

# BALLET *Austin*

Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre's presentation of Ballet Austin's  
*Light / The Holocaust & Humanity Project*  
*Named among Pittsburgh's best of 2009*

**WHO:** Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre & Ballet Austin  
Choreography: Stephen Mills

**WHAT:** *Light / The Holocaust & Humanity Project* named among best  
dance performances by Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

**WHERE:** Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**PITTSBURGH, PA** – Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre's presentation of Stephen Mills' *Light / The Holocaust & Humanity Project* has been named among the best dance performances of 2009 by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the area's daily newspaper, which wrote:

*The biggest event attempted by PBT in 40 years, involving 23 partner organizations over a span of four weeks, this collaboration reached a cumulative audience of 14,000. But by itself, Stephen Mills' "Light" was a powerful ballet that resonated with its audience. It was also a great fit for the company's actor/dancers -- led here by the beautifully resilient Julia Erickson -- who have really responded to Terrence Orr's dramatic directions with the company.*

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09351/1021316-325.stm>

The production, which PBT presented November 12, received rave reviews (<http://www.pbt.org/about/news/>) regionally and nationally and was second only to PBT's *Romeo et Juliette* in the article.

## **ABOUT BALLET AUSTIN**

### **Stephen Mills, Artistic Director**

Mr. Mills has created more than 40 works for companies in the United States and abroad. His ballets are in the repertoires of such companies as The Atlanta Ballet, Washington Ballet, Cuballet in Havana, Cuba, BalletMet Columbus, The Dayton Ballet, The Sarasota Ballet of Florida, Ballet Pacifica, Dallas Black Dance Theater, The Louisville Ballet, The Nashville Ballet, Fort Worth/Dallas Ballet and Kaleidoscope. He has worked in collaboration with such luminaries as the eight-time Grammy Award-winning band, Asleep at the Wheel, and Shawn Colvin. In addition to his work as a choreographer, Mr. Mills is committed as a master teacher to developing dancers. He has been a teacher at many pre-professional academies including Goucher College; Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts in Dallas; The Virginia School of the Arts; The New

# BALLET *Austin*

Orleans Center for the Creative Arts; Stephens College and Point Park College in Pittsburgh. Mr. Mills also serves on the Board of Trustees of the national dance service organization, Dance USA.

## **Ballet Austin**

As distinctive and dynamic as the city it calls home, Ballet Austin welcomes audiences near and far to participate in its "classically innovative" vision for the democratization of dance. With a rich history spanning five decades, acclaimed productions, and one of the nation's largest classical ballet academies, the organization is poised for an even greater future. From their new home at the Butler Dance Education Center and Community School in downtown Austin, Ballet Austin and artistic director Stephen Mills actively engage the community, dancers, and audiences alike. *The New York Times* proclaims Ballet Austin "a company with big ambitions" originating work that is "absorbing."

## **NEW CONTACT INFORMATION**

501 West Third Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

Box Office: 512.476.2163  
Academy: 512.476.9151  
General info: 512.476.9151  
Fax: 512.476.3973

**IMAGES:** david@wyattbrand for print-ready, password-free images  
**MEDIA:** For interviews, details contact David Wyatt at david@wyattbrand.com and (512) 450.4395  
**WEB:** <http://www.balletaustin.org/light/>

This project is funded in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts.

###