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2021
FALL FOR DANCE Festival

A.I.M by Kyle Abraham
Ayodele Casel
BalletX
Ephrat Asherie Dance
Houston Ballet
Lar Lubovitch Dance Company
with Guest Artists Adrian Danchig-Waring & Joseph Gordon
Lil Buck
Micaela Taylor’s The TL Collective
Philadelphia Ballet
Roman Mejia
Step Afrika!
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PROGRAM 3
Tuesday, October 19, 2021
Wednesday, October 20, 2021

PHILADELPHIA BALLET
Angel Corella, The Ruth & A. Morris Williams, Jr. Artistic Director
Shelly Power, Executive Director

Connection
NY Premiere

Choreography by JULIANO NUNES
Music by EZIO BOSSO
Staging by SAMANTHA DUNSTER
Costume Design by HOGAN MCLAUGHLIN
Costume Construction: MARTHA CHAMBERLAIN
Lighting Design by MICHAEL MAZZOLA
Stage Manager: COLETTE WELLMAN

Premiere
November 7, 2019
Merriam Theater, Kimmel Cultural Campus
Philadelphia, PA

Dancers
THAYS GOLZ  ASHTON ROXANDER  ZECHENG LIANG  YUKA ISEDA
ARIAN MOLINA SOCA  LUCIA ERICKSON  NAYARA LOPES
JACK THOMAS  SO JUNG SHIN  RUSSELL DUCKER

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Upcoming Performances

October 2021
Performance Garage
Philadelphia, PA

PAUSE
MICAELE TAYLOR’S THE TL COLLECTIVE
Micaela Taylor, Artistic Director

Drift
NY Premiere

Choreography by MICAELA TAYLOR
Music by various artists
Music mixed by MICAELA TAYLOR
Staging by MICAELA TAYLOR
Costume Design by KRISTINA GARNETT
Lighting Design by KATELAN BRAYMER

Premiere
2019
Ford Amphitheatre
Los Angeles, CA

Dancers
MICAEEL TAYLOR  JENNIFER LACY  KAIA MAKIHARA
JESSIE LEE THORNE  GIANNA TODISCO

Drift was further developed at Chapman University in 2021
as part of Musco Center’s “Leap of Art.”

Upcoming Performances

October 29 & 30, 2021
The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
Beverly Hills, CA

PAUSE
STEP AFRIKA!
C. Brian Williams, Founder
Mfonso Akpan, Artistic Director

The Movement
World Premiere

Choreography by CONRAD KELLY II
Scenery Design by STEP AFRIKA!
Lighting Design by YANNICK GODTS
Production Manager: MIKE FABA

Premiere
June 19, 2021
Presented Virtually

Dancers
EMANUEL CHACON     DIONNE ELEBY     KAYSHON HAWKINS
AKIEVIA HICKMAN     JABARI JONES     CONRAD KELLY II
MISHA MICHEL     DUSTIN PRAYLOW     OLABODE “BUDDIE” OLADEINDE
ANESIA SANDIFER     VALENCIA SPRINGER     JORDAN SPRY
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Guest Artists
CAMILLE BLUE     AJALE’ COARD     KATHLEEN GIRLING
NAHTIQUE GUILLORY     JEFF PALMERE     FRANCISCO ALBERTO POZO
JOSEPH VASQUEZ     SHEMAR WALCOTT

Step Afrika! is funded in part by the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Upcoming Performances

April 18 – May 8, 2022
New Victory Theater
New York, NY
PROGRAM 4
Thursday, October 21, 2021
Friday, October 22, 2021

LIL BUCK
Co-Presented with Vail Dance Festival
Damian Woetzel, Artistic Director

38109
NY Premiere

Choreography by LIL BUCK
Music by CAROLINE SHAW
Lighting Design by ROYA ABAB
Production Manager: CHELSEA GILLESPIE

Premiere
August 4, 2018
Vail Dance Festival
Vail, CO

Dancer
LIL BUCK

38109 was made possible through the support of Jody and John Arnhold,
and the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation.

PAUSE
LAR LUBOVITCH DANCE COMPANY
Lar Lubovitch, Artistic Director

Each In His Own Time
New York City Center Commission
World Premiere

Choreography by LAR LUBOVITCH
Music by JOHANNES BRAHMS
Costume Construction by FRITZ MASTEN
Lighting Design by NICOLE PEARCE
Production Manager: LORI WEKSELBLATT

Dancers
ADRIAN DANCHIG-WARING  JOSEPH GORDON
New York City Ballet  New York City Ballet

Pianist
SUSAN WALTERS

Each In His Own Time has been commissioned by New York City Center for the Fall for Dance Festival. Support for new dance works at City Center is provided by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation.

This project of the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company is made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, by the “Restart NY” program of the NY State Council on the Arts with the support of the office of the Governor and the NY State Legislature, and by the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

Upcoming Performances

Lar Lubovitch’s Elemental Brubeck
November 19 & 20, 2021
The Moody Performance Hall
Dallas, TX

Adrian Danchig-Waring and Joseph Gordon
November 26 – January 2, 2022
New York City Ballet
New York, NY
PROGRAM 4 (cont.)

BALLETX
Christine Cox, Artistic & Executive Director
Tara Keating, Associate Artistic Director

Mapping Out A Sky
NY Premiere

Choreography by MATTHEW NEENAN
Music by STEPHEN SONDHEIM
Costume Design by CHRISTINE DARCH
Lighting Design by MICHAEL KORSCH
Production Manager: JASON PIZZI

Premiere
June 24, 2021
The Mann Center for the Performing Arts
Philadelphia, PA

Dancers
SHAWN CUSSEAX   JONAH DELGADO   FRANCESCA FORCELLA
BLAKE KRAPELS   SKYLER LUBIN   ALEXANDRA POLICARO
ASHLEY SIMPSON   ERIC TROPE    PETE LEO WALKER   ANDREA YORITA

Color and Light
arranged by Nico Muhly; Finishing the Hat
arranged by Steve Reich; “Johanna in Space”
arranged by Duncan Sheik; Not While I’m Around
arranged by Thomas Newman; That Old Piano Roll
arranged by Wynton Marsalis. Performed by Anthony De Mare on
Liaisons: Re-Imagining Sondheim From the Piano, ECM Records,
2015.

Upcoming Performance

November 13, 2021
Weis Center for the Performing Arts, Bucknell University
Lewisburg, PA
PROGRAM 5  
Saturday, October 23, 2021  
Sunday, October 24, 2021

ROMAN MEJIA  
Co-Presented with Vail Dance Festival  
Damian Woetzel, Artistic Director

Fandango

Choreography by ALEXEI RATMANSKY  
Music by LUIGI BOCCHERINI  
Production Manager: CHELSEA GILLESPIE

Premiere  
August 6, 2010  
Vail Dance Festival  
Vail, CO

Dancer  
ROMAN MEJIA  
New York City Ballet

Musicians  
ALBERTA KHOURY, Guitar  
DARIO NATARELLI, Percussion

BROOKLYN RIDER, String Quartet  
JOHNNY GANDELSMAN, Violin  
COLIN JACOBSN, Violin  
NICHOLAS CORDS, Viola  
MICHAEL NICOLAS, Cello

Original production of Fandango featuring Wendy Whelan made possible through the support of Lucy & Steve Cookson. The 2019 restaging of Fandango featuring Roman Mejia was made possible by Judy and Howard Berkowitz.

Upcoming Performances  
November 26, 2021 - January 2, 2022  
New York City Ballet  
New York, NY

PAUSE
TILER PECK & HERMAN CORNEJO
Co-Presented with Vail Dance Festival
Damian Woetzel, Artistic Director

Bloom
Vail Dance Festival and New York City Center Co-Commission
NY Premiere

Choreography by JUSTIN PECK
Music by CAROLINE SHAW
Costume Design by REID BARTELME & HARRIET JUNG
Lighting Design by BRANDON STIRLING BAKER
Production Manager: CHELSEA GILLESPIE

Premiere
August 9, 2021
Vail Dance Festival
Vail, CO

Dancers
TILER PECK
New York City Ballet
HERMAN CORNEJO
American Ballet Theatre

BROOKLYN RIDER, String Quartet
JOHNNY GANDELSMAN, Violin
COLIN JACOBSEN, Violin
NICHOLAS CORDS, Viola
MICHAEL NICOLAS, Cello

Bloom is a co-commission between Vail Dance Festival and New York City Center. Support for new dance works at City Center and Vail Dance Festival is provided by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation. Bloom is made possible through the generous support of Paul Repetto & Janet Pyle, and through the Vail Dance Festival’s Artistic Reserve Fund.

Upcoming Performances

Tiler Peck
November 17 - 21, 2021
New York City Center
New York, NY

Herman Cornejo
Through October 31, 2021
American Ballet Theatre
New York, NY

PAUSE
AYODELE CASEL
Ayodele Casel & Torya Beard, Artistic Directors

Where We Dwell
New York City Center Commission
World Premiere

Choreography by AYODELE CASEL
Original Music & Music Direction by CRYSTAL MONEE HALL
Direction and Staging by TORYA BEARD
Costume Design by TEMMA RICHARDSON
Associate Wardrobe Stylist: BRITTNEY GRIFFIN
Lighting Design by ALAN C. EDWARDS
Stage Manager / Production Manager: ERIN MCCOY

Dancers
JARED ALEXANDER  AYODELE CASEL  AMANDA CASTRO
KURT CSOLAK  NAOMI FUNAKI  QUYNN JOHNSON
JOHN MANZARI  DRE TORRES

Musicians
CRYSTAL MONEE HALL
KEISEL JIMÉNEZ  MAYA KRONFELD  FIMA EPHRON

Where We Dwell has been commissioned by New York City Center for the Fall for Dance Festival. Support for new dance works at City Center is provided by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation.

Upcoming Performance
January 4–9, 2022
The Joyce Theater
New York, NY
PROGRAM 1 | OCT 13 & 14
STREB EXTREME ACTION • Molinette, Add, and Air
A.I.M by Kyle Abraham • Our Indigo: If We Were a Love Song
*The Verdon Fosse Legacy • Sweet Gwen Suite

PROGRAM 2 | OCT 15 & 16
Stephen Petronio Company • American Landscapes
Houston Ballet • Sons de L’âme excerpts
Ephrat Asherie Dance • ODEON:Redux

PROGRAM 3 | OCT 19 & 20
Philadelphia Ballet • Connection
Micaela Taylor’s The TL Collective • Drift
Step Afrika! • The Movement

PROGRAM 4 | OCT 21 & 22
Lil Buck • 38109
*Lar Lubovitch Dance Company with Guest Artists
Adrian Danchig-Waring & Joseph Gordon • Each In His Own Time
BalletX • Mapping Out A Sky

PROGRAM 5 | OCT 23 & 24
Roman Mejiiia • Fandango
*Tiler Peck & Herman Cornejo • Bloom
*Ayodele Casel • World Premiere

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New York City Center thanks Majority Leader Schumer, Senator Gillibrand, Representative Maloney, and Representative Velázquez for tirelessly championing the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant which provided a lifeline to cultural organizations like New York City Center in the wake of the pandemic.

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As summer fades into memory, the pleasures of autumn come into focus. And on the cultural calendar, New York City Center’s Fall for Dance Festival is one of the most eagerly anticipated celebrations in the season that symbolically marks rebirth in the city. The Festival returns live starting October 13, in full force, with five wide-ranging slates featuring dance’s brightest performers and choreographers, including four commissioned premieres, with all tickets at $15.
City Center has always prized artists first and foremost, and its four 2021 Fall for Dance commissions reflect deep and valued relationships with some of the field’s most vibrant talents. Tap luminary Ayodele Casel performs a work sure to get the house buzzing. Modern dance icon Lar Lubovitch collaborates with New York City Ballet principals Adrian Danchig-Waring and Joseph Gordon on a special duet.

In a co-commission with the Vail Dance Festival under the guidance of ex-New York City Ballet luminary Damian Woetzel, the prodigious and talented young choreographer Justin Peck sets a dance on two of the city’s most cherished and charismatic dancers—Tiler Peck of NYCB and Herman Cornejo, a star with American Ballet Theatre. And City Center’s Broadway history gets a nod with The Verdon Fosse Legacy’s Sweet Gwen Suite, a series of dances based on trios originally created for Gwen Verdon, featuring Georgina Pazcoguin of NYCB, also a recent Broadway star.

[The] four 2021 Fall for Dance commissions reflect deep and valued relationships with some of the field’s most vibrant talents.

Two very different companies join the Verdon/Fosse suite on Program 1 (October 13 and 14). STREB EXTREME ACTION performs Molinette, Add, and Air, choreographed by Elizabeth Streb, whose daredevil risk-taking and tests of her dancers’ physical limits are legendary. In contrast is Kyle Abraham’s company, A.I.M. His style is wide-ranging and unique, often incorporating gestures, hip-hop, and ballet in a silky and emotive mix.

On October 15 and 16, Program 2 features the boldly athletic choreography of Stephen Petronio, whose sleek dancers whip their bodies with precision and adrenaline; they dance in American Landscapes. Houston Ballet dances artistic director Stanton Welch’s elegant Sons de L’Âme, an ode to the purity and elegance of the lines grounding classical ballet, and a showcase for two ravishing principal dancers. It is rounded out by ODEON:Redux by Ephrat Asherie Dance; Asherie has delighted audiences with her blend of underground, hip-hop, vogue, club, and more into a completely distinctive style.
Philadelphia Ballet is the new name of Pennsylvania Ballet, under the direction of ballet superstar Angel Corella. Leading off Program 3 (October 19 and 20), it presents Connection by Juliano Nunes, a young Brazilian choreographer who danced previously with Royal Ballet of Flanders. Another young talent, Micaela Taylor and The TL Collective, follows with the New York premiere of Drift. This LA-based choreographer has gained recognition quickly for her contemporary/pop dances which draw from her hip-hop and Gaga experience. And in what promises to be bring down the house, Step Africa! presents The Movement by Conrad Kelly II. This electrifying collective’s body of work is built upon stepping, popular nationally at Black campuses; traditional African dance; and contemporary strands combined to connect audiences with the dynamic performers.

The fourth program (October 21 and 22) begins with a Vail Dance Festival co-presentation, 38109 by Lil Buck, who has astounded audiences with his boneless maneuvers and toe glides in which he appears to skate effortlessly. It is followed by Each in His Own Time, a City Center commission in part inspired by the alchemy resulting from Adrian Danchig-Waring and Joseph Gordon’s previous performance during the 2020 Fall for Dance Festival of Lubovitch’s tender duet from Concerto Six Twenty-Two. This world premiere adds to Lubovitch’s canon of lushly swirling, organic contemporary dances laced with balletic lines, and which are always emotionally evocative. BalletX then performs Mapping Out A Sky by one of its co-founders, Matthew Neenan, who creates work combining ballet’s virtuosity with a modern flair and visual and narrative wit.

And finally, on October 23 and 24, Program 5 begins with Fandango by Alexei Ratmansky, one of the world’s pre-eminent ballet creators. This solo, danced by NYCB’s Roman Mejia, is packed with technical fireworks and fervent musicality and was originally created on Wendy Whelan. The second work, Bloom, is an eagerly anticipated duet between Tiler Peck and Herman Cornejo choreographed by Justin Peck. Winding up the festival, tap wonder Ayodele Casel creates a new work commissioned for the festival, and which will no doubt elicit a buzz and set viewers’ hearts aglow.

In contrast to whatever descriptors apply to the last nearly two years—challenging, difficult, unprecedented—a return to live dance at one of the world’s choreographic crucibles is a long-overdue pivot back to the life-affirming cultural riches of the Big Apple, and a reminder of why people flock here. It’s autumn in New York—and time to fall for dance all over again.

Susan Yung writes about dance and the arts.
When Deuce Coupe premiered at New York City Center in 1973, Twyla Tharp’s radical collaboration with The Joffrey Ballet electrified audiences and stretched the boundaries of modern dance. Half a century later, City Center celebrates the iconic artist with TWYLA NOW—an ambitious program featuring dancers chosen by Tharp from three of New York’s major dance companies—Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre, and New York City Ballet.

This evening, called TWYLA NOW, is composed of three duets referenced from the archive and a new piece. Cornbread was made as a pièce d’occasion in 2014. Second Duet was performed in a workshop by Kevin O’Day and myself, and the third, Pergolesi, is a duet first performed in Cutting Up—a 1992 tour featuring Mikhail Baryshnikov and myself. These three duets become the back story for All In, the second part of the evening, set to Brahms Opus 120.

This program was created over the course of six months, as these wonderful dancers were available in periods away from their home companies. The evening is danced by Aran Bell, Robbie Fairchild, James Gilmore, Jacqueline Harris, Catherine Hurlin, Sara Mearns, Roman Mejia, and Tiler Peck, and six young dancers—gathered from across the country and appearing through the good graces and support of their parents, teachers, and mentors.
TWYLA NOW is about time. It acknowledges a long history at City Center. Following Deuce Coupe, The Joffrey Ballet debuted As Time Goes By in the fall of the same year. Happily Ever After, a suite of dances to country music, came, again with the Joffrey, in 1976. Sextet and Octet, to a score by Edgar Myers, premiered in a 1991 season. Sweet Fields, Highway 66, and Heroes by David Bowie and Phil Glass were in a 1996 season. Known By Heart, with American Ballet Theatre and music by Terry Riley, was in 1998. Many other repertory works have also appeared in City Center seasons over the years including In the Upper Room, Nine Sinatra Songs, and The Golden Section.

What kept us all going through this devastatingly difficult period of a second year of the Covid-19 pandemic is the good will of City Center and its determination to sustain a career begun so long ago on its premises. This, in concert with a group of dancers whose spirit, talent, and faith, made it possible for me to want to come, day in and day out, to the beautiful fifth floor studio where so much of my history, as well as that of many I loved—George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, Paul Taylor—evolved.

We invite you to be a part of TWYLA NOW and to share in the enduring community of dance.

TWYLA NOW runs November 17 – 21 only at New York City Center.

Above: Robbie Fairchild, Sara Mearns, Tiler Peck, Roman Mejia, James Gilmore, Jacqueline Harris, Twyla Tharp, Catherine Hurlin, and Aran Bell; photo by Mark Seliger
New York City Center’s Principal Dance Company and America’s beloved cultural ambassador to the world, returns to the stage for a much anticipated annual season in their home theater.

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