

CIVIC THEATRES TORONTO

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MEDIA ADVISORY: January 15, 2018

Canadian Premiere: Critically-Acclaimed “Pepperland” from New York’s Mark Morris Dance Group Debuts on February 24 at The Sony Centre for the Performing Arts

Named One of the “Top 10 Dance Shows of 2017” by The Guardian and “Show of the Year” by The (London) Times

Free ‘Dancing With Parkinson’s Master Class’ with MMDG Dancers



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Toronto, ON – The Sony Centre for the Performing Arts presents the Canadian premiere of the critically-acclaimed **“Pepperland”** from New York’s **Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG)** on Saturday, February 24, 2018. This is the second instalment of this year’s three-part international Dance Collection, presented by BMO Financial Group, and follows the sold-out success of Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal’s *“Dance Me/Music of Leonard Cohen”* last December.

Choreographer Mark Morris, hailed by the New York Times as “the most successful and influential choreographer alive, and indisputably the most musical,” returns to Toronto with this unique tribute to the 50th anniversary of The Beatles’ groundbreaking album *Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band*.

Ticket prices range from \$55 - \$145 each plus applicable service charges and can be purchased by phone at 1-855-872-7669, in person at the Sony Centre Box Office (Monday-Friday from noon-5pm) or online at www.sonycentre.ca.

Accompanied live by an unprecedented chamber music ensemble of voice, soprano saxophone, two keyboards, theremin and percussion, Ethan Iverson's original score intermingles six Pepper-inspired original pieces intended especially for Morris's profound understanding of classical forms with arrangements of the songs *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, *With a Little Help From My Friends*, *A Day in the Life*, *When I'm Sixty-Four*, *Within You Without You* and *Penny Lane*.

Also taking place at The Sony Centre on Saturday, February 24 at 11 a.m. is a **free 'Dancing With Parkinson's' (DWP) Master Class** with **MMDG** dancers, **David Leventhal** and **Sam Black**. DWP is inspired by the revolutionary Dance for Parkinson's Disease program initiated by the MMDG to help increase awareness and control of movements among adults living with the disease. Following the master class, 'Dancing With Parkinson's' is holding its 10th annual fundraiser from 12-2pm featuring an exciting afternoon of food, fun, great entertainment, a silent auction and of course, dancing! DWP was founded in Canada by Sarah Robichaud. For more information visit www.dancingwithparkinsons.com.

A top-tier group of some of the world's leading arts presenters and supporters made it possible for this evening-length work to be realized: Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, with the Sony Centre; the American Dance Festival, Durham, North Carolina; BAM, Brooklyn, New York; Cal Performances, UC Berkeley, California; The City of Liverpool, England, U.K.; Hopkins Center for the Arts, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire; International Festival of Arts & Ideas, New Haven, Connecticut; The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C.; Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; La Jolla Music Society, La Jolla, California; Meyer Sound, Berkeley, California; Seattle Theatre Group, Seattle, Washington; Segerstrom Center for The Arts, Costa Mesa, California; UCSB Arts & Lectures, Santa Barbara, California; and White Bird, Portland, Oregon. The Charles and Joan Gross Family Foundation commissioned Pepperland's music. Additionally, the original music by The Beatles is used under license from Sony ATV Music Publishing.

What the critics are saying...

"..a truly joyous, celebratory work of art...brilliant homage to one of the great rock albums," The Telegraph (UK)

"A gorgeously entertaining and witty tribute to the classic Beatles album," The Guardian (UK)

"The dance, like the album, is a seamless synthesis of classical, vaudeville and psychedelia..." Financial Times

"...high-spirited, humour, eccentric charm and a joyous musical sensibility...guaranteed to raise a smile," The (London) Times (UK)

About Civic Theatres Toronto:

In 2015, Toronto's City Council approved the consolidation of the governance and operations of the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts, the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts, and Toronto Centre for the Arts into one new organization under the direction of a City appointed board called Civic Theatres Toronto.

The mandate of Civic Theatres Toronto is to provide quality performance and event facilities and to promote its contribution to the artistic, cultural and social vitality of Toronto and its communities. The Board of Directors of Civic Theatres Toronto is responsible for overseeing the business affairs of the three venues.

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