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## II.x; 03-06 Playbill - The Color Purple

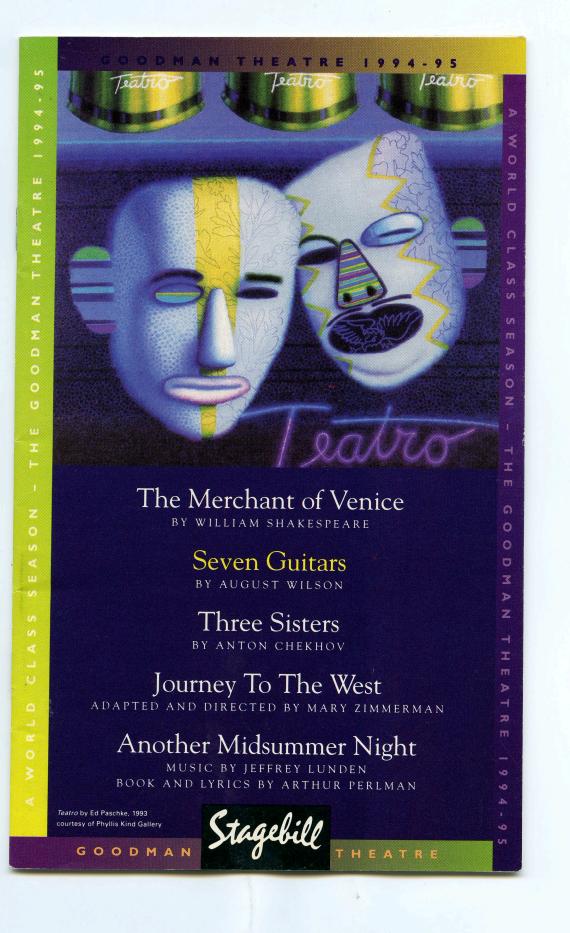
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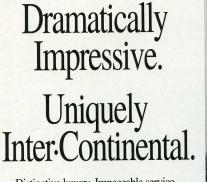
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From its very beginnings New York **City Ballet had a policy** of choreography first, stars second. But when its principal dancers tour on their own, they shine. LAURA JACOBS turns the telescope to **Principal Dancers of** New York City Ballet, at the Auditorium Theatre, March 16-19.



emantics have always been a part of New Yor master of the aphorism, choreographer George B almost as influential as his ballets. "La Danse, c'e woman"; "See the music, hear the dance"-thes philosophical treatise. Company co-founder Lincoln This superb essayist has made an art of articulating City Ballet metaphor and movement. Is it any wond was the darling of intellectuals?

There are some misconceptions, though. One of t of City Ballet mythology is that it is a "starless" con Early on, Balanchine decided to play down castingwas dancing, but on what was being danced. Chored repertory was all. This does not mean that NYCB has shooting stars, comely comets, a Venus (Allegra Ker the Milky Way (Suzanne Farrell), as well as the odd li (Edward Villella) eclipse. Even Mikhail Baryshnikov

There will be eight stars (and four soloists) on v New York City Ballet comes to the Auditorium Theat the four top women are of the same generation, tho herself. The reigning ballerina at NYCB, Nichols h beyond ambition, which may explain the moral dir She is defined as much by what isn't there-no stres or star airs or "love me" flirtation-as by what is. St is like the piano voice in a Mozart concerto: tou crystalline in tone, heated by passing complexity, orchestra. She's a must-see.

SATELLITE T

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