

# The New York Times

DANCE REVIEW

## Celebrating 20 Years of Life After a Legend:

### Buglisi Dance Theatre at the Joyce

Chester Higgins Jr./The New York Times

**Buglisi Dance Theatre** Stephanie van Dooren and Ari Mayzick, center, and other troupe members in "This Is Forever" at the Joyce Theater.

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#### [Excerpts]

It hasn't quite been two decades since Jacquelyn Buglisi and three of her colleagues in the Martha Graham Dance Company formed a [troupe](#) of their own. ... Ms. Buglisi's choreography draws upon Graham's technique, theatricality and high emotional pitch ...

Ms. Buglisi's new "This Is Forever" is based on "Forever," a 1934 novella about a couple who fall in love before they are born, die just after meeting in life and reunite in heaven. The dance's central man and woman (Jason Jordan and So Young An) come together and part and come together again. Matched by three other couples in white, they rush from opposite wings and join in high, spinning lifts. Steve Margoshes's score, which he played live on piano, could have served as the soundtrack for the film of "Forever" that Hollywood never made.

Andy Teirstein's score for Ms. Buglisi's new dance, "Snow Falling on Water," [is] played live... with Jack Mehler's video backdrop...this choreography for a circling couple holds more intrigue. Ari Mayzick lets Helen Hansen French literally walk all over him, yet his turns and leg extensions reveal great power. Mr. Mayzick's taut strength was also on display in the muscle poses and spirals to and from the floor of "Prelude," a 1997 solo by ... Donlin Foreman. ... And in three short solos choreographed by Nacho Duato, Natasha Diamond-Walker caught the melancholy in Majorcan folk songs in the way she swirled her skirt. All of these dancers are sure in technique and ardent in manner, and all of Ms. Buglisi's dances contain striking moments.

In "Requiem" (2001) all is exposed. This dance for five women who rise statuesque on stools and mourn in voluminous drapery, with Clifton Taylor's tomb lighting and Fauré's music, is in the mode that best capitalizes on Ms. Buglisi's strengths. On Tuesday the cast included Terese Capucilli and Christine Dakin, two of the three Graham dancers who were with Ms. Buglisi from the beginning. For the many in the overcapacity opening-night audience who ... believe in Ms. Buglisi's vision, the experience must have been ecstatic.