

# NEDERLANDS DANS THEATER



# A PARTNERSHIP OVER 50 YEARS IN THE MAKING

By Emily White

In 1968, two artistic institutions from opposite sides of the ocean came together for a performance in New York City. **Nederlands Dans Theater** (NDT) made its New York debut on the historic **New York City Center** stage, hailed as "one of the most interesting dance companies of our time" (*The New York Times*). This inaugural performance was more than just a show; it was an assertion of NDT's arrival on the international stage, poised to redefine the boundaries of dance.

More than 50 years later, NDT and City Center maintain their international friendship, continuing to showcase the most exciting voices in dance. Since its founding in 1959, NDT has consistently been at the forefront of innovation, and their dancers are known for their unparalleled skill and chameleonic abilities. NDT includes two stellar companies: NDT 1, the founding company, and NDT 2, which features early career dancers. Both attract the most exciting choreographers from all over the world - stalwarts like Jiří Kylián, Hans van Manen, and William Forsythe; provocative choreographic teams like Sharon Eyal and Gai Behar; and emerging choreographic voices like Imre van Opstal and Marne van Opstal.

After their New York debut, NDT returned many times, visiting City Center more than any other NYC venue. City Center's iconic Fall for Dance Festival, known for presenting dance from all over the world to new audiences, became a perfect destination to showcase the diverse and striking work of NDT to New Yorkers. NDT 1 and NDT 2 appeared in Fall for Dance multiple times, captivating new dance audiences and longtime fans alike with electrifying contemporary pieces, like Shutters Shut by NDT 1 in 2012 and Midnight Raga by NDT 2 in 2018. Outside of Fall for Dance, NDT 1 and NDT 2 also presented complete seasons at City Center in 2016, 2019, and 2020. In 2020, pieces like Singulière Odyssée by Paul Lightfoot and Sol León and The Missing Door by Gabriela Carizzo solidified NDT's place as a City Center audience favorite.

This year's program is set to be just as aweinspiring as NDT returns to City Center for the first time since 2020 with a work by a living legend and two US premieres.

N.N.N.N. is a piece for four dancers created by choreographic living legend William Forsythe. Forsythe first began working with NDT in the



1980s and has continued to innovate with the company to this day. His work, described as "boneless" or "anti-structural" and inspired by Laban Movement, revolutionized ballet and forever changed the field. In *N.N.N.N.*, the dancers create a soundscape with their bodies and breath, allowing audiences to "see the music and hear the dance."

The Point Being is a US premiere created by the choreographic team Imre van Opstal and Marne van Opstal. The van Opstals are siblings who are both former dancers in NDT 1, and now follow in the tradition of NDT dancers developing their choreographic careers with the company. The Point Being is a collaboration with DRIFT, an Amsterdam-based art company that builds installations that evoke natural states of being and how they are interrupted by technology in modern times. In this piece, the physical and lighting installation is in conversation with the choreography in a multidisciplinary exploration of synchronicity.

Another US premiere, *Jakie*, is a captivating, virtuosic piece for a cast of 16 created by choreographic duo **Sharon Eyal** and **Gai Behar**,

with original composition by their longtime collaborator, techno musician **Ori Lichtik**. Eyal and Behar are innovative choreographers whose work is characterized by dark hedonism, futuristic androgyny, and hypnotic repetition. Lichtik's soundscape is characterized by minimalistic, pulsing rhythms and melodies. Eyal and Behar strive to fascinate audiences by defying preconceived notions of movement, and their sensual yet rigorous work evokes the influence of techno and the club environment.

The return of NDT to City Center is both a celebration of a remarkable, decades-long partnership, as well as a moment to look towards the future. This partnership transcends borders and generations, inspiring audiences and artists alike to embrace the transformative power of dance. As NDT continues to push the boundaries of the form in 2024, we warmly welcome them back to our City Center stage.

Emily White is the Editorial Manager at New York City Center.

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Apr 3-6, 2024

# NEW YORK CITY CENTER presents

# **NEDERLANDS DANS THEATER**

Artistic Director EMILY MOLNAR Managing Director WILLEMIJN MAAS

Leadership Support
Lynne and Richard Pasculano Fund for Programming and Education

Major Support for Nederlands Dans Theater at New York City Center

DANCE BY REFLECTIONS VAN CLEEF & ARPELS

We acknowledge that the land on which New York City Center and its theaters stand was forcefully taken from the Munsee Lenape tribe. We respectfully honor and acknowledge all Indigenous communities—past, present, and future—for their essential and ongoing connections to this land.



Welcome to an evening with NDT 1! We are thrilled to be back at New York City Center with a program featuring a vibrant range of ideas and expressions in dance by internationally acclaimed artists William Forsythe, Sharon Eyal & Gai Behar, and Imre van Opstal & Marne van Opstal in collaboration with renowned Dutch designers DRIFT and Lonneke Gordijn.

Throughout his career, William Forsythe's keen interest in the intricacies of choreographic organization has informed the breadth of his significant canon of work. N.N.N. is a clear example of Forsythe's later style, which explores facets of counterpoint emerging from intense ensemble interdependence. Underscored by the subtle, murmured flashes of music by Thom Willems, four dancers enter into a complex, intense music-making of their own.

What happens when multiple, seemingly unrelated events collide? How do they overlap as one breathable entity that consistently morphs into new ways of being? Imre van Opstal & Marne van Opstal explore the idea of synchronicity in their newest work for NDT 1. The Point Being was created in close collaboration with renowned Dutch designer Lonneke Gordijn and DRIFT. In this multidisciplinary creation, choreography, scenography, and music generate both friction and harmony.

We are delighted to share our recent creation, *Jakie*, by Sharon Eyal & Gai Behar. This exhilarating work is accompanied by a soundscape composed by longtime collaborator Ori Lichtik. With *Jakie*, this dynamic duo finds renewed force, a place where the sensual and unexpected meet in fascinating contrast highlighting the hypnotic virtuosity of the dancers of NDT 1. The work pronounces the continued artistic experimentation of Eyal and Behar's originality.

It is a pleasure for us to share these works with the New York City Center audience. Thank you for being here. We hope you enjoy the program!

#### **Emily Molnar**

Artistic Director, NDT



#### THE PROGRAM

#### N. N. N. N.

Choreography by WILLIAM FORSYTHE
Music Composition by THOM WILLEMS
Staging by ANDER ZABALA, AYMAN HARPER,
CYRIL BALDY, AMANCIO GONZALEZ
Scenery Design by WILLIAM FORSYTHE
Costume Design by WILLIAM FORSYTHE
Lighting Design by WILLIAM FORSYTHE
Rehearsal Directors: LUCAS CRANDALL, EMILY MOLNAR

Premiere November 21, 2002 Ballett Frankfurt Operahouse Frankfurt, Germany

#### INTERMISSION

## The Point Being

US Premiere

Choreography by IMRE VAN OPSTAL & MARNE VAN OPSTAL in collaboration with DRIFT

Music by AMOS BEN-TAL/OFFprojects

Scenery Design by DRIFT

Costume Design by IMRE VAN OPSTAL & MARNE VAN OPSTAL, in collaboration with NDT's Costume Department

Lighting Design by TOM VISSER

Rehearsal Director: TAMAKO AKIYAMA

Premiere September 21, 2023 Nederlands Dans Theater Amare, The Hague, The Netherlands

The new production by Imre van Opstal & Marne van Opstal in collaboration with DRIFT is co-sponsored by Ammodo, Fonds 21, and Zabawas.



#### INTERMISSION

#### Jakie

**US** Premiere

Choreography by SHARON EYAL & GAI BEHAR

Music Composition by ORI LICHTIK,

including music by RYUICHI SAKAMOTO, performed by ALVA NOTO

Scenery Design by SHARON EYAL & GAI BEHAR

Costume Design by SHARON EYAL,

in collaboration with NDT's Costume Department

Assistants to the Choreographers: CLYDE E. ARCHER, GUIDO DUTILH, LEO LERUS

Rehearsal Director: FRANCESCA CAROTI

Lighting Design by ALON COHEN

Premiere

May 11, 2023

Nederlands Dans Theater

Amare, The Hague, The Netherlands

Music Credit: Composition by Ori Lichtik. Including music by Ryuichi Sakamoto, performed by Alva Noto: *The Revenant Main Theme*. © New Regency Music Inc., Milan Records, Sony Music Publishing. Einstürzende Neubauten: GS1. Written by Blixa Bargeld. NU Unruh, Alexander Hacke, Jochen Arbeit, Rudolph Moser. Published by Freibank Musikverlage/CTM Publishing. Courtesy of POTOMAK.

Scan the QR-code to see tonight's cast information or use the link:

https://l.ead.me/NDT1NYCC



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FAY VAN BAAR The Netherlands



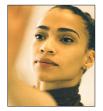
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The Netherlands



JON BOND USA



CONNER BORMANN *USA* 



PAMELA CAMPOS Brazil

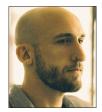


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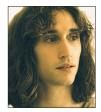


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Canada



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# MEET THE ARTISTS

#### **NEDERLANDS DANS THEATER**

Founded in 1959, Nederlands Dans Theater (NDT) is a leading international contemporary dance company dedicated to the research and creation of new work. In the pursuit of innovation, NDT collaborates with exceptional international artists from dance and other disciplines showcasing a diversity of voices and perspectives. NDT is a catalyst for the future of dance by cultivating creativity and supporting dancers and makers at all stages of their careers, bringing dance of the highest caliber to a wide audience in the Netherlands and around the world, and providing exceptional research and talent development opportunities for the next generation of professional dance artists.

NDT 1 is a company of 27 uniquely versatile and virtuosic artists who deliver innovative choreography created in collaboration with world-renowned makers. NDT 2 acts as a bridge between emerging and mid-career artists providing a supportive environment for young dancers to develop further their practice, immersing themselves in numerous collaborations with a range of both emerging and established choreographers.

WILLIAM FORSYTHE has been active in the field of choreography for over 50 years. His three decades of work with his ensembles in Frankfurt exerted significant influence upon generations of artists in a wide array of creative practices. With an initial focus on the organizational underpinnings of academic ballet, Forsythe has extended his choreographic discourse into the field of visual arts since 1991. While his work for the stage resides in the repertories of ensembles worldwide, his installations are presented internationally in museums and exhibitions. Forsythe has been the recipient of numerous awards which include the Golden Lion of the Venice Biennale and Der Faust, both for lifetime achievement.

IMRE VAN OPSTAL and MARNE VAN OPSTAL — both former NDT dancers — are Dutch choreographers and renowned performing artists; as siblings they form a creative duo. After having enjoyed successful and prominent careers at the prestigious NDT1

& NDT 2 and Batsheva Dance Company, they went on to pursue their own creativity. The collaborative nature of their work often speaks to the human condition, limits, and possibilities of the body and mind. Their work is known to be multi-layered and surrealistic, with a strong and outspoken dance language known for its eclecticism, theatricality, and partnering elements.

They debuted with their creation LiNK for the talent development program Up & Coming Choreographers in 2014. For Up & Coming Choreographers 2015 they made the work John Doe. Season 2016-2017 marked their choreographic debut for the regular programme of NDT 2 with The Grey (2017). They created their highly praised first work for NDT 1, Take Root (2019), in season 2018-2019, which was awarded with a nomination for a Dutch Zwaan for 'best dance production.'

In 2020, both decided to fully focus on choreography. They then created *Baby don't hurt me* for NDT 1, around the themes of identity, sexuality, gender, and love in 2021. It was met with critical acclaim.

SHARON EYAL and GAI BEHAR form an innovative duo in the contemporary danceworld. For NDT 2 they created Sara (2013) and FEELINGS (2016) and for NDT 1 they created Bedroom Folk (2015) and Salt Womb (2016). In 2013 the duo formed their dance company L-E-V.

Sharon Eyal was born in Jerusalem. She danced with the Batsheva Dance Company between 1990-2008 and started choreographing within the framework of the company's Batsheva Dancers Create project. Eyal served as Associate Artistic Director for Batsheva between 2003-2004, and as a House Choreographer for the company between 2005-2012.

From 2009, Eyal created over 30 new creations for dance companies around the world such as NDT, the Royal Swedish Ballet, GoteborgsOperans Danskompani, Carte Blanche Dance, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Staatstheater Mainz, and more.

# MEET THE ARTISTS

**EMILY MOLNAR** (Artistic Director, NDT) has been the Artistic Director of Nederlands Dans Theater since August 2020, where her vision is to move the company into a new era of creativity. Molnar has worked and toured extensively throughout the world as an internationally respected and critically acclaimed dance artist, choreographer, mentor, arts advocate, and leader. After graduating from Canada's National Ballet School in 1990, she pursued a performance career as a member of the National Ballet of Canada, Ballet BC, and a soloist with Ballett Frankfurt under director William Forsythe. From 2009-2020, Molnar was the Artistic Director of Ballet BC, where her vision for innovation and collaboration resulted in the creation of over forty-five new works and steered the company to international recognition. For five years, Molnar served as the Artistic Director of Dance at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. Her contributions have been recognized with numerous awards and distinctions. In 2016, Molnar was named a Member of the Order of Canada, one of Canada's highest civilian honors, for her contribution to dance.

STANFORD MAKISHI (Vice President & Artistic Director, Dance) was appointed to his current position of Artistic Director, Dance, at New York City Center in 2021 after serving as vice president for programming since 2015. He began at the organization in 2011 as associate producer of its Fall for Dance Festival. Makishi danced with Trisha Brown from 1992 to 2006, was assistant director of her production of Winterreise, and has taught and restaged her work internationally. He also served as artistic advisor for the Ringling International Arts Festival in Sarasota, executive director of the Baryshnikov Arts Center, director of programs at the Asian Cultural Council, and director of creative services at Carnegie Hall.

MICHAEL S. ROSENBERG (President & CEO, New York City Center) has a long and distinguished career of leading performing arts institutions to nurture artists, expand audiences, and engage communities. Beginning with Drama Dept. (the Greenwich Village artist collective he co-founded in the 90s) and carrying through

to the present, he has helped develop works by playwrights, songwriters, choreographers, directors, authors, designers, visual artists, and students. As Managing Director of La Jolla Playhouse, Rosenberg worked with Artistic Director Christopher Ashley and the staff to oversee the development and production of a host of other acclaimed productions, many of which transferred to Broadway, Off-Broadway, and the West End - including the international smash hit Come from Away. More recently, as Managing Director of McCarter Theatre Center, Rosenberg was part of the evolution of the historic theater, expanding programming to include family-friendly performances and multidisciplinary events. His work in building diversity, equity, and inclusion encompasses artists, audiences, and administrators alike.

NEW YORK CITY CENTER has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city since 1943. The distinctive Neo-Moorish building was founded by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia as Manhattan's first performing arts center with the mission of making the best in theater, dance, and music accessible to all audiences. This commitment continues today through celebrated dance and musical theater series like the Fall for Dance Festival and the Tonyhonored Encores! series; the annual season by Principal Dance Company Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; and new series Artists at the Center. City Center welcomes audiences to experience internationally acclaimed artists on the same stage where legends made their mark. Dedicated to a culture built on the values of curiosity, collaboration, accessibility, inclusivity, City Center's dynamic programming, art exhibitions, and studio events are complemented by education and community engagement programs that bring the performing arts to thousands of New York City students, teachers, and families every year.

Glenda Sol Koeraus, Zack Krajnyak, Phoenix Lin,

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Gender diversity is welcome at New York City Center.

Please use the restroom that best aligns with your
personal gender identity or expression.

New York City Center is accessible to people with disabilities and has a hearing augmentation system.

See the House Manager for assistance.

Resuscitation masks and latex gloves are available at the House Manager's office. New York City Center is a heart safe facility.

Visit NYCityCenter.org/PlanYourVisit for our latest health, safety, and ticket policies.



The Press Agents, Company and House Managers employed in this production are represented by the Association of Theatrical Press Agents & Managers.



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# NEW YORK CITY CENTER

In 1943, Mayor Fiorello La Guardia and City Council President Newbold Morris established City Center as Manhattan's first performing arts center—a place where dance, theater, opera, and music could be enjoyed under one roof, at affordable prices.

Today, we welcome more than 300,000 annual visitors, and our education and community engagement programs reach thousands of New York City students, teachers, and families in all five boroughs.



Maestro Laszlo Halasz establishes the New York City Center Opera Company, later known as New York City Opera.

1944

The newly formed Joffrey Ballet becomes a resident company.

Choreographer George Balanchine and impresario Lincoln Kirstein accept invitation to establish New York City Ballet.

1948

of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine builds Mecca Temple.

The Ancient Order

1923

1954

William Hammerstein, son of Oscar Hammerstein II, establishes the New York City Center Light Opera Company. He is succeeded by Jean Dalrymple, a longtime board member, producer, director, and press agent.

1966

1943

Saved from demolition, the theater opens on December 11 with a special concert by the New York Philharmonic, conducted by Mayor LaGuardia himself. 1945

Paul Robeson performs Othello the first African American to play the part in more than 100 years.

Leonard Bernstein debuts as conductor of the New York City Symphony at age 27.





Photo by Gerry Goodstein

The beloved Encores! series is established, celebrating American musical theater with three annual revivals.

The 1996 production of Chicago transfers to Broadway where it remains the longest-running revival in history.

1994

City Center reopens its doors
with a full season of
programming after
providing online
digital content during
the height of the
Covid-19 pandemic.

A \$56 million renovation restores and modernizes the historic theater. A starstudded Gala celebration marks the reopening, with Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg taking the stage to conduct The Encores! Orchestra.

2011

2021

### #E|0\$#E|0\$#20\$

City Center celebrates 80 years at the center of the arts, 30 years of Encores!, and 20 years of the Fall for Dance Festival.

2023

2018

City Center celebrates its landmark 75th anniversary.

2004

1983

New York Landmarks Preservation Commission grants landmark status.



The first Fall for Dance Festival, celebrating dance in all its forms, invites existing and new dance lovers to experience emerging and well-known artists. Its affordable ticket prices and thrilling performances continue to draw sell-out crowds.



Alvin Ailey
American Dance
Theater—now City
Center's Principal
Dance Company—
gives its first
City Center
performance.

# **UPCOMING EVENTS**



STING KATE PRINCE APR 30 - MAY 12 Featuring 27 of **Sting**'s most beloved songs, this thrillingly executed new dance-theater sensation tells an uplifting tale of humanity and hope through world-class contemporary and street dance.

Message In A Bottle is brought to life by awardwinning choreographer Kate Prince and new musical arrangements by Alex Lacamoire (Hamilton, Dear Evan Hansen) and Grammy winner Martin Terefe.

Photo by Lynn Theisen





# SCAN TO EXPLORE THE REST OF THE SEASON NYCITYCENTER.ORG





### DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM **APR 11** – **14**

DTH celebrates its 55th season by honoring its legacy and ushering in the next generation with audience favorites and new repertory alike, from Robert Garland, William Forsythe, Robert Bondara, and George Balanchine.



### MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY APR 17 – 20

Signature Martha Graham works The Rite of Spring and Appalachian Spring are presented alongside Agnes de Mille's 1942 classic Rodeo and a new work by Jamar Roberts with composer Rhiannon Giddens.



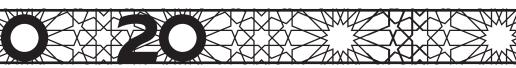
### BALLET HISPÁNICO **APR 25** – **28**

Featuring the restaging of Mad'moiselle, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's homage to Latina women, Buscando a Juan, the most recent work by Eduardo Vilaro, and a fun-filled, interactive En Familia Matinee.



#### 30 YEARS OF ENCORES! TITANIC JUN 11 - 23

Set sail with an all-star cast, including Chuck Cooper, Eddie Cooper, Drew Gehling, Ramin Karimloo, Emilie Kouatchou, Judy Kuhn, Bonnie Milligan, Brandon Uranowitz, and Samantha Williams in Maury Yeston and Peter Stone's iconic, operatic musical directed by Anne Kaufman.





# VISUAL ART at NEW YORK CITY CENTER

#### SHUMAN LOUNGE

DEBORAH KASS DAY AFTER DAY

#### **GRAND TIER LOBBY**

SOL LEWITT
WALL DRAWING #357
(PICTURED ABOVE)

STEVEN ANTONAOKOS TERRAIN #1, TERRAIN #3, TERRAIN #4, TERRAIN #5



**LEARN MORE** 

New York City Center hosts rotating exhibits of visual art throughout the year that you can visit when you come to a performance. Learn more about what's on display this season, and don't forget to check out the Shuman Lounge or Grand Tier Lobby while you're here!

Currently on view in the Shuman Lounge is **Day After Day** by **Deborah Kass**. New York-based artist Kass works at the intersection of painting and popular culture, and *Day After Day* (2010) is inspired by **Stephen Sondheim**'s lyrics in "Not a Day Goes By," from the musical *Merrily We Roll Along*.

Two artists currently have work on display in the Grand Tier Lobby. *Wall Drawing #357* by Sol LeWitt (1927 – 2008) is a visual ode to choreographer Lucinda Childs, with whom he collaborated on her 1979 masterwork *Dance*, which was performed at City Center in October 2023 by Lyon Opera Ballet. The work of Steven Antonaokos (1926 – 2013) is characterized by his exploration of the ways that light activates space. In his *Terrain #1*, *Terrain #3*, *Terrain #4*, and *Terrain #5*, it is the material, the forms, and their relationships to their sites that define them.

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Encores! The Tap Dance Kid; photo by Joan Marcus



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**30** years ago, the first **Encores!** revivals welcomed musical theater fans to a new kind of performance series, breathing brilliant life into a quintessentially American art form.

**20** years ago, the Fall for Dance Festival made a bold promise to New York: international and local dance works in a variety of styles, with every single seat \$20.

This year, you're invited to join us as we celebrate the breadth and vitality of the place we all call home. **Tickets start at \$45** for every single show (\$28 for younger audiences through our Access Club). And we're thrilled to offer expanded programming across all aspects of the organization to welcome even more New Yorkers into our starry domed theater.

For this landmark season, we've extended our Encores! productions of *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Jelly's Last Jam*, and *Titanic* to two week runs giving you more opportunities to see these here-and-gone productions. And for the first time ever, we've expanded our Lynne and Richard Pasculano Student Matinees to welcome thousands of young New Yorkers to experience dedicated school-time Encores! performances.

We're welcoming back the breathtaking artistry of Nederlands Dans Theater and invited 12 other international artists and companies to grace our stage. Lyon Opera Ballet brought to life a masterwork by Lucinda Childs in collaboration with Philip Glass and Sol LeWitt, and a special two-week engagement of Message In A Bottle features Kate Prince's contemporary and street-dance influenced choreography set to 27 of Sting's most-beloved songs.

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