

the village

# VOICE

BY DEBORAH JOWITT

The new *Anthem* is memorable for its flags, or more accurately, for dancers wearing William Ivy Long's handsome black trousers and red-trimmed military jackets, who intermittently charge back and forth across the stage or circle the action waving the flags. A huge one, like the transparent white banner Robert Battle waves over sleeping forms as the piece begins, can seem ominous. A tiny gold one that explosive Jason McDole rushes by gets a laugh. The others, gold or bright-colored, create beautiful patterns in the air; the spectacle all but obscures Parsons's brief against conformity. Shelly Palmer's dramatically colored music booms out heroic gestures that say "America!" and "the open road!" and occasionally, "Night falls over the Rappahannock." We may understand that

Charissa Barton is doing her own joyously personal drill. We may note this society separating Battle and Mia McSwain after a sweet romance has blossomed between them. We may see, by the end, that these people have made a bigger step toward individuality than just unbuttoning their jackets; each has a moment to do a singular step amid the churning mob. But it's the flags, the exhilarating rush of airborne parades by splendid dancers—like Jaime Martinez, Elizabeth Koeppen, Patricia Kenny, Matthew Rodarte, and Ruth-Ellen Kroll—that most people will remember. For myself, I wish Parsons would dig deeper into his own ideas and maybe loosen up the soil a little. He's too skilled a choreographer not to take that chance.

SUNNY

By Aileen Mehle

WWW WEDNESDAY  
Sportswear



Patriot game. Jason McDole joins the Parsons Dance Company in David Parsons's new *Anthem*.

Lee Radzwill, wearing a sleek black Armani tunic and accompanied by her husband, Herb Ross, was front and center at the opening night of the Parsons Dance Company at City Center. She joined her co-chairs Wendy Wasserstein and Tony Award-winning costume designer William Ivy Long for the gala, which included the world premiere of the symphonic composition of "Anthem," written by Shelly Palmer. (Palmer conducted the London Symphony Orchestra's recording of the piece, and CDs of same were given to the first-nighters, among them Michael J. Fox and his wife, Tracy Pollan. Palmer also writes the music for Michael's ABC series "Spin City." Who else would tell you these things?)