

Fagan & Marsalis project featured on TV tonight, on stage tomorrow



WXXI

A dancer is seen during a rehearsal of "Lighthouse/Lightning Rod," a new collaboration between Rochester's Garth Fagan and musician Wynton Marsalis. The dance is the subject of a WXXI-TV special, "Fagan & Marsalis: The Project," premiering 8 tonight.

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ROCHESTER – Tony Award-winning choreographer Garth Fagan, who is based in Rochester, and Grammy Award-winning musician and composer Wynton Marsalis recently collaborated for a second time.

"Lighthouse/Lightning Rod" will be the subject of a WXXI-TV special airing tonight, and performances and an artist's conversation later this week at Nazareth College, 4245 East Ave.

For "Lighthouse/Lightning Rod," Fagan created the concept and choreography, while Marsalis composed and arranged original music. The work premiered in September at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

WXXI, through its “Need to Know Rochester” current events program, documented the creative process and final product of the collaboration in “Fagan & Marsalis: The Project,” airing 8 tonight on WXXI-TV, channel 21 in Rochester and cable channel 11 in Batavia.

“Fagan & Marsalis” includes interviews with industry leaders, media critics and others who share the significance of this collaboration and the work of Fagan and Marsalis. The behind-the-scenes look at the project includes rehearsals, creative planning sessions and opening night.

During the broadcast WXXI will also share details about the Rochester debut of this collaboration at Nazareth Arts Center – which begins Tuesday -- and how you can get tickets.

“Lighthouse/Lightning Rod” explores the juxtaposition and illusion of security and danger in three sections; Lighthouse, Memories, and Lightning Rod. The choreography examines the emotional response to the stress and anxiety created by the inherent danger/safety that each of these three structures represents. This is the second collaboration between friends Fagan and Marsalis. Their first project, “Griot New York,” premiered in 1991 at BAM, and explored the contemporary urban life and humankind’s triumph over adversity through the lens of a traditional West African storyteller.

Garth Fagan Dance takes up residency this week at Nazareth College, 4245 East Ave. Eight performances are scheduled Nov. 27 to Dec. 2 and will include “Lighthouse/Lightning Rd.”

The company performs at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, 8 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday, 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, in Nazareth’s Callahan Theatre. Shows will feature new works and revivals from Garth Fagan Dance’s 42-year history. Among the new piece is “Lighthouse/Lightning Rd.”

Tickets, which cost \$40 to \$55, are available at www.nazareth.edu and <https://boxoffice.naz.edu/>

On Thursday, Fagan and set designer Alison Saar, will sit of an “Artist Conversation” program moderated by Ruth Fine, retired curator of special projects in modern art at the National Gallery of art in Washington, D.C. The free program begins at 7 p.m. in Peace Theatre (Room A14) of the College’s Arts Center.

The program corresponds with the exhibition “Contemporary African American Printmakers,” scheduled through Dec. 21 at the Nazareth Arts Center, and the Rochester premiere of “Lighthouse/Lightning Rd,” which runs through Dec. 2. Fagan is the founder and artistic director of the award-winning and internationally acclaimed Garth Fagan Dance, now celebrating its 40th Anniversary season. A Tony and Olivier award winner, Fagan continually renews his own distinctive dance vocabulary, which draws on many sources: sense of weight in modern dance, torso-centered movement and energy of Afro-Caribbean, speed and precision of ballet, and the rule breaking experimentation of the post-moderns.

Marsalis is an internationally acclaimed musician, composer, bandleader, educator and a leading advocate of American culture. He is the world’s first jazz artist to perform and compose across the full jazz spectrum from its New Orleans roots to bebop to modern jazz. By creating and performing an expansive range of brilliant new music for quartets to big bands, chamber music ensembles to symphony orchestras, tap dance to ballet, Wynton has expanded the vocabulary for jazz and created a vital body of work that places him among the world’s finest musicians and composers. Marsalis is the artistic director of Jazz at Lincoln Center.