

NEW YORK CITY CENTER

FALL FOR DANCE

Festival



OCTOBER 2021



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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!

Stephen Petronio Company

STREB EXTREME ACTION

The Verdon Fosse Legacy

Tiler Peck & Herman Cornejo

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*We acknowledge that the land on which New York City Center and its theaters stand
was forcefully taken from the Munsee Lenape tribe.*



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

Ezio Bosso by arrangement with Sony Music Entertainment Italy S.P.A.,
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Upcoming Performances

October 2021
Performance Garage
Philadelphia, PA

PAUSE



PROGRAM 3 (cont.)

MICAELA 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

MICAELA 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



PROGRAM 3 (cont.)

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 FABÁ

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
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Guest Artists

CAMILLE BLUE AJALE' COARD KATHLEEN GIRLING
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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



PROGRAM 4 (cont.)

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 CUSSEAU 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 JACOBSEN, 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



PROGRAM 5 (cont.)

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



PROGRAM 5 (cont.)

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 QUYNNE 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



2021
FALL FOR DANCE
Festival

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 Mejia • *Fandango*
*Tiler Peck & Herman Cornejo • *Bloom*
*Ayodele Casel • *World Premiere*



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NEW YORK CITY CENTER



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FALL FOR DANCE BOLDLY RETAKES CENTER STAGE

BY
SUSAN YUNG

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.

*It's autumn in
New York —
and time to
fall for dance
all over again.*

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.

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.

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

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.



Tyler Eisenreich, Georgina Pazcoguin, and Ahmad Simmons in *Sweet Gwen Suite*; photo by Paula Lobo

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.



Roman Mejia with Brooklyn Rider in *Fandango*;
photo by Christopher Duggan. Courtesy of Vail Dance Festival



AN INVITATION FROM TWYLA THARP

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

TWYLA NOW

UPCOMING EVENTS

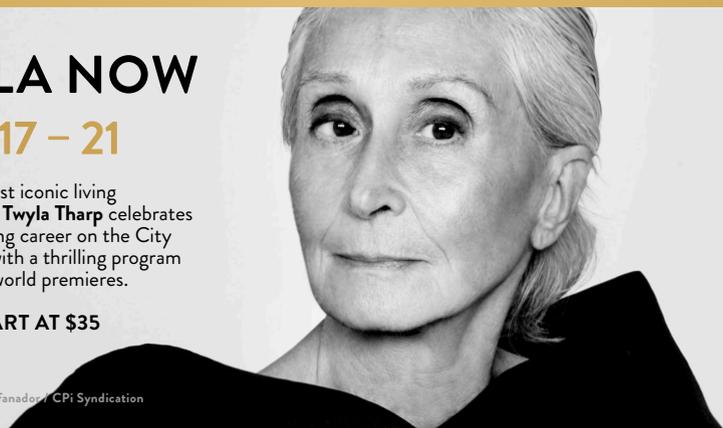
TWYLA NOW

NOV 17 – 21

The world's most iconic living choreographer **Twyla Tharp** celebrates her decades long career on the City Center stage with a thrilling program including two world premieres.

TICKETS START AT \$35

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Photo by Gert Krautbauer

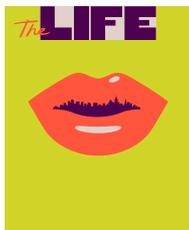
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