March 3, 2005

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, *UNCERTAIN STEPS* AND *NEW WORK* FROM THE AMERICAN REPERTORY BALLET AT RAMAPO COLLEGE

(Mahwah) – The American Repertory Ballet, with choreography by artistic director Graham Lustig, presents *Beauty and the Beast, Uncertain Steps, New Work* Saturday, April 2 at 8 p.m. in the Sharp Theater on the campus of Ramapo College of New Jersey.

Set in New Jersey in the 1830s in the mystical forests of the haunted Pine Barrens, *Beauty and the Beast* is Lustig's re-telling of the classic tale of love overcoming all. *Uncertain Steps*, originally created for the Dutch contemporary dance company Introdans, is set to Bach's "Solo Cello Suite No. 6." The audience also will get a sneak peak at Lustig's newest choreography, set to music composed by a young Julliard graduate, Pat Rasile, based on eight sonnets by Michaelangelo.

The American Repertory Ballet is New Jersey's leading dance company and one of the state's major arts organizations. Since 1987, it has been designated a Major Arts Institution by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State.   Graham Lustig, an award winning, internationally recognized choreographer and teacher, whose ballets have been performed on four continents, was named artistic director in June 1999. Since joining American Repertory Ballet, Lustig has created three original works for the company: A *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Silkscreens*, and *Graham Lustig's The Nutcracker*.

(more)

Tickets for the American Repertory Ballet performance at Ramapo College are $21 for adults, $18 for senior citizens and $12 for youth. The Sharp Theater is located in the Angelica and Russ Berrie Center for Performing and Visual Arts on the Ramapo College campus. For more information, call 201.684.7844.

This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

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