

NY Export: Opus Jazz being released on DVD November 23rd
Cinematic adaptation of Jerome Robbins' "ballet in sneakers"
Starring dancers from the New York City Ballet, shot entirely on location in NYC
Aired on PBS Great Performances series, nominated for Rose d'Or Award

"This film is just about the purest, sexiest thing going in ballet." -- New York Magazine
"Austere in purpose and yet lush and expansive in execution." -- Vanity Fair
"A jaw-droppingly gorgeous marriage of choreography and cinematography." -- IFC.com

In 1958, Jerome Robbins' "ballet in sneakers," *NY Export: Opus Jazz*, became a smash hit when it was broadcast on The Ed Sullivan Show and toured around the world. Set to an evocative jazz score by Robert Prince and abstract urban backdrops by Ben Shahn, the dance told the story of disaffected urban youth through movement that blended ballet, jazz and ballroom dancing with Latin, African and American rhythms to create a powerfully expressive, sexy and contemporary style. Now, the work comes full circle in the vibrant film adaptation, conceived by New York City Ballet soloists Ellen Bar and Sean Suozzi, available for the first time ever on DVD come November 23rd from music + film label, Factory 25. *NY Export: Opus Jazz* was viewed by millions when it aired nationally on PBS' Great Performances series with a subsequent nomination for the prestigious Rose d'Or Award.

Enlisting filmmakers Henry Joost (*Catfish*) and Jody Lee Lipes (*Brock Enright: Good Times Will Never Be The Same*), Bar and Suozzi set out to make the most ambitious dance film in recent memory -- the first to return Jerome Robbins' choreography to the streets of New York since the movie version of *West Side Story*. Shot in widescreen 35mm film format, this on-location adaptation utilizes New York City locations like the pre-renovation High Line, McCarren Pool, Coney Island, Red Hook, and Carroll Gardens as backdrops for the five very different movements of the ballet.

Along with the dance film is a 14-minute documentary by director Matt Wolf (*Wild Combination: A Portrait of Arthur Russell*) and Anna Farrell (*Twelve Ways to Sunday*) that recounts the history and summarizes the enduring significance and appeal of this ballet. Choreographer (and original *West Side Story* dancer) Eliot Feld, Sondra Lee (one of Robbins' original "Opus" dancers), along with other Robbins' friends and colleagues join the current cast of dancers to contextualize the cultural and historical importance of Mr. Robbins' career and *NY Export: Opus Jazz*.

In addition to *NY Export: Opus Jazz*, indie film & vinyl label Factory 25 is releasing multiple titles including *Brock Enright: Good Times Will Never Be the Same*, *Until The Light Takes Us*, *Sir Henry At Rollinson End*, *Rio Breaks*, *MAKE-OUT with VIOLENCE*, *Wah Do Dem* and *You Wont Miss Me*.

For screeners/review copies, interview requests and more information, contact:
Jessi Hector//Goldest Egg -- jessi@goldestegg.com

NY Export: Opus Jazz

Release Date: November 23, 2010

Label: Factory 25 (www.factorytwentyfive.com)

Directors: Jody Lee Lipes & Henry Joost

Length: 60 minutes

Year: 2010

Formats: DVD

Tech Details: English, Color, 1.78:1 Widescreen, Dolby Digital, NR, NTSC, Region 0

Extras:

- Essay by John Lithgow
- A Ballet in Sneakers: Jerome Robbins and Opus Jazz directed by Matt Wolf and Anna Farrell
- Jerome Robbins' Ballets: USA - a documentary (behind the scenes footage commissioned by the State Department in 1958)

Festivals: South by Southwest Film Festival 2010 (Audience Award Winner), Sarasota Film Festival, Atlanta Film Festival, Independent Film Festival of Boston, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Northside Festival & New Zealand International Film Festival

Film Highlights:

- Shot on location in New York City and starring an ensemble cast of New York City Ballet dancers
- The New York City Ballet is one of the foremost dance companies in the world
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