

S H A F F E R - C O Y L E

P U B L I C R E L A T I O N S

For Immediate Release

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*"A delightful abundance of shimmying, strutting hips;  
one would be hard pressed to find a more compelling argument for the pleasures of freedom,  
especially freedom as hard-won as Ms. Turner's."*

- The New York Times

*"A fresh look on a well-known subject where the ultimate message is about  
the resiliency of the human spirit."*

- The New York Sun



Photo: © Stephanie Berger

***RIVER DEEP,  
A TRIBUTE TO TINA TURNER***

**Directed and Choreographed By Gabrielle Lansner**

**Original Score By Philip Hamilton**

**Book Adapted By Gabrielle Lansner  
From Tina Turner's Best-Selling Autobiography *I, Tina***

**The Acclaimed Musical Returns to  
The Peter Jay Sharp Theater  
For a Strictly-Limited Off-Broadway Engagement  
Wednesday, July 5 (Opening) Through Saturday, July 29, 2006**

More . . .

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**RIVER DEEP, A TRIBUTE TO TINA TURNER**, a new musical celebrating the life story of music legend Tina Turner, will return to The Peter Jay Sharp Theatre (416 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street on Theatre Row) this summer for a strictly limited Off-Broadway engagement. Directed by **Gabrielle Lansner** and choreographed in collaboration with the cast, **RIVER DEEP** has an original score by **Philip Hamilton** and a book adapted by Ms. Lansner from Turner's best-selling autobiography *I, Tina* (written in collaboration with Kurt Loder). **RIVER DEEP** had its world premiere at The Peter Jay Sharp Theatre earlier this year, playing January 20 through February 4, 2006. This summer, **RIVER DEEP** will play Wednesday, July 5 (Opening Night) through Saturday, July 29.

**RIVER DEEP, A TRIBUTE TO TINA TURNER** is a musical homage to a contemporary icon who is an inspiration for personal change. Through the original score, choreography, multi-media visual design and Turner's own words, **RIVER DEEP** celebrates Ms. Turner's life story, evoking the tremendous energy and depth of her musical performances and her journey of struggle, survival and renewal.

The cast of **RIVER DEEP** includes **Pat Hall** as Ms. Turner, and **Erica Bowen**, McKenzie Frye, **Zainab Jah**, **Heather Lind**, **Paula McGonagle** and **Shekita Starke**.

**RIVER DEEP** has scenic design by **Dean Taucher**, costume design by **Liz Prince** and lighting design by **Jim French**. **RIVER DEEP** has projections featuring original images by photographer **Stephanie Berger**.

**RIVER DEEP** begins performances at The Peter Jay Sharp Theatre (416 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street) on Wednesday, July 5. The performance schedule is Tuesday through Saturday at 8 p.m., with a matinee performance Saturday at 2 p.m. **RIVER DEEP** will end its limited engagement on Saturday, July 29.

Tickets for **RIVER DEEP** are priced at \$35 and are now available by calling Ticket Central at 212-279-4200 or online at [www.ticketcentral.com](http://www.ticketcentral.com).

For further information, please visit [www.gabriellelansner.com](http://www.gabriellelansner.com).

### **Biographies**

**Gabrielle Lansner** (*Director, Choreographer, Book Adaptation*) has had a successful international career as a choreographer, dancer, director and actor. Her professional career began in the '70s when she became an associate member and performer with the Wooster Group. She toured in Spalding Gray's autobiographical trilogy *Three Places in Rhode Island*, in Amsterdam as well as New York engagements. Other credits include performing in Meredith Monk's *Quarry* at BAM and work with numerous dance companies including Charles Moulton, Wendy Perron and Susan Rethorst. In 1980, Ms. Lansner formed Gabrielle Lansner & Dancers, and the company performed to critical acclaim from 1980-1987 at P.S. 122, St. Mark's Church, the Ethnic Folk Art Center, the Cunningham Studio and The DIA Art Foundation. In 1987, Ms. Lansner began a concentrated period of work in the theater, working in classical and experimental theatrical genres. Credits include work with Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, MA, The Milwaukee Repertory Company, Target Margin, the Tiny Mythic Theater Company, Ping Chong, etc. **gabrielle lansner & company** was formed in 1997 and has presented works at the Ohio Theater, HERE, Walkerspace, the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y Harkness Dance Project, The Joyce Soho, Movement Research at the Judson Church, The Duke on

42<sup>nd</sup> Street, and at the Harborfront Theater in Toronto. Her work *Salt Chocolate* has toured to the Austin Arts Center, CT and The Groton School, MA. Musical theater credits include choreography for Paul Scott Goodman's *Him & Her* at the 2002 New York International Fringe Festival and for Nancy Magarill's musical *The Boy with the Glasses* at New York Theater Workshop. She is an original founding member of P.S. 122.

**Philip Hamilton** (*Composer*) is the leading contemporary composer of music for dance. The recipient of the 2004 New York Dance and Performance Award (Bessie) for his *Body of Work* in dance, Hamilton creates music that has been hailed as "...sensitively, calibrated and juicily explosive," by *The New York Times*. He has work with many of the leading choreographers of our time, including Ron Brown, Rennie Harris, Dwight Rhoden, David Dorfman, Robert Battle and Ann Reinking. Most recently, critics and audiences alike have been moved by Hamilton's musical composition for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's latest ballet, *Acceptance and Surrender*. This modern ballet premiered in December 2005 at City Center and is currently part of the company's world tour schedule. Hamilton is currently in pre-production with his newest project, *Voices*. This multi-media event is an acapella showcase of the voice as an innovative, unique and exciting instrument. This production will premiere at the Painted Bride Arts Center in Philadelphia in 2007. For music and more go to [www.Philiphamilton.com](http://www.Philiphamilton.com)

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