

GARTH FAGAN DANCE

Choreography by Founder/Artistic Director Garth Fagan

Virginia Arts Festival

Chrysler Hall

April 15, 2010 at 7:30 PM

For tickets call: (757)-282-2822

Hello, I'm Edgar Loessin with Loessin at Large.

Spring is a wonderful time of the year. It's especially glorious in Hampton Roads because we have the annual Virginia Arts Festival in full bloom. The first of over fifty events, the Garth Fagan Dance Company, launched the fourteenth season on April 15.

Garth Fagan's dance works are unique. His choreography is made up of his original vocabulary. He seems to choreograph each dancer's body rather than the work as whole. As result the dancers are highly original stylistically and each member of the company is a soloist. In fact many of the dances consist of only one person performing at a time. There are few pas de deux or other groups of dancers. Fagan, for the most part, is not concerned with traditional patterns or composition in his dances. Instead, he allows each member of the troupe of thirteen dancers to display his or her talents. The performers are physically incredibly strong athletes who move with the speed of a silver bullet or hold a most difficult pose for long breathtaking amounts of time.

My long time friend, David Vaughan in *Ballet Review* says it best. "The dancers he has (Fagan) trained are virtuosi, no doubt about it, and fearless too, able to sustain long adagio balances, to change direction in mid-air, to vary the dynamic of a turn, to stop on a dime."

For lovers of dance in its many incarnations there are several major companies waiting in the wings including The Birmingham Royal Ballet, some Russian Folk Dancers, Pilobolus and the Richmond Ballet. Leonard Bernstein's monumental rarely done work called MASS performs on April 23 and 24th in Chrysler Hall. The work soars with choruses, dancers, a children's choir, a Broadway sized cast, orchestra and even a rock band. It's not to be missed.

The Arts Festival enriches our lives. No matter where you live in this vast area we call Hampton Roads, each of the seven cities has special treats in store for your pleasure. Make a point of attending as many as you can. You'll discover thrilling experiences of the extraordinary richness of spring time in Virginia.

This Edgar Loessin with Loessin at Large and I'll see you at the next opening.