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**Ballet Austin's *Director's Choice* Sizzles with Three Talented
Choreographers Valentine's Day Weekend**

Thaddeus Davis, Gina Patterson and Stephen Mills Ignite the Stage with Scorching Works

AUSTIN, TX – January 13, 2005 – Ballet Austin lights up the stage with works from three award-winning choreographers in *Director's Choice*, which runs February 11 – 14, 2005 at the Paramount Theatre. Grab your sweetheart and enjoy the production as Thaddeus Davis presents *Let the Fools Stand in Line*, Gina Patterson debuts a new work entitled *Free to Fly*, and Stephen Mills presents the ever-popular *The Naughty Ones*. Ticket prices range from \$15 – 59, and are available by calling (512) 469-SHOW or visiting www.startickets.com.

Director's Choice has become the premiere event for showcasing innovative work in Austin. Michael Barnes from the *Austin American-Statesman* hailed last year's *Director's Choice: 3x3* as his favorite dance concert. This year is no exception, Davis, Patterson and Mills are all presenting cutting-edge works that will satisfy Austin's hunger for the best, bringing talented choreographers to the forefront.

"Gina is a choreographer whose work has been fostered at Ballet Austin. We have three of her works in the repertoire and believe she has a unique voice as an artist," said Stephen Mills, artistic director, Ballet Austin. "Recently, Thaddeus Davis was named by *Dance Magazine* as one of the Top 25 to Watch in dance. His work is athletic, musical and is a great deal of fun."

Thaddeus Davis

Thaddeus Davis is presenting his original work, *Let the Fools Stand in Line*, which is set to the music of *Bang on a Can All Stars* and the music from the soundtracks from "Pollack" and "In the Bedroom." Davis was recognized in *Dance Magazine's* "Top 25 to Watch" and in *The New York Times* as a promising choreographer. Davis is a graduate of Butler University and performed with Arthur Mitchell's Dance Theatre of Harlem and with the Donald Byrd Company as a company member and creative assistant. Currently, Davis is a faculty member of the Alabama School of Fine Arts.

Gina Patterson

Company dancer and winner of the Choo San Goh and H. Robert Magee awards for choreography, Gina Patterson debuts her latest work, *Free to Fly*. This new piece is a

contemporary ballet inspired by the life of Mexican Artist Frida Kahlo and by the incredible voice of Lila Downs. This abstract work, featuring five women and four men, is non-linear in time and freely exchanges roles between dancers. As in Kahlo's paintings, the ballet will examine gender roles and the cycle of life, birth and death. Music composed by Elliot Goldenthal and Lila Downs.

Stephen Mills

Back by popular demand, Mills' sultry, sixties-inspired ballet, *The Naughty Ones*, will jitterbug onto the Paramount stage for an encore performance. This work chronicles kitschy and seductive love affairs while deconstructing popular dance forms from the 1960s. Originally commissioned in 1997 by Ballet Pacifica, *The Naughty Ones*, made its Austin debut in 1999 with local band *The Naughty Ones*.

Ticket Information

For tickets, please call Star Tickets PLUS at 469-SHOW, online at www.startickets.com, Star Tickets PLUS outlets, Albertson's and Waterloo Records. Season tickets are available through Ballet Austin box office at 512-476-2163 or online at www.balletaustin.org. Tickets range from \$15-\$59. Please note that some service charges may apply.

Photography

Photos are available upon request by emailing christian.meyer@balletaustin.org, or by scheduling a photography/video appointment during a rehearsal by calling 512-476-9151 ext. 102.

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Ballet Austin

Under the leadership of artistic director Stephen Mills, Ballet Austin has uniquely combined classical dance with innovative style and movement. Ballet Austin presents five productions each year in Austin, tours nationally and is a financially stable \$4 million organization. The Company employs 21 professional dancers from around the world to live in Austin for 34 weeks each season. Ballet Austin II and the Ballet Austin Academy serve as educational arms that strengthen the organization's core purpose. The Ballet Austin Academy is one of the largest in the United States, serving more than 900 students annually. Ballet Austin has established itself as a world-class company that makes ballet accessible to all and enhances Austin's reputation as a city that thrives in the arts.

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