

UCSD presents performances of Feld Ballets/New York April 17 and 28 at Spreckels Theater in downtown San Diego

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Media Contact: Ruth Baily at University Events, 534-0497, or Jan Jennings, 534-0361

The Feld Ballets/New York -- noted for the innovative style of founder and director Eliot Feld -- will perform at 8 p.m. April 17 and 18 at Spreckels Theater in downtown San Diego.

Dubbed the "bad boy of ballet" because of his independent manner and appetite for risk-taking, Feld is a choreographer of what, according to New York Post critic Clive Barnes, is "alive and well in classic dance."

The San Diego performances of Feld Ballets/New York are sponsored by the University Events Office of the University of California, San Diego. The stop here is one of 19 on the company's 1995-1996 tour of cities throughout the United States.

Feld's touring troupe consists of from 18 to 22 dancers who perform works choreographed by Feld over a career spanning nearly 30 years. Since 1967, he has choreographed 86 ballets, many of which have dancers doing "some of the most outrageous things onstage," according to a Chicago Sun-Times reviewer, who adds that in a four-day engagement the troupe "does more to keep ballet on the cutting edge than 100 performances of Giselle."

Two possible reasons for this, according to critic Barnes, are that Feld runs a classical company more or less as if it were a modern dance troupe, and creates a company of dancers who become elusively chameleon. They dance with elasticity, vigor, candor, and liveliness, stretching and curling their bodies to realize whatever movements Feld imagines.

Eliot Feld began his dancing career at age 12 with the New York City Ballet as the Child Prince in Balanchine's original production of *The Nutcracker* and in the Phoenix Theater's musical, *Sandhog*. At 16, he danced in the Broadway version of *West Side Story*, and later in the movie version. He appeared on the Gary Moore and Ed Sullivan television shows, on Broadway in such productions as *Fiddler on the Roof*, then danced with the American Ballet Theatre and the American Ballet Company. Over the years he has choreographed for numerous companies, including the ABT, the ABC, the Royal Danish Ballet, the Joffrey Ballet, the National Ballet of Canada, the Royal Swedish Ballet, the New York City Ballet, and Mikhail Baryshnikov's *White Oak Project*.

In 1974, Feld established Feld Ballets/New York, and since then -- with the occasional breaks to choreograph for other companies -- he has been concentrating on his own style with his own company and establishing a presence in the world of dance/choreography that has been likened to the success story of choreographer Jerome Robbins. In addition to the company's performances in New York, Feld Ballets/New York tours extensively, and has performed in 45 states and territories and 15 foreign countries.

Tickets for the April 17 and 18 Feld Ballets/New York performances range from \$26 to \$36 for general admission, UCSD faculty, staff, and seniors, and from \$21 to \$31 for students. Tickets are available at the University Box Office, 534-6467, and at Ticketmaster outlets. For further information, call the University Events Office at 534-4090.

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