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N.Y. Export: Opus Jazz



Photo © Paul Kolnik

- Music** NY Export: Opus Jazz by Robert Prince

- Choreography** Jerome Robbins

- Premiere** June 8, 1958; Festival of Two Worlds, Spoleto, Ballets: U.S.A.

- Original Cast** Patricia Dunn, Jay Norman, Tom Abbott, Bob Bakanic, John Mandia, James White, Wilma Curley, John Jones, Sondra Lee, Gwen Lewis, Erin Martin, Barbara Milberg, Beryl Towbin, Joan Van Orden, James Moore

- Staged** by Edward Verso

- NYCB Premiere** April 29, 2005, New York State Theater, New York NY

- NYCB Original Cast** Ellen Bar, Rebecca Krohn, Ashley Laracey, Georgina Pazcoguin, Tiler Peck, Sara Ricard, Rachel Rutherford, Stephanie Zungre, Antonio Carmena, Adrian Danchig-Waring, Craig Hall, Adam Hendrickson, Seth Orza, Amar Ramasar, Sean Suozzi, Andrew Veyette

- Average Length** 28 min.

N.Y. Export: Opus Jazz was first performed by Jerome Robbins' Ballets: U.S.A. at the Festival of Two Worlds in Spoleto, Italy, in June of 1958. Following are revised program notes from that production which concern the youth and dances of the late 50s. There has always been a tremendous amount of popular dancing in America. At this time its vitality has reached a new high, developing and expanding in form and style from the major and basic contributions of the African-American and Latin-American. Because of a strong unconscious emotional kinship with those minority roots, teenagers particularly have popularized these dances. Feeling very much like a minority group in this threatening and explosive world, the young have so identified with the dynamics, kinetic impetus, the drives and 'coolness'

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— George Balanchine

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of today's jazz steps that these dances have become an expression of our youths' outlook and their attitudes toward the contemporary world around them, just as each era's dance has significantly reflected the character of our changing world and a manner of dealing with it. N.Y. Export: Opus Jazz is a formal, abstract ballet based on the kinds of movements, complexities of rhythms, expressions of relationships, and qualities of atmospheres found in today's dance. Robert Prince wrote the music for two ballets for Jerome Robbins' dance company Ballets U.S.A.: New York Export: Opus Jazz (1958) and Events (1961). Prince also wrote incidental music for the play "Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mama's Hung You In The Closet and I'm Feeling So Sad," which Robbins directed off-Broadway in 1962. Prince went on to compose and arrange the music for several musicals including "Something More!" (1964), "Half a Sixpence" (1965), and "The Office" (1966).

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