

Misha speaks and leaps

Misha talks — as he dances — in the first work in David Gordon's *Made in U.S.A.* tonight on PBS' *Great Performances* (9 EDT/PDT; times may vary). He talks about life in the USA, his adopted country, and what he says is "96 percent" true, he tells us.

The great Mikhail Baryshnikov appears with British Valda Setterfield in a delightful "dialogue-duet" in which he notes, "The first time I went to American supermarket, I spent there more time than in Metropolitan Museum. ..." He recalls seeing Fred Astaire and James Cagney movies while growing up in the Soviet Union, and says he misses most about his homeland the beautiful old theaters where "the dressing rooms have been used."

He "goes West" in the second piece, *TV Nine Lives*, a salute to two classic USA figures: the cowboy and the vaudevillian player. The windup is the entertaining *Murder*, with more dialogue.

"I know where there is danger," he says. "It's very kind of minimalist collage. The patterns of the costume and the sets are all the time woven into different patterns, with a chair as a counterpoint. This demands a certain kind of concentration from the TV audience. ... It's like listening to difficult music. You have to find a way to get into it to enjoy it."

Baryshnikov also talked a bit about his heavy visibility right now, with his movie, *Dancers*, and lots of interviews. "I think you have to pay this price. ... If you are 100 percent open, it's better than trying to create a beautiful lie ... maybe 50 percent beautiful lie, 50 percent the truth. But at the same time you spill your guts out and obviously you have to suffer a lot of unpleasant moments. ... You're like poster on wall. Everybody knows your past, your intentions."