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**THE BARYSHNIKOV DANCE FOUNDATION TO ACQUIRE NEW THEATER
TO BE NAMED THE JEROME ROBBINS THEATER**

The Wooster Groups signs on as Resident Theater Company

New York, NY, September 10, 2007—The Baryshnikov Dance Foundation (BDF) has entered into an agreement to acquire a 299 seat theater in the 37ARTS Building which already houses the Baryshnikov Arts Center. Mikhail Baryshnikov is pleased to announce that the venue will be named the Jerome Robbins Theater after the legendary theater director and choreographer, in recognition of his artistic achievements and contributions. This pivotal leadership gift will be provided by the Jerome Robbins Foundation. Major support for the Jerome Robbins Theater has also been provided by the Department of Cultural Affairs of the City of New York and by Baryshnikov himself. In addition, generous support will be provided by the Howard Gilman Foundation and the Arison Arts Foundation. The theater, which is scheduled to open in January 2009, will be purchased from the West 37th Street Group, and the cost of its acquisition in addition to the redesign of the space will be in excess of \$10 million.

The Jerome Robbins Theater will be fully equipped to accommodate the needs of artists from various disciplines, allowing for an increase in new programs, workshops and performances. The Wooster Group, one of New York's leading experimental theater companies, has signed on to be the resident company with an annual season.

"I am thrilled that we can bring in The Wooster Group, one of the most exciting and innovative theater companies in the world," says Mikhail Baryshnikov. "Their audience is open to new experiences and the daring work of Elizabeth LeCompte and her extraordinary group. We look forward to a long collaboration."

Christina Sterner, long-time Managing Director of the Baryshnikov Dance Foundation, said, “It has been Baryshnikov’s desire to purchase this theater for some time, and now that we’ve established the Center, and most of the financial support for the theater is underway, the time is right for this exciting next phase. It gives us the opportunity to complete the creative process and broaden our reach to artists and audiences alike.”

In November 2005, BDF opened the Baryshnikov Arts Center (BAC) in the 37 ARTS Building, a six-story, 46,000 square foot performing arts facility. BDF currently owns the three top three floors of the building, totaling 15,000 square feet – including studios, The Howard Gilman Performance Space, and offices – allowing for the first time a permanent home for BDF. The Center is a laboratory where artists are given the freedom to experiment and create new work. Core programs include student fellowships, artist residencies, presentation of work, and commissions of new work.

“The directors of the Jerome Robbins Foundation are delighted by the naming of this theater for Jerome Robbins,” said Floria V. Lasky, President and Director of the Jerome Robbins Foundation. “We know that Jerry would be touched that he and Mr. Baryshnikov’s friendship and creative relationship will continue here, with theater and dance.”

Elizabeth LeCompte, Artistic Director of The Wooster Group said, “We’re pleased and honored to be part of Misha’s vision to create a theater where artists meet, where the cross-pollination is informal and genuine, and where artists can inspire and be inspired by others. We look forward to performing in a beautiful new theater center larger than the Performing Garage and yet still intimate.”

"The City is committed to providing opportunities for affordable studio and rehearsal space and engaging artists and audiences in transforming ways," said Kate D. Levin, Commissioner of the Department of Cultural Affairs. "We are pleased to support the Baryshnikov Dance Foundation's expanded presence in the 37 ARTS Building, allowing

the Center to better serve as a hub for experimentation and collaboration in the performing arts and ensuring that they continue to provide artists with the resources needed to create innovative and thrilling works."

The Wooster Group is an ensemble of artists who create work for media and theater. Under the direction of Elizabeth LeCompte and company, and with its many artistic associates, the Group has created and performed seventeen theater pieces, six video/film works, and four dances. It has sustained a full-time, on-going ensemble of performers, technical artists, and staff since its beginning in 1975. The Performing Garage at 33 Wooster Street in Soho is the Group's home base. It was purchased by the company in 1974 as part of the Grand Street Artists Co-op, Fluxus building #3. Over the years, the Group has developed all of its work at the Garage, performing there and larger venues in New York and throughout the world. The Group will continue to maintain the Garage as a rehearsal and performance space while in residence at the Baryshnikov Arts Center.

The Jerome Robbins Foundation was established in 1958, in honor of Robbin's mother, with the intent to support dance, theater, and their associative arts. Following the outbreak of AIDS, Foundation resources were directed to the AIDS crisis which continues today. Before his death, Mr. Robbins conveyed his wish that the Foundation extend its resources to the performing arts including dance and theater.

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