

# Hats Off to Jack Cole



"A creator of an art form this country needs to know about and cherish." That's how *Fosse* conceiver and co-choreographer Chet Walker describes Jack Cole, the subject of his latest staged homage, *The Jack Cole Project*, appearing at New York's Queens Theatre May 3 to 20.

This evening of song and jazz dance is a tribute to Cole, whose work creating slick and sharp dance pieces for nightclub acts, movies, Broadway, and TV inspired other top-shelf dancemakers from Jerome Robbins to Bob Fosse, Walker said in a YouTube preview. Cole taught Marilyn Monroe and Rita Hayworth to move, he said, and used Eastern and Afro-Cuban influences to create a style of theatrical jazz dance that "is pure American." Check it out at [queenstheatre.org](http://queenstheatre.org).

Cast members Emanuel Abruzzo and Rosie Lani Fiedelman pay tribute to a jazz dance groundbreaker in *The Jack Cole Project*.

## Baryshnikov, Kouakou Win Vilcek Prizes

Two deserving dancers from two very different lands—Latvian-born virtuoso Mikhail Baryshnikov and choreographer and performer Michel Kouakou, who hails from Ivory Coast—were recognized this spring by The Vilcek Foundation, which honors foreign-born U.S. artists and scientists.

At a ceremony in New York City on April 2, the Vilcek Prize for the Arts and \$100,000 were presented to Baryshnikov. Called a "dauntless innovator" by the Foundation in the award announcement, he was chosen for his "body of distinguished work and legacy of advancing the field of dance."

Accolades also went to Kouakou, winner of this year's Prize for Creative Promise in Dance (\$25,000). Founder of the Daara Dance company and a lecturer at the University of California—Los Angeles, Kouakou draws inspiration from the dance traditions of Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America.

## Tune: A Towering Force in Musical Theater

When Tommy Tune was growing up (to about 6 feet 6 inches) in Houston, did anyone ever say he was too tall for Broadway? Shortsighted, they would have been, because in his 50-plus year career, Tune has become a musical-theater giant.

His accomplishments as a dancer, choreographer, director, and innovator took center stage on April 23 when Tune was presented with the 2012 Capezio Dance Award at New York's City Center. Since his Broadway career began on *Baker Street*, Tune has amassed a sky-high stack of Tonys (nine in all) and other awards, taught Twiggy how to tap, charmed audiences worldwide, and been designated a Living Landmark by the New York Landmarks Conservancy. And at age 73, he's still high-kicking in style, as his show *Steps in Time: A Broadway Biography in Song and Dance* tours the East Coast through June. ♦

Quintessential Broadway showman  
Tommy Tune is this year's Capezio  
Dance Award winner.

