



WENDY WHELAN POSTPONES TOUR OF *RESTLESS CREATURE*, INCLUDING ANN ARBOR PERFORMANCE

First Project from Wendy Whelan New Works Initiative Delayed Due to Whelan's Extended Recovery from Hip Surgery

Following hip surgery last August, **Wendy Whelan**, in consultation with her doctors, has concluded that her body needs more time to heal and that she must postpone her spring 2014 (March 16 – April 11) inaugural U.S. tour of *Restless Creature*, which received its premiere last summer at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. Rescheduled dates will be announced at a later time. **Eight venues in the U.S. are affected by this cancellation, including the UMS presentation scheduled for the Power Center on Tuesday, March 25, 2014. As a result of this change the "You Can Dance" event at the Ann Arbor Y on March 23 has also been canceled.**

Whelan said, "It is with careful thought and with the support of my wellness team that I have decided to postpone the tour of my project *Restless Creature*, until I have made a more complete recovery from the hip surgery I had last August. I have worked diligently following my surgery to meet my deadline for being rehearsal ready, but I simply need more time to strengthen and heal. I have to honor my body's wishes. I know I will continue to make progress, and I hope to bring these wonderful new pieces of choreography to life very soon with the physicality they both deserve and require to be shown at their absolute best."

The New York Times has called Whelan "America's greatest contemporary ballerina." She has danced with New York City Ballet for 29 years. With the company, she has mastered Balanchine's neo-classical repertory, dance classics such as *Sleeping Beauty* and *Swan Lake* and created works with many of today's leading choreographers. Having reached the height of her field, Whelan, now 46, is embarking on a groundbreaking journey at an age when most ballerinas simply retire from the stage. She has launched Wendy Whelan New Works Initiative, which begins with *Restless Creature*, a suite of four duets, each with its own distinct style and artistry, created by and danced with **Kyle Abraham, Joshua Beamish, Brian Brooks and Alejandro Cerrudo.**

After a minor slip in ballet class in September 2012, Whelan began experiencing severe pain in her right hip. After months of pain reducing treatments, her doctors discovered a complex labral tear. A labral tear involves the ring of soft elastic tissue, called the labrum, which follows the outside rim of the socket of the hip joint. When damaged, even small movement can be extremely painful. After months of failed attempts at finding pain relief, Whelan made the decision to have surgery and face a daunting four to six months in recovery.

UMS ticketholders have been contacted about the change. UMS hopes to reschedule this performance once Ms. Whelan's hip has healed but is not able to announce a rescheduled date at this time.

For more information on Wendy Whelan, please contact John Wyszniwski at Blake Zidell & Associates, 718.643.9052, john@blakezidell.com.

For more information on the UMS cancellation, contact Truly Render at UMS, 734.647.4020, trender@umich.edu

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