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***SUMMER CINEMA WITH THE MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP***

**TO SHOWCASE ARCHIVAL PERFORMANCES AND LIVE ONLINE EVENTS WITH PAST AND PRESENT DANCERS AND COLLABORATORS**

**BROOKLYN, NY** – This summer for two months only, the Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG) is bringing back its popular Video Vault series as *Summer Cinema with the Mark Morris Dance Group*, streaming two archival performance collections curated by Archive Project Manager Stephanie Neel. The collections will be available on-demand in July and August and will be complemented by two livestreamed conversations with dancers and music directors.

The first performance collection, **“*Bijoux* and *Double* Through the Generations,” available July 7 through August 4**, includes screenings of solos from both works performed by dancers of different generations. *Bijoux* is set to Erik Satie’s score for piano and voice – *Quatre petit melodies* (1920) and *Ludions* (1923) with text by Léon Paul Fargue. Morris choreographed the work on former MMDG dancer Teri Weksler, in her tiny New York City apartment in 1983. Morris described Weksler’s apartment as “a little jewel box,” and he choreographed the work within that confined space. In addition to Weksler and Morris, *Bijoux* has been performed by Lauren Grant and Megan Williams.

*Double*, the second part of Morris’s evening-length *Mozart Dances* is set to the composer’s *Sonata in D major for Two Pianos, K.448* (1781), and features a prominent solo role that was premiered by Joe Bowie in 2006, at Lincoln Center’s Mostly Mozart Festival. Since its premiere, *Mozart Dances* has been performed many times and recorded for broadcast, and *Double* has also been performed as a standalone work. In addition to Bowie, Aaron Loux and Domingo Estrada, Jr. have performed the solo role.

On **Monday, August 2 at 8:00 PM ET** all dancers featured in the first archival collection will join in a livestreamed conversation moderated by MMDG Company Director Sam Black during **“*Bijoux* and *Double* Through the Generations: A Live Conversation.”** Online registration for the livestreamed event will be begin July 22.

A second collection, **“Dances to Piano Music,”** **available August 5 through September 2**, will focus on three of Morris’s early dances with piano: *Canonic 3/4 Studies* (1983), set to a variety of compositions in 3/4 time, arranged by Harriet Cavalli; *Bedtime* (1992), composed of three works by Franz Schubert, *Wiengenlied, D498* (1816), *Ständchen, D920* (1827), and *Erlkönig, D328* (c.1815); and *Sang-Froid* (2000), set to nine piano compositions by Frédéric Chopin.

The three music directors who have worked with the Mark Morris Dance Group since the 1980’s – Linda Dowdell (1987-1997), Ethan Iverson (1998-2006), and Colin Fowler (2006-present) – will discuss their experiences collaborating with Morris during **“Dances to Piano Music: A Live Conversation,”** a livestreamed event moderated by Fowler **on August 31 at 8:00 PM ET**. Online registration for the livestreamed event will begin August 19.

**WHAT**: **Summer Cinema with the Mark Morris Dance Group**, including monthlyon-demand archival collections of Mark Morris works and livestreamed events with artists and collaborators

**WHEN**: ***Bijoux* and *Double* Through the Generations**: on-demand July 7 – August 4

 ***Bijoux* and *Double* Through the Generations: A Live Conversation**: August 2 @ 8:00 PM ET

(registration begins July 22)

 **Dances to Piano Music**: on-demand August 5 – September 2

 **Dances to Piano Music: A Live Conversation**: August 31 @ 8:00 PM ET

 (registration begins August 19)

**WHERE**: www.mmdg.org

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**About Mark Morris**

Mark Morris has been praised as “the most successful and influential choreographer alive, and indisputably the most musical” (*New York Times*). In addition to creating over 150 works for the Mark Morris Dance Group, he conducts orchestras, directs opera, and choreographs for ballet companies worldwide. Morris’ work is acclaimed for its ingenuity, musicality, wit, and humanity. Named a Fellow of the MacArthur Foundation in 1991, he has received eleven honorary doctorates to date, and a multitude of awards, including the Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement, the Leonard Bernstein Lifetime Achievement Award for the Elevation of Music in Society, the Benjamin Franklin Laureate Prize for Creativity, the Cal Performances Award of Distinction in the Performing Arts, the Orchestra of St. Luke’s Gift of Music Award, and the 2016 Doris Duke Artist Award. Morris’ memoir, *Out Loud,* co-written with Wesley Stace, was published by Penguin Press in October 2019.

**About the Mark Morris Dance Group and the MMDG Music Ensemble**

Founded in New York City in 1980 by artistic director and choreographer Mark Morris, hailed by *The New York Times* as “the most successful and influential choreographer alive, and indisputably the most musical,” the Mark Morris Dance Group has been called “the preeminent modern dance organization of our time” (Yo-Yo Ma). Its members have received the “highest praise for their technical aplomb, their musicality, and their sheer human authenticity.” (*Bloomberg News*). Live music and community engagement are vital components of the Mark Morris Dance Group, which has toured with its own musicians, the MMDG Music Ensemble, since 1996. The Mark Morris Dance Center, opened in Brooklyn in 2001, is the home of the Dance Group and provides educational opportunities in dance and music to people of all ages and abilities.

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