

First Chance Dance

First Chance Dance, a 50-minute performance for first-time audiences of all ages, will be presented **Sat., Apr. 23, 11am**. This shorter, informal performance will keep house lights partially illuminated and audience members will be welcome to come-and-go as needed.

First Chance Dance will include Butch Thompson performing with the dancers.

All First Chance Dance attendees will receive a voucher good for a free child's admission to the Minnesota Zoo when accompanied by a paid adult admission.



Apr. 21–24: Pianist Butch Thompson will share State Theatre stage with James Sewell Ballet

Also on tap: “Involution” (premiere) and “Lover” (2002)

JAMES SEWELL BALLET's spring performances of contemporary ballet will include two ballets choreographed by Artistic Director James Sewell: the Twin Cities' premiere of “Involution” and “Lover” (2002).

“Involution,” set to music by Thomas Newman, is an abstract ballet that examines the flow of human energy within the body and the transforming quality that the conscious control of that energy can provide.

“Lover” was commissioned by Richard and Sandra Jacobson in 2002 to celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary. The ballet is set to music by Rodgers and Hart and features several duets, trios, and full company dances to capture the feeling of Depression-era musicals where innuendos and miscommunication drive romantic dramas.

Jazz pianist Butch Thompson and the dancers of JAMES SEWELL BALLET will improvise together at each of the troupe's spring performances at Minneapolis' State Theatre.

Thompson's 40-year career has earned him a world-wide reputation as a master of ragtime, stride, and classic jazz piano. He is well-remembered for his 12-year run, from 1974 to 1986, as the house pianist on *A Prairie Home Companion*, and he continues to guest frequently on the show. His performances with JAMES SEWELL BALLET will precede his Apr. 29 appearance at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival.

In addition to his career as a performer, Thompson writes articles and reviews on jazz and produces his own weekly radio show, *Jazz Originals*, on KBEM FM in Minneapolis.

Three evening performances will be presented at the State Theatre, 8th Street and Hennepin Avenue, in downtown Minneapolis: Thu., Apr. 21, 7:30pm; Fri., Apr. 22, 8pm; and Sat., Apr. 23, 8pm. A pre-performance discussion, led by JAMES SEWELL BALLET staff, will begin 25 minutes before each evening performance.

The Sunday matinee, Apr. 24, will begin at 2pm, and will be followed by a Q-and-A session with the dancers.



Jazz pianist Butch Thompson
(www.butchthompson.com)



Exterior drawing of the Minnesota Shubert Center



Interior drawing of the Minnesota Shubert Center

A major, strategic arts initiative...

The Minnesota Shubert Performing Arts and Education Center, a three-building, \$37 million complex, will create Minnesota's first performance venue designed for dance, and will serve as the downtown Minneapolis home of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra.

Rep. Zellers and Sen. Higgins lead Shubert bonding requests

The Minnesota Senate voted, Jan. 24, to allocate \$10 million of state construction bonds to the Minnesota Shubert Center. On Feb. 22, the House of Representatives approved \$1 million. This was the first time the House had ever included an arts project in a bonding bill.

Sen. Linda Higgins (DFL-Minneapolis) and Rep. Kurt Zellers (R-Maple Grove) authored the Shubert's \$12 million request, and performed yeoman's service leading it through their respective chambers.

Unfortunately, when members of the House and Senate bonding conference committee struck their final deal, Mar. 30, the Shubert had been eclipsed by competing interests.

Many Minneapolis officials—city council, mayor, legislators—had insisted that a new planetarium, added to the downtown Minneapolis Library, had to have \$24 million, its full cost, covered by the bonding bill no matter what the consequences for other projects. The conference committee allocated \$22 million to the planetarium, the only state-funded project in the city of Minneapolis.

This decision was a surprise because, while Minneapolis historically has received 5% of the biennial bonding allocations, the planetarium's \$22 million represented only 2.5% of the total \$886 million bonding bill.

The outcome also disappointed Shubert proponents who had stepped aside during the 2002 Legislative session to clear the way for Minneapolis to obtain bonds for the Guthrie Theater and Children's Theatre. City officials were grateful at the time, and voiced their intent to repay the favor.

The five-year effort to secure state funding for the Shubert has been broad and deep. Last year, advocates secured 49 co-sponsors from both political parties from all parts of Minnesota. In addition to Zellers and Higgins, special applause is in order for the efforts of Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea), Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Minneapolis), and Governor Tim Pawlenty.

All dance lovers also owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Shubert's owner, Artspace Projects, Inc., and its people, for shouldering the lobbying effort.

The objective of building a high visibility, destination venue for dance in Minnesota remains before us. We go on from here.

— Gary Peterson, executive director, JAMES SEWELL BALLET

[An Apr. 5 meeting of House and Senate conferees allocated \$1 million for Shubert design work. Final passage of the bonding bill occurred Apr. 6.]



Rep. Kurt Zellers, R-Maple Grove



Sen. Linda Higgins, DFL-Minneapolis

Evening with Masters of Dance

The Minnesota Shubert Center's series, "Evenings with Masters of Dance," will present "An Evening of Ballet," Mon., Apr. 25, 7-8:30pm. The evening will feature James Sewell, artistic director, JAMES SEWELL BALLET, Bonnie Mathis, artistic director, Ballet Arts Minnesota, and Lise Houlton, artistic director, Minnesota Dance Theatre.

The session will take place at the Illusion Theater, 528 Hennepin Avenue at 6th Street, Minneapolis. Tickets are \$10/adult and \$5/student. Call 612-465-0241 for more information.

James Sewell Ballet will return to New York City

The dancers of JAMES SEWELL BALLET will return to New York City, Apr. 4-9, 2006, to perform at the Joyce Theater. This will be the company's fourth visit to New York in six years, and its second to the Joyce. Watch for more details about all of JSB's activities in the 2005-2006 season.

JSB to re-launch website

JAMES SEWELL BALLET will re-launch its website (jsballet.org) in August, 2005. The site is being re-designed by Pete Fabian, Risdall Advertising Agency, and Joseph D.R. O'Leary, Veto Design. To receive email newsletters and other, periodic information, send your email address to: Info@jsballet.org.



Matthew Keefe and Brittany Fridenstine

Backstage Notes

James Sewell is choreographing the Guthrie Theater's production of "She Loves Me," directed by John Miller-Stephany. Performance dates are May 7-June 12 (www.guthrietheater.org).... JSB's dancers performed for 220 students, Feb. 16, at **Four Seasons A+ Elementary School**, St. Paul.... **Matthew Nelson** of the **American Express Philanthropic Program** and **Kip Beardsley** joined the festivities at JSB's Romance Dance party on Valentine's Day.... Dancers **Penelope Freeh** and **Matthew Keefe** will perform in the Minnesota Opera's production of "Nixon in China," May 14-22 (www.minnesotaopera.org).... 1,170 students from **Kasson-Mantorville**, **St. Charles**, and **Bamber Valley** Elementary Schools attended JSB's free matinee performance at Rochester's **Mayo Civic Center**, Mar. 4.... Dancer **Justin Leaf** performed a liturgical dance at **Westminster Presbyterian Church** in Minneapolis, Mar. 6.... JSB's executive director, **Gary Peterson**, participated as a panelist for the **Hennepin County Bar Association's** Leadership Education & Development Institute, Mar. 4.... Dancer **Peggy Seipp** was married last September to **Jared Roy**.... **James Sewell** and **Penelope Freeh** performed and visited over lunch with employees of **RBC Dain Rauscher** in Minneapolis, Mar. 22. Hosts for the event included members of RBC's Community Affairs staff, **Cally Jandro**, **Dot Belstler**, **Martha Baumbach**, and **Shana Deuel**.... Dancer/choreographer **Penelope Freeh** will attend a July symposium on the integration of dance in humanities and society, in Amsterdam. She will present full-evening performances of her choreography at the Southern Theater, Sept. 8-11.... Artistic Associate **Sally Rousse** and choreographer **Deborah Jinza Thayer** created new works on JSB's dancers in this Spring's choreographic workshop, funded by the **Jerome Foundation**.... **Rousse** is performing with **Hijack** and **Jessica Cresse** on Monday nights in May at the **Bryant-Lake Bowl**, Minneapolis.... Dancer **Benjamin Johnson** will attend full-time classes this summer at the **Centerpoint School of Massage Therapy**. His daughter, **Zoe**, 2, now can sing the entire A-B-C song.... JSB salutes the following philanthropic donors who have provided at least **10 continuous years of support**: **Harkness Foundation for Dance**, **McKnight Foundation**, **Nash Foundation**, **General Mills Foundation**, and **Minnesota State Arts Board**. Our thanks!... JSB will collaborate with the **Rochester Orchestra & Chorale** and conductor **Jere Lantz** for the first time, Feb. 4, 2006, at the **Mayo Civic Center** (www.roandc.org).... JAMES SEWELL BALLET will perform Sewell's new choreography, set to **Schoenberg's Serenade**, Op. 24, with the **Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra**, Feb. 17-18, 2006 (www.saintpaulchamberorchestra.org)....

Dancers **Matthew Keefe** and **Brittany Fridenstine** will wed in July. Keefe proposed in the Colorado mountains, Dec. 19, when JSB performed at the **Vilar Center**.... Fridenstine will return for another season with JSB next year. Keefe will leave the company to pursue opportunities to teach and choreograph. This spring and summer, he will teach in Winona, Lakeville, and Minnetonka, Minnesota, and in New Jersey, Delaware, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Next fall, he will choreograph "Nutcracker" for the **Black Hills Dance Theater** in Rapid City.



James Sewell



Justin Leaf



Peggy Seipp-Roy



Penelope Freeh



Sally Rousse



Benjamin Johnson

**JAMES
SEWELL
BALLET**

moves

James Sewell, artistic director
Gary Peterson, executive director

JAMES SEWELL BALLET
528 Hennepin Avenue, Suite 205
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403

WWW.JSBALLET.ORG

“Different and unpredictable, this is
the company to see.”
— The New York Times

Photography: Erik Saulitis • Design: Joseph D. R. O’Leary at www.VetoDesignUSA.com • Editor: Gary Peterson

**JAMES
SEWELL
BALLET**

moves

STATE THEATRE

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS

Thursday	April 21	7:30 pm
Friday	April 22	8:00 pm
Saturday	April 23	11:00 am*
Saturday	April 23	8:00 pm
Sunday	April 24	2:00 pm

* **First Chance Dance:** 50-minute performance
for young audiences

PROGRAM (subject to change)

Involution (premiere)

Lover (2002)

Improvisation Ballet

with improvisations by jazz pianist Butch Thompson

CALL NOW FOR TICKETS: 612.673.0404

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