

# JAMES SEWELL BALLET

## Not your normal ballet company



### The Company

Penelope Freeh (10th season)  
 Brittany Fridenstine (1st season)  
 Benjamin Johnson (6th season)  
 Matthew Keefe (3rd season)  
 Justin Leaf (3rd season)  
 Sally Rouse (14th season)  
 Peggy Seipp (3rd season)  
 James Sewell (14th season)  
 Julia Welsh (2nd season)

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## Guest artists join JSB's fall programming

JAMES SEWELL BALLET's programs in St. Paul and St. Cloud will include the premiere of James Sewell's "Keyed Out," the revival of his "Moving Works" (1996), the revival of Sally Rouse's "Protective Coloring for Pointe and Cello" (1996), and "Improvisation/Visitation."

### Protective Coloring for Pointe and Cello

This duet for ballerina and cellist was first performed in the Walker Art Center's Composer-Choreographer Collaborations in March 1996. It also was part of JAMES SEWELL BALLET's Fall 1996 season in St. Paul, and was seen in 3-Legged Race's first "Blizzard" production in Minneapolis.

Cellist Laura Sewell performed a revised version of "Endangered," a score by the Emmy-award winning composer Steve Heitzeg. Sally Rouse performed her own original choreography. Laura will return as guest artist this fall to perform the ballet with dancer Peggy Seipp.

The work explores a select range of animal and human sensations—making movements and sounds that are savage or articulate; baring flesh and teeth; moving from instinct or cultivation—all the while contradicting the title and not being protected either by costume or the instruments of cello and pointe shoes.

### Improvisation/Visitation: A legend of British dance, the vanguard of American dance

Last year, Artistic Director James Sewell received a Bush Foundation Artist Fellowship to explore the application of improvisation in ballet. His fellowship activities led him to workshops in Montreal and New York, and an invitation to perform in Brussels last spring.

Two of his workshop collaborators, Kirstie Simson and Christian Burns, will join JSB's dancers for this fall's improvisational dances in St. Paul.

London's Time Out Magazine called Kirstie "one of the legends of British dance." She studied ballet and modern dance at the Laban Center in London, and became interested in Contact Improvisation and the art of improvisation in performance in 1979. She since has performed and taught throughout her native England, Europe, and the United States.

Kirstie teaches regularly at Amsterdam's School for New Dance Development, England's Dartington College, Ohio's Oberlin College, New York University, and George Washington University. Her study of aikido has been a major influence on her dancing.

Christian was born in Denmark, grew up in Massachusetts, and trained at the School of American Ballet. He was a member of JAMES SEWELL BALLET from 1993 to 1998, and of San Francisco's Lines Contemporary Ballet from 1999 to 2002.

Long committed to improvisation, he used a 1997 McKnight Artist Fellowship to study William Forsythe's improvisational methods at the Frankfurt Ballet for five months. In 1998, he co-founded The Foundry, an interdisciplinary performance company based in San Francisco. "The Foundry," said the San Francisco Chronicle this year, "is at the vanguard of American dance."

## Fall Program

*(subject to change)*

### The O'Shaughnessy in St. Paul

October 3 – 12

### The Paramount Theatre in St. Cloud

October 17

#### Keyed Out

Premiere: October 3, 2003

Choreography: James Sewell

#### Improvisation/Visitation

Crafted spontaneously by the dancers

Featuring Kirstie Simson and Christian

Burns (*St. Paul performances only*)

Music: TBA

#### Protective Coloring for Pointe and Cello

Premiere: March 23, 1996, Minneapolis, MN

Commissioned by the Walker Art Center

Choreography: Sally Rousse

Music: "Endangered" by Steve Heitzeg

Peggy Seipp, dancer

Laura Sewell, cellist

#### Moving Works

Premiere: April 18, 1996, St. Paul, MN

Choreography: James Sewell

Music: Bach, Combustible Edison,

Monteverdi, Baaba Maal

#### First Chance Dance

The O'Shaughnessy in St. Paul

October 4 • 2 pm

An informal, 50-minute performance for very young or first-time viewers of any age. House lights will be partially illuminated during this shorter ballet experience, and attendees are free to enter and exit as needed.

#### Keyed Out

#### Improvisation

#### Moving Works (excerpt)

## Music of the spheres

We welcome Dr. Jean Montès to Minnesota and his new position as artistic director of The Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies (GTCYS, pronounced GITseez).

Patrons of JAMES SEWELL BALLET can learn more about GTCYS when its musicians perform at The O'Shaughnessy prior to ballet performances throughout this season—a new kind of collaboration for both organizations.

In its 32nd season, GTCYS is one of the largest and most respected youth symphony programs in the world. Its six academic-year and three summer orchestras combine the talents of more than 600 youth within a 200 mile radius of the Twin Cities, providing training of future orchestral musicians and developing future audiences.

Dr. Montès grew up in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, where he studied the cello at the Holy Trinity School of Music. He came to the United States in 1990 to continue his music education in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Iowa. He brings a diverse conducting background to GTCYS, having spent time teaching and conducting in Wisconsin, Iowa, and Haiti. He was most recently the artistic director of the Cedar Rapids Youth Symphony. [www.gtcys.org](http://www.gtcys.org)



## Minnesota students will attend ballet

Since 1994, JAMES SEWELL BALLET has presented 44 performances in the Twin Cities for 53,900 students from 162 schools and 52 metropolitan communities.

More than 11,000 elementary students in 77 Twin Cities and Rochester schools will attend eight free SmArts performances by JAMES SEWELL BALLET this season.

The SmArts program educates students about ballet and provides insight into how the basic partnership tools of life—communication, coordination, cooperation, and discipline—are applied to ballet and the art form of dance.

SmArts performances will be underwritten by the National Endowment for the Arts, ADC Foundation, Huss Foundation, Best Buy Children's Foundation, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and The O'Shaughnessy.

## JSB On-Line

### Frequently Asked Questions

[www.jsballet.org/html/faqs.html](http://www.jsballet.org/html/faqs.html)

### What Audiences and Critics Say About JSB

[www.jsballet.org/html/meet/whatsay.html](http://www.jsballet.org/html/meet/whatsay.html)

### Information About the Company and People

[www.jsballet.org/html/meet/who.html](http://www.jsballet.org/html/meet/who.html)



# Amahl and the Night Visitors

presented with The O'Shaughnessy

For an eighth year, JAMES SEWELL BALLET will present Gian Carlo Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors" in the Twin Cities, teaming this year with The O'Shaughnessy.

The running time of 47 minutes is perfect for the entire family. Members of the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies will perform in the theater starting 30 minutes before each performance.

Performances are scheduled on Friday, Dec. 19, at 6pm and 8pm; Saturday, Dec. 20, at 11am and 1pm; and Sunday, Dec. 21, at 1pm and 3pm.

## Tickets:

The O'Shaughnessy 651-690-6700, or  
TicketMaster 612-673-0404

## Backstage Notes

In 1996, the colorful and stretchy costumes for our "Moving Works" ballet stretched the available dollars and helped balance our annual budget. It was not the first or last time that Costume Designer **Mary Hansmeyer** would "make something out of nothing" in the service of numerous choreographers and dancers. Months earlier, we had invested elaborately in her stunning costumes for "Amahl and the Night Visitors." She first worked with us 10 years ago on a tribute to the cellist Jacqueline duPre, who fought multiple sclerosis. **Mary** recalls meeting with Artistic Associate **Sally Rouse** at the Minnesota Opera Center and pouring



Mary Hansmeyer

over the molecular structure of multiple sclerosis in a medical textbook. Hours of sewing and tending her basement dying vats have earned **Mary** the respect of colleagues, kudos from writers and audiences everywhere, and the love of dancers who honored her last spring at Minneapolis's Southern Theater. We are grateful for all her efforts, and pleased that she will be creating costumes this season for "Keyed Out," "Metamorphosis," and "Awedville".... **Summer Notes From the Artists:** Dancer **Justin Leaf** obtained his first driver's license; visited family and taught dance in his hometown of Hagerstown MD; drove his sister's car back to Minnesota; volunteered with Eco-Animal Allies; and added feline **Lewis** to his household with feline **Pearl**.... New York's **Steps on Broadway** was a preferred scene for some. As part of a terrific summer of activities, dancer **Julia Welsh** attended many dance classes there.... So did new dancer **Brittany Fridenstine**, who work-studied at Steps for two months. She also performed in "Swan Lake II" and "Alice in Wonderland" in Newark DE, and taught dance in Memphis TN and Rapid City SD.... Dancer **Matthew Keefe** taught dance in Minnetonka MN, Newark DE, Memphis TN, Rapid City SD, and Jackson Hole WY. He also staged and performed in "Swan Lake II" and "Alice in Wonderland" for the **Mid-Atlantic Ballet**. He rafted the Snake River, camped in Yellowstone, and climbed rocks and mountains in the Grand Tetons.... Dancer **Peggy Seipp** performed in "Space to Embrace," **Uri Sands** and **Toni Pierce's** sold-out concerts at the University of Minnesota's Barbara Barker Center for Dance. Peggy also taught private dance lessons and visited her parents' Wisconsin cabin.... After teaching classes in Edina MN and Lakeville MN, dancer **Benjamin Johnson** went west for nearly four weeks with daughter **Zoe**, and spouse **Kirsten Whitson** – who participated in the Grand Teton Music Festival.... Dancer **Penelope Freeh** set **James Sewell's** "Appalachia Waltz" on **Company C** in Walnut Creek CA. Assisted by a **Jerome Foundation Travel Grant**, she worked for two-and-a-half weeks in London with long-time mentor **Donna Schoenherr**; the two created "landing/takeoff," a solo dance. Penny and spouse, actor **Jim Bovino**, celebrated their third wedding anniversary, spent time with his parents, and bought their first house.... Dancer **Sally Rouse** collaborated with New York dance maker **Homer Avila** on a duet performed in the annual "Blizzard" produced by **3-Legged Race** at the Southern Theater.... **James Sewell** attended **Dance/USA's** board of trustees meeting in June, and has joined the board of directors of the St. Paul-based **American Composers Forum**.... **Sally** and **James** spent time with daughter, **Mona**, who started kindergarten this fall. They are expecting their second child in February.

**JAMES  
SEWELL  
BALLET**

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## Not your normal ballet company

### Fall 2003 Minnesota Performances

#### Twin Cities Mainstage at The O'Shaughnessy in Saint Paul

2004 Randolph Avenue between Cleveland and Fairview

<b>Friday</b>	<b>October 3 &amp; 10</b>	<b>8 pm</b>	Pre-performance discussion at 7:35 pm
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>October 4</b>	<b>2 pm</b>	50-minute First Chance Dance*
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>October 4 &amp; 11</b>	<b>8 pm</b>	Pre-performance discussion at 7:35 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>October 12</b>	<b>2 pm</b>	Post-performance Q & A

**Tickets: 651.690.6700 or 612.673.0404**

Adults: \$25 • Students: \$12 • Seniors (65+): \$20 • Groups: \$19

\*All First Chance Dance Tickets: \$10 – Ages under 3 attend free

#### St. Cloud Mainstage at the Paramount Theatre in Saint Cloud

913 West St. Germain Street

<b>Friday</b>	<b>October 17</b>	<b>7:30 pm</b>	Pre-performance discussion at 7:05pm
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**Tickets: 320.259.5463**

Adults: \$20 • Students: \$10 • Seniors (65+): \$17 • Groups: \$17