

BARYSHNIKOV ARTS CENTER

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**BARYSHNIKOV ARTS CENTER AND CHEZ BUSHWICK PRESENT
FOOFWA D'IMOBILITE IN THE NEW YORK PREMIERE OF *BENJAMIN DE BOUILLIS*
JUNE 26-28, 2008**

New York, NY, April 14, 2008 — The Baryshnikov Arts Center (BAC) and Chez Bushwick are pleased to present *Benjamin de Bouillis*, a solo work choreographed and performed by Foofwa d'Imobilité, Thursday through Saturday, June 26-28, 2008 at 7:30PM in BAC's Howard Gilman Performance Space, 450 W. 37th Street between 9th and 10th Avenues.

Benjamin de Bouillis, an evening-length dance piece that premiered in 2005 at the Science et Cité Festival in Geneva, was inspired by neurologist Olaf Blanke and his theory of "décorporation"—the sensation of perceiving the body as foreign, exterior or from a distance." In this work, Foofwa gives physical expression to the out-of-body experience by exploring the dancer's identity and employing his mirrored image to make observations of the human body. The dancing is accompanied by a vocal track created by sound engineer Antoine Lengo. In 2006, Foofwa was awarded the Swiss Dance and Choreography Prize for *Benjamin de Bouillis*. The New York premiere performance follows a combined three-week residency at BAC and Chez Bushwick that took place in February 2008, during which time Foofwa further developed this work and two others in his repertoire.

Foofwa d'Imobilité is the assumed name of Frédéric Gafner, a native of Geneva, Switzerland who gained international recognition as a dancer with the Merce Cunningham Dance Company. During his seven years with the company, he participated in the creation of 14 works, including *Ocean*, *Enter* and *Scenario*. In 1995, he received a Bessie for his "exceptional creative achievement in the work of Merce Cunningham." After leaving the company in 1998, Foofwa began developing his own choreography and has since developed a dynamic body of work that includes *descendance* (2000), an autobiographic-choreography on the history of the body on stage; *Media Vice Versa* (2002), on media and digital images; *Perform.dancerun.2* (2003), on the relation between dance and sport; *Injuria* (2004), on the precarious situation of dancers; and *Live & Dance* (2005), which assimilates rhythmic movements with everyday movements. Foofwa also has choreographed work for other companies, including the Nederlands Dans Theater II, the Bern Ballet and the Ballet Junior of Geneva.

Benjamin de Bouillis is co-presented by Baryshnikov Arts Center and Chez Bushwick, with the support of the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Pro Helvetia-Foundation (Switzerland) for Culture, the City of Geneva Department of Cultural Affairs, and the State of Geneva Department of Public Instruction.

The Baryshnikov Arts Center opened its doors in New York City's Hell's Kitchen in November 2005. BAC is a center for artistic experimentation and collaboration, serving as a creative laboratory, meeting place, and performance space for a vibrant community of artists from around the world and across disciplines. Core activities include student fellowships, artist residencies, commissions of new work, and arts presentations. The organization's next phase of growth will be the acquisition of a 299-seat theater in the 37 ARTS complex, which will enable BAC to significantly expand artistic and public programming. For more information, please visit www.bacnyc.org.

Chez Bushwick, Inc. is a Brooklyn-based organization that has emerged as a new model for the creation, support, and presentation of new dance and performance. Under the leadership of Jonah

Bokaer in 2002, a group of artists and choreographers formed Chez Bushwick, a collaborative venture that has significantly impacted a new generation of dance artists, choreographers, and performers. Founding artists include Jonah Bokaer, Loren Dempster, Miguel Gutierrez, and Jeremy Wade, who each developed a series of public programs that are emblematic of a new way of working: across borders, across disciplines, employing variable aesthetic signatures, and overturning divisions between choreographer, curator, producer, and audience member. Through strategies of collaboration, activism, and public dialogue, these artists achieved economic amnesty during a threatening real estate and funding climate in New York City. With respect to choreography, its processes, and its support structures, new ground was broken in dance and performance.

Program

Benjamin de Bouillis

By Foofwa d'Imobilité

Thursday through Saturday, June 26-28 at 7:30pm

Baryshnikov Arts Center

Howard Gilman Performance Space

450 W. 37th Street

New York, NY 10018

www.bacnyc.org

Important Ticket Information

Tickets are \$20. To purchase tickets, phone Ticket Central Box Office at 212-279-4200 or visit

www.ticketcentral.com.

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