-class professional dance companies. In addition to the three performances, community members can also deepen their experience by participating in a pre-show discussion or, in some cases, learn directly from these accomplished artists through master classes held at local schools and universities."

AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE II
September 23 at 8pm
Pre-show Discussion at 7pm

Through ABT II, the American Ballet Theatre brings the stars of the future to the stage. *The New York Times* has hailed ABT II's "rare purity and youthful charm" in its classical dancing. "The

company in its first decade has produced some of the senior troupe's best dancers." Under the direction of Wes Chapman, ABT II offers a combination of classical beauty and contemporary precision. The company features 13 young dancers (ages 16-20) of outstanding talent, hand-picked from throughout the world. In addition to preparing young dancers to enter professional ballet companies across the globe, it also provides opportunities for the development of emerging choreographers and composers.

JOE GOODE PERFORMANCE GROUP, WONDERBOY

January 29 at 8pm

Pre-show Discussion at 7pm

"...eloquent, guileless grace" said the *San Francisco Chronicle* of the Joe Goode Performance Group's provocative new dance theater work, Wonderboy. A collaboration between the acclaimed Bay Area choreographer and master puppeteer Basil Twist, Wonderboy fuses dance, puppetry, and music to tell the "achingly tender" (*SF Chronicle*) story of an outsider, paralyzed by his hypersensitive feelings, who finds his power to face the world. Goode's integration of puppets with dancers provides audiences with a unique creative experience. At times the operation of the puppet is invisible, and at other times integrated with the dance. "It's terror faced head-on that finally gets him off his observer's windowsill and out into the risky wide world of real people and genuine possibilities," said the *Chronicle's* Steven Winn of the puppet "Wonderboy" at the show's premiere in June. "Bounding from the back of one crouched dancer to another, as if they were rocks in a surging river, our emboldened hero enters the exhilarating flow."

AILEY II

Sylvia Waters, Artistic Director

Tony Powell, Associate Artistic Director

March 11 at 8pm

Pre-show Discussion at 7pm

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey's exceptional junior company arrives in Santa Rosa with a special program, including the Ailey classic, "Revelations." Recognized as one of America's most popular dance companies, Ailey II merges the spirit and energy of the country's best young dance talent with the passion and creative vision of today's most outstanding emerging choreographers. Called "... high-energy dancing made even more electric by the push of youthful ambition" by *The New York Times*, Ailey II performances are fast-paced, sophisticated, and crowd-pleasing.

PRE-SHOW DISCUSSIONS

Prior to the Arts Center's Dance performances, patrons are invited to explore the fascinating details of history, practice, biography, and cultural issues that have shaped the presentations.

These pre-show discussions by acclaimed artists and knowledgeable educators and scholars provide aesthetic, historical, and social context – helping audience members to gain greater enjoyment and understanding of the performances. Admission is free to all event ticket holders.

TICKETS

Each presentation in the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts Dance Series is priced at just \$15 and \$25. Through charitable community donations, the Arts Center is able to present these world-class performances with significant subsidy, keeping ticket prices more affordable and allowing greater access to the arts for our community. Tickets are available at the Box Office located at 50 Mark West Springs Road in Santa Rosa, by phone at 707-546-3600, and online at wellsfargocenterarts.org.

Print quality artist images available at:

<http://www.wellsfargocenterarts.org/docs/contact/media.html>

A non-profit community Arts Center, **Wells Fargo Center for the Arts** is home to world-class performances, nationally recognized education programs, contemporary sculpture, and many popular events. The Arts Center is located in the heart of the Sonoma Wine Country and ranked among California's top performing arts presenters. Together with its resident companies, the Center presents performances in music, dance, theater, spoken word, and comedy; and education programs serving 30,000 children and adults annually. Owned and operated by the Luther Burbank Memorial Foundation, the Center relies on charitable community donations to achieve its mission – to enrich, educate, and entertain.

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