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Press Room

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS TWO BAY AREA PREMIERES BY TWYLA THARP IN HER 50TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR OCTOBER 16–18 IN ZELLEBACH HALL

Residency activities are planned on the UC Berkeley campus and in the community as part of the inaugural Berkeley RADICAL season’s ZellerBACH programming, including an Artist Talk, Community Response Panel, and a Community Dance Class.

BERKELEY, August 31, 2015—Cal Performances celebrates the 50th Anniversary Tour of American iconoclast choreographer Twyla Tharp with three performances, featuring two Bay Area premieres, Friday and Saturday, October 16 and 17, at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, October 18, at 3:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. Instead of creating the expected for her milestone tour—a retrospective of her greatest hits—Tharp’s restless spirit demanded she choreograph new works. This Berkeley RADICAL residency showcases Tharp’s vast and enduring career of creating dance that has famously bridged popular and classical forms, with two new works performed by a company of 13 dancers, many of whom have worked with her for years.

Preludes and Fugues (Bay Area premiere) is set to J. S. Bach’s The Well-Tempered Clavier and presents the world as it ought to be, balanced and in sync. Yowzie (Bay Area premiere) presents the world as it is, and is steeped in the energetic rhythms of early jazz, with music by Jelly Roll Morton and Fats Waller, among others, arranged and performed by Henry Butler and Steven Bernstein. Both premieres are introduced by a Fanfare, composed by John Zorn with choreography by Tharp. The Berkeley performances are part of a tour that begins in Dallas on September 18 and concludes at New York’s Lincoln Center on November 17–22.

Berkeley RADICAL residency activities are planned on the campus and in the community, including an Artist Talk by Twyla Tharp, followed by a signing of her latest book, The Collaborative Habit: Life Lessons for Working Together (2013), on Saturday, October 17, at 3:00 p.m. in Wheeler Auditorium; a Community Response Panel on the enduring attraction of Bach’s music to creative artists on Saturday, October 17, at 5:30 p.m. in Wheeler Auditorium; and a Community Dance Class, featuring an artist with Twyla Tharp’s company leading choreographic phrases from the current work on Saturday, October 17, at 11:00 a.m. in Bancroft...
Twyla Tharp’s work, often ambitious in scale and concept, has been praised for tackling the grandest themes of humanity while also retaining wit and humor, and her musical sources are famously eclectic, drawn from the likes of Billy Joel, Bob Dylan, Frank Sinatra, Fats Waller, and the Beach Boys. Since graduating from Barnard College in 1963, she has choreographed more than 160 works, including dances for the stage, television, Hollywood films, ballets, Broadway shows, and even figure-skating routines. Tharp has earned one Tony Award, two Emmy Awards, 19 honorary doctorates, the Vietnam Veterans of America President’s Award, the 2004 National Medal of the Arts, the 2008 Jerome Robbins Prize, and a 2008 Kennedy Center Honor. Her many grants include the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society, and an Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 1992, Tharp published her autobiography, *Push Comes to Shove*, and has followed that with several books about the creative process.

**BERKELEY RADICAL**

In February 2015, Cal Performances unveiled Berkeley RADICAL (Research And Development Initiative in Creativity, Arts, and Learning), its new project to cultivate the artistic literacy of future audiences and to connect the world's most innovative artists with the intellectual capital of the UC Berkeley campus. Through carefully crafted public programs and creative artistic residencies, Berkeley RADICAL serves as a framework to expand the reach of Cal Performances by providing audiences with multiple access points to a single work of art or artist. With a new work set to the music of J. S. Bach, Twyla Tharp’s 50th Anniversary Tour is the first in a series of performances and public programs titled *ZellerBACH* that explores the lasting music of the renowned composer. Other artists in the series are Bach Collegium Japan (Oct. 24) and Gil Shaham (Apr. 14). For more information as public programs are announced, visit [http://calperformances.org/learn/berkeley-radical/programs.php](http://calperformances.org/learn/berkeley-radical/programs.php).
TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Twyla Tharp’s 50th Anniversary Tour** on Friday and Saturday, October 16 and 17, at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, October 18, at 3:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall range from $40.00 to $96.00 and are subject to change. Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org), and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to [http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php](http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php).

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Cal Performances’ 2015–2016 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

Friday & Saturday, October 16 & 17, 8:00 p.m.  
Sunday, October 18, 3:00 p.m.

**Dance**

**Twyla Tharp’s 50th Anniversary Tour**

Twyla Tharp, choreographer  
Santo Loquasto, costume and set design  
James Ingalls, lighting

**Program:**

First *Fanfare*: choreography by Twyla Tharp; music by John Zorn  
*Preludes and Fugues*: choreography by Twyla Tharp; music by J. S. Bach (Bay Area premiere)  
Second *Fanfare*: choreography by Twyla Tharp; music by John Zorn  
*Yowzie*: choreography by Twyla Tharp; music: American jazz (Bay Area premiere)

**Tickets:** Prices range from $40.00 to $96.00 and are subject to change. They are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at calperformances.org, and at the door.

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Berkeley RADICAL Event
Community Dance Class
Bancroft Studio Saturday, October 17, at 11:00 a.m.
Bancroft Way at Dana Street
UC Berkeley campus

Program: An artist from Twyla Tharp’s company leads a Community Dance Class, including Twyla Tharp technique and choreographic phrases from the current work. Free and open to the public. RSVPs open on September 8.

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Berkeley RADICAL Event
Artist Talk
Wheeler Auditorium
Saturday, October 17, at 3:00 p.m.
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Avenue
UC Berkeley campus


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Berkeley RADICAL Event
Community Response Panel
Wheeler Auditorium
Saturday, October 17, at 5:30 p.m.
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Avenue
UC Berkeley campus

Program: Community Response Panel exploring the enduring attraction of the music of J. S. Bach to creative artists. Free and open to the public. RSVPs open on September 8.

— Cal Performances —