

LINCOLN
CENTER
presents

Great Performers

Date: April 23, 2008

Press Contact: Marian Skokan

212-875-5386, [mskokan@lincolncenter.org](mailto:mkokan@lincolncenter.org)

Eileen McMahon

212-875-5391, emcmahon@lincolncenter.org

GREAT PERFORMERS "NEW VISIONS" STRAVINSKY ON STAGE
CONTINUES WITH JUNE PERFORMANCES BY
MICHAEL CLARK COMPANY

Michael Clark's trio of works to seminal Stravinsky scores
will have U.S. premieres in two programs at Rose Theater June 4-7



In June, Lincoln Center's *Great Performers* "New Visions" series will present the **Michael Clark Company** in performances of the Scottish-born choreographer's *Stravinsky Project*. The three works— *O, Mmm* and *I Do*— set to celebrated Stravinsky scores, *Apollo*, *Rite of Spring* and *Les Noces*, respectively, will have their U.S. premieres in two programs at the Rose Theater, June 4-7, with works from the repertory opening the first program. Both programs will be to live music, featuring the Orchestra of St. Lukes, the Concert Choral of New York, guest pianists and vocalists. Conductor Jurjen Hempel, who led performances of the trilogy at the Barbican Centre, London, in fall 2007, conducts.

Launched by Lincoln Center in the 1998-99 season, "**New Visions**" presents productions specially commissioned by Lincoln Center in innovative stage presentations and groundbreaking collaborations from the world's leading directors, choreographers, and classical performers.

UBS is a proud sponsor of *Great Performers* 2007/2008.

Michael Clark, the Royal Ballet-trained dancer/choreographer and one-time *enfant terrible* of English dance, recently completed his multi-year project creating works to three celebrated Stravinsky scores: *Apollo*, *Rite of Spring* and *Les Noces*. The ballets, *O*, *Mmm* and *I Do*, known collectively as *The Stravinsky Project*, were danced together for the first time in November 2007 at the Barbican Theatre, London. Known earlier in his career as much for his affinity for adopting a punk and hard rock aesthetic, as for his classically based, virtuosic modern dance and choreography, Michael Clark was appointed Artistic Associate of the Barbican Theatre in 2005.

Clark's *O*, to the Stravinsky score for the ballet *Apollo*, will be danced on a program that also features works from the repertory, on **June 4 and 6**. *The Guardian*, London, said of *O*, it combined "movement, music and emotion in scenes of scintillating, visual haikus." *Mmm...*, the second work, from 2006, set to the two-piano version of *The Rite of Spring*, will be danced on **June 5 and 7**, paired with the final work of the trio, *I Do*, set to Stravinsky's *Les Noces*. Writing in *The Daily Telegraph* about the recent world premiere of *I Do* at the Barbican, critic Mark Monahan said, "You know you've witnessed something special on stage when 25 minutes whizz by with the speed of a lightning bolt and you sorely want to see it again, immediately." And he continues, calling *I Do* "further confirmation that Clark...has matured into a choreographer of rare brilliance."

Michael Clark's *O*, Stravinsky Project Part 1 premiered on November 1, 2005 and marked the first of three projects centered on seminal dance scores by Stravinsky. *Mmm...*, Stravinsky Project Part 2 premiered on October 27, 2006. The project concluded with the premiere of *I Do*, presented alongside *O* and *Mmm...*, in one evening at the Barbican Theatre, on November 2, 2007.

Born in Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1962, Clark began traditional Scottish dancing at the age of four. He entered The Royal Ballet School in London in 1975 where he trained with Richard Glasstone who created the leading role for Clark in *Odd One In*. In 1979 Clark joined Ballet Rambert, working primarily with Richard Alston who created roles for him in *Bell High* (1979), *Landscape* (1980), *Rainbow Ripples* (1981) and, subsequently, two solos: *Soda Lake* (1981) and *Dutiful Ducks* (1982).

Clark worked briefly as a freelance dancer in Britain with Mary Fulkerson and Ian Spink, before moving to New York to dance with Karole Armitage. The first public concert of his own choreography was in 1982, at London's Riverside Studios when Clark was twenty. He became resident choreographer at Riverside. By 1984 Clark had made 16 original pieces for himself, other dancers, and various companies.

Michael Clark and Company was launched in 1984 with a program of two works: *Do You Me? I Did* and *New Puritans*. The company went on tour world wide with *Not H.air* (1984) and *Our Caca Phoney H. Our Caca Phoney H.* (1985). Through collaborations with fashion designers Bodymap, Leigh Bowery and the artist Trojan, Clark brought a rich visual element to the work. His use of contemporary music, including bands such as The Fall, Laibach, and Wire, also broadened both his work and his audience. During this period he created a number of original, large scale works for his company: *No Fire Escape in Hell* (1986), *Because We Must* (1987), and *I Am Curious Orange* (1988). These were presented in a series of sell-out seasons at the Sadler's Wells Theatre, London and internationally. Additionally, his commissions for major dance companies have included *Le French Revolting* (1984) for G.R.C.O.P., *Angel Food* (1985) for The Paris Opera, *Hail The Classical* (1985) for Scottish Ballet, *Drop Your Pearls and Hog It, Girl* (1986) for London Festival Ballet, *Swamp* (1986) for Ballet Rambert, *Rights* (1989) for Phoenix Dance Company and *Bog 3.0* (1992) for the Deutsche Oper Berlin.

Clark has produced considerable work for film and video, most notably with Charles Atlas in the 1984 TV fantasy documentary *Hail the New Puritan* and in the 1989 TV film *Because We Must*. Clark also

choreographed and danced the role of Caliban in Peter Greenaway's *Prospero's Books* (1991) the award-winning feature film based on Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.

In 1989, Clark was commissioned by the Anthony D'Offay gallery to create *Hetrospective*, one of his most intimate and personal works. After three years of commissions and solo work he created *Mmm...* set to Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* which toured Japan and the UK in 1992.

Michael further developed his Modern Masterpiece with a new work in 1994 on Stravinsky's *Apollo, O*. In 1998, after an absence of four years, Clark presented a new full-length work *current/SEE* in collaboration with Susan Stenger, Simon Pearson, Big Bottom and Hussein Chalaya at The Roundhouse in London before touring the U.K. and Europe. The development of this work was the subject matter of a BBC documentary directed by Sophie Fiennes, *The Late Michael Clark*.

Before and After: The Fall was Clark's first European co-production, premiering at The Hebbel Theatre, Berlin in 2001 before touring the U.K. and Europe. It featured a revisiting of Clark's earliest work alongside a major new collaboration with the visual artist Sarah Lucas. In 2003 Clark created the first *Satie Stud* for William Trevitt of George Piper Dances, produced an evening entitled *Would, Should, Can, Did*, as part of the Barbican's Only Connect series and choreographed a solo for Mikhail Baryshnikov: *Rattle Your Jewellery*. (This was expanded to *nevertheless, caviar* at the Barbican in February 2004.) *OH MY GODDESS* opened Dance Umbrella's 25th anniversary season at Sadler's Wells, London in October 2003 before touring nationally and internationally. In autumn 2004 the Rambert Dance Company revived *Swamp*, and it received the 2005 Olivier Award for Best New Dance Production.

Lincoln Center' *Great Performers "New Visions"* presents
STRAVINSKY ON STAGE

Wednesday, June 4 and Friday, June 6 at 8 p.m.

Rose Theater, Frederick P. Rose Hall, 60th Street and Broadway

Stravinsky Project

Michael Clark Company

Michael Clark, choreographer

Orchestra of St. Luke's

Jurjen Hempel, conductor

Program A

Mixed repertory

O, Stravinsky Project Part I (1994/2005) (U.S. premiere)

set to Stravinsky's *Apollo*

Thursday, June 5 and Saturday, June 7 at 8 p.m.

Rose Theater, Frederick P. Rose Hall, 60th Street and Broadway

Stravinsky Project,

Michael Clark Company

Michael Clark, choreographer

St. Luke's Percussion Ensemble

Concert Chorale of New York

Jurjen Hempel, conductor

Daniel Becker, piano

Philip Moore, piano

Huw Watkins, piano

Andrew West, piano

Program B

***Mmm...*, Stravinsky Project Part II (1992/2006) (U.S. premiere)**

set to Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*

***I Do*, Stravinsky Project Part III (2007) (U.S. premiere)**

set to Stravinsky's *Les Noces*

Stravinsky Project commissioned by barbicanbite07; Co-produced by Michael Clark Company and barbicanbite as part of Dance Umbrella with Festival de Marseille (O, *Mmm...*, *I Do*), Danceworks UK (O, *Mmm...*), and Seoul Performing Arts Festival (O)

TICKETS, priced at \$30, 40, 50, 60 are available online at LincolnCenter.org, by phone via CenterCharge, 212-721-6500 or in person at the Avery Fisher Hall Box Office (W. 65th and Broadway).

Great Performers in the Rose Theater is sponsored by Movado.

UBS is a proud sponsor of *Great Performers* 2007/2008.

Support for *Great Performers* is provided by Bruce and Suzie Kovner, Rita E. and Gustave M. Hauser, The Florence Gould Foundation, Movado, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Inc., Continental Airlines, The Shubert Foundation, The Norman & Rosita Winston Foundation, Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation, Great Performers Circle, Chairman's Council, and Friends of Lincoln Center.

Public support is provided by the New York State Council on the Arts.

Additional corporate support is provided by The Bank of New York Mellon.

Endowment support is provided by UBS.

Movado is an Official Sponsor of Lincoln Center, Inc.

WNBC/WNJU are Official Broadcast Partners of Lincoln Center, Inc.

Continental Airlines is the Official Airline of Lincoln Center, Inc.

Nokia is the Official Mobile Equipment Provider of Lincoln Center, Inc.

MetLife is the National Sponsor of Lincoln Center, Inc.

Great Performers is a presentation of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Inc. (LCPA), which serves three primary roles: presenter of superb artistic programming, national leader in arts and education and community relations, and manager of the Lincoln Center campus. As a presenter of over 400 events annually, LCPA's programs include *American Songbook*, *Lincoln Center Festival*, *Lincoln Center Out of Doors*, *Midsummer Night Swing*, the *Mostly Mozart Festival*, and *Live From Lincoln Center*. In addition, LCPA is leading a major capital, campus-wide, decade-long redevelopment project on behalf of the resident organizations.

Lincoln Center is committed to providing and improving accessibility for people with disabilities. For information, call the Department of Programs and Services for People with Disabilities at (212) 875-5375.

###