

# 'Light' Dawns in Austin

## BALLET ADVOCATES TOLERANCE IN AMBITIOUS COMMUNITY PROJECT BY ROBERT FAIRES

For six decades, survivors of the Holocaust have cried out, "Never forget!" But their message grows fainter as fewer and fewer of them survive to remind us. Many have wondered, as they pass on, who will take up their call and speak out against bigotry and hatred?

This season, Ballet Austin and the College of Education at UT-Austin are adding their voices to the cause. On Tuesday, Jan. 25, the two institutions made public their commitment to promote educational activities regarding the Holocaust and human rights and encourage both individual and community commitment to a more tolerant society in *Light/The Holocaust & Humanity Project*. The joint initiative, which teams them with community leaders and partnering organizations Holocaust Museum Houston, the Warren Family Foundation, Jewish Community Association



Stephen Mills

of Austin, Austin Independent School District, and the Anti-Defamation League — launches this week with two months' worth of community events, from public lectures to professional development opportunities for teachers, from a televised town hall meeting on tolerance to a new ballet by Ballet Austin Artistic Director Stephen Mills exploring the power of the human spirit and the importance of individual responsibility.

Mills traveled to Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic, studying the death camps of Nazi Germany and the people who survived them. "Sadly, we are losing the last generation of Holocaust survivors," he says. "With this ballet I aim to honor these courageous individuals, their memories, and their experiences." To music by Philip Glass, Steve Reich, and Arvo Pärt, the work will examine responses to life before, during, and after the Holocaust. ■

### 'LIGHT/THE HOLOCAUST & HUMANITY PROJECT' SCHEDULE

**Feb. 16, "Representations of the Holocaust Through Time"**

Free lecture: Dr. James Young, Dr. Robert Abzug, Stephen Mills. Wednesday, 7pm, LBJ Library and Museum Atrium.

**Feb. 23-24, Holocaust Education Institute**

Professional development seminar to help middle school and high school teachers improve their skills in teaching about the Holocaust. Wednesday and Thursday, 8am-6pm, Thompson Conference Center, UT.

**March 6-31, The "Coexistence" Exhibition**

Free outdoor show of international artwork on the theme of coexistence. Developed by Jerusalem's Museum on the Seam. Auditorium Shores (tentative site).

**March 22, "Talking With Young People About the Holocaust and Hate"**

Free lecture: Dr. Pacale Bos,

Dr. Mary Lee Webeck. Tuesday, 7pm, LBJ Library and Museum Atrium.

**March 31, Elie Wiesel**

Free lecture by the author and Nobel Peace Prize winner. Thursday, 8pm, Bass Concert Hall.

**April 1-3, Light/The Holocaust & Humanity Project**

World premiere of Stephen Mills' ballet concerning human courage, tolerance, and compassion in the face of the Holocaust. Friday and Saturday, 8pm; Sunday, 2pm, Bass Concert Hall.

**April 19, Town hall meeting moderated by Linda Ellerbee**

Central Texans discuss the implications of the Holocaust on their community today.

For more information, call 476-9151 x200 or visit [www.balletaustin.org/light](http://www.balletaustin.org/light).