

Dance



Garth Fagan Dance to Return to Joyce Theater, 11/12-17

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[Garth Fagan](#)'s love of strong women is front and center in "No Evidence of Failure," which receives its world premiere when [Garth Fagan](#) Dance returns to [The Joyce Theater](#), November 12-17. The two-program season also features the world premiere of "Gin," marking [Norwood Pennewell](#)'s third work for the company. The season's revivals include Fagan's 1983 classic "Easter Freeway Processional" and "Senku," whose music will be played live by concert pianist [William Chapman](#) Nyaho. Also slated for Fagan's New York season are sections from last year's hit "Lighthouse/Lightning Rod," as well as Fagan's perennial opener "Prelude: Discipline is Freedom"

Performed by veteran Fagan dancer [Natalie Rogers](#), 51, and 31 year old Vitolio Jeune, "No Evidence of Failure" opens with a stunning solo by Rogers. Her virtuosic and rapidly

changing movement suggests the nuanced complexity of a contemporary woman negotiating the roles between loving nurturer and determined leader. In the concluding duet with Rogers, Jeune's ebullient athleticism is tamed and educated by their evolving relationship- a union that proves to be challenging, tender, and gently erotic. "No Evidence of Failure" celebrates the variations, changing contours and depth of love possible between a man and a woman. The dance is performed to music by [Monty Alexander](#)'s Harlem-Kingston Express.

The title of Pennewell's premiere, "Gin," refers to a distillation process, more specifically that of cotton gin, which separates seeds from cotton in order to craft fabric. The dance, performed by a cast of nine, includes four focal points threaded throughout the piece, each of which distills and embodies the section preceding it. Section one uses music by Alarm Will Sound; section two is a remix by Douala of [Yo-Yo Ma](#), [Stuart Duncan](#), [Edgar Meyer](#) and Chris Thile; section three is by [Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson](#); and section four is by Felix Laband.

The season further features selections from "Lighthouse/Lightning Rod," which premiered as part of BAM's 2012 Next Wave Festival. Set to an original score by [Wynton Marsalis](#) and Scenic Design by Alison Saar, the dance, teetering between danger and security, is rich with inventive choreography that disarms with its unexpected and

wildly original moves.

In "Easter Freeway Processional," Fagan takes a Phillip Glass score to surprising places: mysterious and poetic emotions quietly erupt beneath Fagan's formal surface. The dancers' sculpted movements define their unique personalities and suggest dramatic undercurrents.

The 2006 "Senku, " a Ghanaian word for keyboard, uses an eclectic mix of music from Nigeria, Jamaica, the United States and Britain to meld African melodies and rhythms with Western classical structures.

Background

[Garth Fagan](#), a 1998 Tony Award-winner for his choreography for the Broadway hit "The Lion King," began his career in dance by touring Latin America with Ivy Baxter and her Jamaican National [Dance Company](#). In addition to studying with Baxter, Fagan trained with Caribbean dance teachers [Lavinia Williams](#) and [Pearl Primus](#), as well as with [Martha Graham](#), [Mary Hinkson](#), [Alvin Ailey](#) and José Limón.

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