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**Stephen Mills Receives Prestigious Commission from
American Ballet Theatre**

Mills to Create New Work for American Ballet Theatre Studio Company

AUSTIN, TX – October XX, 2004 – Ballet Austin’s Artistic Director Stephen Mills has been commissioned by American Ballet Theatre to create a new work for American Ballet Theatre’s Studio Company which premieres in December. This marks the first time Mills has collaborated with the prestigious company. The new work, set to the music of Phillip Glass, will debut at the Skirball Theatre at New York University on December 3, 2004. In addition to Mills’ work, an original piece by Dominic Walsh will also be featured.

“ABT has a rich history and a strong heritage of producing world renowned dancers. John Meehan, the director of ABT Studio Company, has built a rich tradition of dance, and I was honored when he asked me to set a work on his company,” said Mills. “I’m excited to work with the young dancers that have come from all over the world to train with ABT.”

American Ballet Theatre’s acclaimed Studio Company is a small classical company of 12 young dancers of outstanding potential. Now in its eighth season, ABT’s Studio Company prepares young dancers to enter American Ballet Theatre as well as other professional ballet companies. It also provides opportunities for the development of emerging choreographers and composers, and brings the excitement of close contact with a professional company to communities across the country through public performances and educational outreach programs.

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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