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**SET TO MUSIC BY BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN, PATTI SCIALFA AND
SOOZIE TYRELL, SHAPIRO & SMITH'S *ANYTOWN* OPENS AT
THE JOYCE THEATER, JANUARY 24-29**

A unique artistic collaboration on a three-year, 60-cities US tour

New York, NY -- *Anytown: Stories of America*, a unique collaboration pairing the choreography of Minneapolis-based Danial Shapiro and Joanie Smith with the music of rock 'n' roll legend Bruce Springsteen, his wife Patti Scialfa, and Soozie Tyrell, will receive its New York premiere at The Joyce Theater, January 24-29, 2006. Shapiro and Smith, whose work has been praised by the New York Times for its "strong, sharp edged dancing and daring theatricality," have garnered international recognition for their trademark physical toughness, biting wit and emotional depth. A music-driven dance theater piece, *Anytown* draws its inspiration directly from the songs, using rhythms and poetic metaphors to evoke the intertwined lives of three middle class families, with their daily struggles and life challenges. Featuring a multi-generational cast of eleven dancers including Karine Plantadit Bageot (Ailey, Lion King and Movin' Out), Carl Flink (Creach/Koester & Limón), Germaul Barnes (Bill T. Jones) and Kelly Drummond Cawthon (13 year S&S Dance veteran), *Anytown's* New York engagement is part of a three-year, 60-city U.S. tour.

"*Anytown* marks the most exciting collaboration of our careers, it also celebrates survival on a very personal level," says co-artistic director Danial Shapiro, who has been battling prostate cancer since the beginning of the project. In conjunction with the U.S. tour, Shapiro has set up "PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) in the USA," a national awareness campaign to educate people about prostate cancer and provide free PSA testing for one million men. The New York run includes a benefit performance on January 26, 2006, with all proceeds to go to the Memorial Sloane Kettering Cancer Research Center and Us Too, an international prostate cancer education and support network.

Although the husband-and-wife team, Danial Shapiro and Joanie Smith, began working on the project in 2002, *Anytown* fulfilled a dream born 20 years ago. In the mid 1980s, Smith, Tyrell (Smith's sister), Smith's then-boyfriend Shapiro, and Scialfa (Tyrell's best friend) used to convene at a Chelsea apartment where they would sing and dance. They imagined working on a project together but were whisked in different directions by their various careers. Shapiro and Smith moved to Minneapolis, Tyrell went on to perform with her own bands as well as the E Street Band, and Scialfa joined Bruce Springsteen's band for his most successful release, "Born in the U.S.A." When Shapiro was diagnosed with cancer at age 44, he and Smith decided to put their energy into what they had

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dreamed about in Chelsea 20 years prior, and approached Tyrell and Scialfa about using their music in a dance work. Scialfa then spoke to Springsteen who signed on to the project as well. In addition to tunes by Scialfa and Tyrell, *Anytown* includes nine songs by Springsteen—more than what has ever been allowed in a performance piece—including hits such as “Human Touch,” Youngstown,” “Countin’ On a Miracle,” and a powerful, acoustic blues version of “Born in the U.S.A.”

Family ties—whether they come from a real family or a family of choice—is at the heart of *Anytown*. With down-to-earth, poignant storytelling, gravity defying movements, grace and humor, the work follows the plight of three families whose lives are entangled in a web of desire and need, while struggling with loss and survival. Set in an imaginary time, the work addresses today’s concerns of middle and working classes; and through the skillful juxtaposition of movement, metaphors and lyrics, creates vivid settings suggesting both real homes and places of hope and dream.

After meeting in the companies of Murray Louis and Alwin Nikolais, Danial Shapiro and Joanie Smith founded Shapiro & Smith Dance in 1987, and have since created and performed over 30 works for the company. Located in Minneapolis since 1995, Shapiro and Smith’s blend of contemporary dance and dramatic theater has elicited critical acclaim across the U.S., Europe, Asia and Canada.

Anytown premiered at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, Philadelphia, PA, October 5, 2005, and received lead commissioning support from Dance Celebration, a co-presentation of Dance Affiliates and Penn Presents, through a grant from the Strauss Foundation, with additional funding from University of Florida Performing Arts, Purdue Convocations – Purdue University, and the Count Basie Theatre. For a full tour schedule, visit: www.anytowndance.org.

Anytown: Stories of America will be performed January 24-29, 2006 on the following schedule: Tuesday at 7:00pm, Wednesday through Friday at 8:00pm, Saturday at 2:00pm and 8:00pm, and Sunday at 2:00pm and 7:30pm. Following the performance on Wednesday, there will be a free post-performance dialogue with the artistic director (part of The Joyce Theater’s Humanities Series).

All tickets are \$38 (\$29 for Joyce Members) and are available by calling JoyceCharge at 212-242-0800 or via the internet at <http://www.joyce.org/smith06.html>. The Joyce Theater is located at 175 Eighth Avenue at 19th Street.