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New York City Center announces 2017 Fall for Dance Festival, Oct 2–14

14th annual Festival will feature 20 international dance companies and artists

All tickets \$15

5 World Premiere Fall for Dance commissions from Kyle Abraham, Michelle Dorrance, Mark Morris, Troy Schumacher, and Sébastien Ramirez and Honji Wang

Festival debuts by Ballet BC; Cie Art Move Concept; Danza Contemporanea de Cuba; David Hallberg; Gauthier Dance//Dance Company Theaterhaus Stuttgart; German Cornejo's Tango Fire; and Sanjukta Sinha, IceCraft Dance Company

August 8, 2017/New York, NY—Arlene Shuler, New York City Center President and CEO, today announced the lineup for the 2017 Fall for Dance Festival. The 14th edition of the annual festival will feature 20 acclaimed dance companies and artists from around the world from October 2 through 14. In keeping with City Center's commitment to make the best in the performing arts accessible to the widest possible audience, all tickets for Fall for Dance are \$15. Tickets go on sale Sunday, September 10, at 11am.

The two-week Festival will consist of five unique programs (each repeated once) with performances by Abraham.In.Motion; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; American Ballet Theatre; Ballet BC (Canada); Cie Art Move Concept (France); Danza Contemporanea de Cuba (Cuba); Dorrance Dance; Gauthier Dance/Dance Company Theaterhaus Stuttgart (Germany); German Cornejo's Tango Fire (Argentina); David Hallberg; Hubbard Street Dance Chicago; Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo; Vincent Mantsoe (France/South Africa); Sara Mearns and Honji Wang (New York/Germany); Miami City Ballet; Pennsylvania Ballet; San Francisco Ballet; Sanjukta Sinha, IceCraft Dance Company (India); Stephen Petronio Company; and Trisha Brown Dance Company.

"This year we're excited to present five world premiere commissions from some of the dance world's most sought after choreographers spanning ballet to tap to hip-hop," said Arlene Shuler, President and CEO. "Kyle Abraham and Michelle Dorrance, both past City Center Choreography Fellows and MacArthur Fellows, are creating new works for their companies; revered choreographer Mark Morris, also a MacArthur Fellow, is creating a solo for American Ballet Theatre principal dancer David Hallberg; and Troy Schumacher is making a new work for Miami City Ballet. The final work is a co-commission with Jacob's Pillow Dance and Fall for Dance North from hip-hop artists Sébastien Ramierz and Honji Wang, which features Wang and New York City Ballet principal dancer Sara Mearns."

The Fall for Dance Festival has received international acclaim for its quality, innovation, and success in engaging new and younger dance audiences. Since its inception, the Festival has presented over 200 companies and introduced more than 300,000 newcomers and dance enthusiasts to an eclectic mix of choreographers and performers.

The 2017 Fall for Dance Festival runs October 2–14 at New York City Center (131 West 55th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues). All tickets are \$15 and go on sale Sunday, September 10, at 11am. Tickets can be purchased online at NYCityCenter.org, by calling 212.581.1212, or in person at the box office.

2017 Fall for Dance Festival

- *Fall for Dance Festival Commission
- **Co-commission by Jacob's Pillow, Fall for Dance, and Fall for Dance North All programming subject to change

Program One

Mon, Oct 2 & Tue, Oct 3 at 8pm

*Miami City Ballet, New Troy Schumacher, Troy Schumacher

This Fall for Dance **World Premiere** commission by choreographer Troy Schumacher is a meditation on childhood, set to music by Francis Poulenc and featuring a cast of 14 dancers. Miami City Ballet, now in its 32nd season, has been led by Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez since 2012 and was founded in 1985 by Edward Villella and Toby Lerner Ansin. With a company of 51 dancers and a repertoire of more than 100 ballets, Miami City Ballet performs annually for nearly 100,000 patrons during its South Florida home season in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach, and Naples, and tours to top theaters domestically and internationally.

Vincent Mantsoe, GULA, Vincent Sekwati KoKo Mantsoe

Inspired by the unique body language and soaring physicality of birds, *GULA* conjures a journey of transformation from man to bird, earth to sky, and back again. Raised in the Soweto Township outside Johannesburg, South Africa, Vincent Sekwati KoKo Mantsoe combines the street dance of his childhood with traditional and contemporary dance styles. Spirituality and the cultural influences of African, Aboriginal Australian, Asian, contemporary, and ballet traditions are important influences on his work. Mantsoe has toured internationally, performing at venues including The Kennedy Center (Washington, DC), the Dance Umbrella (London, UK), and Canada's National Arts Centre (Ottawa). Primarily a solo performer, he has also created work for companies including Dance Theatre of Harlem and COBA (Collective of Black Artists) in Toronto, Canada.

Trisha Brown Dance Company, You can see us, Trisha Brown

In Trisha Brown's 1994 solo *If you couldn't see me*, she intrigued audiences by dancing with her back turned, allowing only glimpses of her face in profile. A year later, she revitalized the concept with *You can see us*, created in collaboration with Bill T. Jones and blending a mirrored solo with the dynamic tension of barely glimpsed movement. Brown formed her company in 1970, engaging collaborators like Laurie Anderson, John Cage, Donald Judd, and Robert Rauschenberg. With these and other partners, she created an exceptionally varied body of over 100 dance works. The first woman choreographer to receive the coveted MacArthur Fellowship, Brown was awarded a host of other honors in her lifetime, including fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York "Bessies" Lifetime Achievement Award, and Commandeur dans l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres by the government of France.

This performance is presented in honor of the memory of Trisha Brown.

*Dorrance Dance, Myelination, Michelle Dorrance

This **World Premiere**, fully extended version of Michelle Dorrance's *Myelination* (Fall for Dance Commission, 2015) features original live music by Donovan Dorrance and Gregory Richardson, with vocals by Aaron Marcellus. Founded in 2011 by Artistic Director and 2015 MacArthur Fellow Michelle Dorrance, the New York City—based company's inaugural performance garnered a Bessie Award for "blasting open our notions of tap." Dorrance Dance has since performed across the country and around the world to rave reviews and packed houses, continuing its passionate commitment to expanding the audience for tap dance, an original American art form.

Program Two

Wed, Oct 4 & Thu, Oct 5 at 8pm

Pennsylvania Ballet, Rush®, Christopher Wheeldon

In this **New York Premiere** from choreographer Christopher Wheeldon, Pennsylvania Ballet brings a postmodern edge to classic technique. This fast-paced ensemble work centers on a fresh homage to the pas de deux and features an ethereal score by Martinů. Founded in 1963 with the support of George Balanchine, Pennsylvania Ballet has flourished by developing local and international talent side by side. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Angel Corella, the company now honors its deep aesthetic roots while presenting a diverse repertoire of full-length ballets, contemporary classics, and world premieres.

Cie Art Move Concept, Nibiru, Soria Rem and Mehdi Ouachek

For their **Fall for Dance Debut**, Cie Art Move Concept presents *Nibiru* (**US Premiere**), a singular movement work for an ensemble of dancers about the search for their place in a meaningful whole. French hip-hop stars Soria Rem and Mehdi Ouachek mix contemporary dance with circus arts and mime to create what they call "abstract" dance, a genre-blurring tour-de-force of movement and motion. A couple in real life and on stage, Rem and Ouacheck founded Cie Art Move Concept in 2009 as a forum for their original choreography.

Stephen Petronio Company, Bloodlines: Yvonne Rainer and Steve Paxton

Created to honor the lineage of American postmodern dance masters, *Bloodlines* is a project by Stephen Petronio to remount iconic works in an effort to shift dance history from the books to the body. *Chair-Pillow* by Yvonne Rainer and *Excerpt from Goldberg Variations* by Steve Paxton were remounted as a part of the third season of *Bloodlines*, and represent the humor, athleticism, and inventiveness inherent to these two choreographers. Founded in 1984, Stephen Petronio Company has performed throughout the world, including 23 seasons at The Joyce Theater, and has been commissioned by some of the world's most prestigious modern and ballet companies. In 2016, the Company began considering its impact on the future and sustainability of this most ephemeral art form by establishing the Petronio Residency Initiative (PRI) at Crow's Nest, a retreat center where research and the creative process are paramount. The program is part of a growing ecosystem in the US dedicated to fostering a model for the future of contemporary dance.

German Cornejo's Tango Fire, Tango Fire, German Cornejo

Sizzling with sensuality, Buenos Aires—based sensation Tango Fire evokes the intoxicating passion of Argentina's most iconic dance form. Making their **Fall for Dance Debut**, this dynamic group is accompanied by a live band and features World Tango Champions and some of the best dancers from Buenos Aires's great tango houses. The definitive Argentine tango company, Tango Fire combines extraordinary choreography by German Cornejo with live music from the great Tango masters, including Piazzolla, Pugliese, and Gardel.

Program Three

Fri, Oct 6 & Sat, Oct 7 at 8pm

Sanjukta Sinha, IceCraft Dance Company, Kin-Incede, Padma Bhusan Kumudini Lakhia

Blending pure classical Kathak dance with contemporary inflections, renowned artist Sanjukta Sinha, making her **Festival Debut**, combines emotional range and virtuosic movement in this **US Premiere** work featuring live music. *Kin-Incede* depicts the body and mind of a single woman in three different ways through three choreographic vignettes, using explosive movement and intense emotionality to conjure the complexity of one lived experience. IceCraft is an international production house for the arts that sponsors artists across cultures and disciplines to expand their horizons across continents.

American Ballet Theatre, Souvenir d'un lieu cher, Alexei Ratmansky

Souvenir d'un lieu cher, which translates as "memory of a dear place," was written for violin and piano by Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky between March and May 1878. A work for four dancers, Alexei Ratmansky's choreography uses two movements *Meditation* and *Scherzo*, in an orchestration by Alexander Glazunov. American Ballet Theatre is recognized as one of the great dance companies in the world. Founded in 1940, ABT performs for more than 400,000 people annually. It has made more than 30 international tours to 50 countries, and has been sponsored by the State Department of the United States on many of these engagements. In keeping with its long-standing commitment to bringing the finest in dance to the widest possible audience, ABT has recently enjoyed triumphant successes with engagements in Abu Dhabi, Brisbane, Hong Kong, Oman and Paris. On April 27, 2006, by an act of Congress, American Ballet Theatre became America's National Ballet Company®.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Open Door, Ronald K. Brown

Acclaimed choreographer Ronald K. Brown's Cuban-inspired *Open Door* explores the power of dance and music as a vehicle for culture and compassion. Brown's travels to Cuba inspired much of this movement, which is set to a soundtrack of songs by Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater grew from a now-fabled performance in March 1958 at the 92nd Street Y in New York City. The company has gone on to perform for an estimated 25 million people and has reached millions more through television broadcasts, film screenings, and online platforms. In 2008, a U.S. Congressional resolution designated the Company as "a vital American cultural ambassador to the world." When Ailey began creating dances, he drew upon his "blood memories" of Texas, the blues, spirituals, and gospel as inspiration, which resulted in the creation of his most popular and critically acclaimed work, *Revelations*. Although he created 79 ballets over his lifetime, Ailey maintained that his company was not exclusively a repository for his own work. Today the company continues this mission by presenting important works of the past and commissioning new ones. In all, more than 235 works by more than 90 choreographers have been part of the company's repertory. Before his untimely death in 1989, Ailey named Judith Jamison as his successor, and over the next 21 years she brought the Company to unprecedented success. Jamison, in turn, personally selected Robert Battle to succeed her in 2011.

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, Paquita after Marius Petipa

A superb example of the French style as it was exported to Russia in the late 19th century, *Paquita* exploits the virtuoso possibilities of academic classical dance. Founded in 1974 by a group of ballet enthusiasts for the purpose of presenting a playful, entertaining view of traditional, classical ballet in parody form and *en travesti*, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo first performed in the late-late shows of Off-Off Broadway lofts. Since those beginnings, the Trocks have established themselves as a major dance phenomenon throughout the world, performing in more than 35 countries and 600 cities worldwide. The original concept of Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo has not changed since its inception. It is a Company of professional male dancers performing the full range of the ballet and modern dance repertoire, including classical and original works in faithful renditions of the manners and

conceits of those dance styles, incorporating and exaggerating the foibles, accidents, and underlying incongruities of serious dance.

Program Four

Wed, Oct, 11 & Thu, Oct 12 at 8pm

Gauthier Dance//Dance Company Theaterhaus Stuttgart, Streams, Andonis Foniadakis

Unfolding like a stream of consciousness, the interlocking movements of this **US Premiere** seem chaotic at first glance but soon reveal a tiny excerpt of an immeasurable whole. Gauthier Dance//Dance Company Theaterhaus Stuttgart (**Festival Debut**) is a young, dynamic company of 16 highly individual, versatile dancers, directed by the dancer, choreographer, and musician Eric Gauthier. In addition to presenting contemporary dance by Gauthier, the company performs the work of internationally renowned choreographers such as Mauro Bigonzetti, William Forsythe, Itzik Galili, Jiří Kylián, Paul Lightfoot/Sol León, and Hans van Manen. Founded in 2007, Gauthier Dance quickly established itself in the German dance scene and has since become an international brand.

*Abraham.In.Motion, Drive, Kyle Abraham

Kyle Abraham creates a Fall for Dance commission for his company of eight dancers. *Drive,* a high energy, propulsive new work set to thumping club beats, makes its **World Premiere** at this year's Festival.

**Sara Mearns and Honji Wang, No. 1, Sébastien Ramirez and Honji Wang

A co-commission by Jacob's Pillow Dance, Fall for Dance Festival, and Fall for Dance North, this collaborative **World Premiere** features New York City Ballet principal dancer Sara Mearns and Honji Wang of Company Wang Ramirez. The piece was presented as a work-in-progress at the Jacob's Pillow 85th Anniversary Gala in June. Sara Mearns in one of today's most internationally celebrated classical ballet dancers. In addition to performing featured roles in masterpieces by George Balanchine, Mearns has originated roles in works by world renowned choreographers including Joshua Bergasse, Pontus Lindberg, Jodi Melnick, Justin Peck, and Alexei Ratmansky. Honji Wang is a dancer, choreographer, and artistic director. Born and raised in Germany by Korean parents, Wang's dance language is an abstraction of hip-hop dance with influences of earlier martial arts and ballet training.

Ballet BC, Bill, Sharon Eyal and Gai Behar

Originally created in 2010 for Batsheva Dance Company, Sharon Eyal and Gai Behar's *Bill* plunges its audience into the dark recesses where thought is replaced by instinct. Founded in 1986, Ballet BC (**Festival Debut**) has been under the leadership of Artistic Director Emily Molnar since 2009. Ballet BC is an internationally acclaimed collaborative and creation-based contemporary ballet company that is a leader and resource in the creation, production, and education of contemporary dance in Canada. Bold and innovative, the Company's distinctive style and approach has made a unique and valuable national contribution to the development of dance.

Program Five

Fri, Oct 13 & Sat, Oct 14 at 8pm

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Solo Echo, Crystal Pite

In this **New York Premiere** by choreographer Crystal Pite, a dying man is left alone to reckon with his life—alone except for seven different echoes of himself, danced by seven different dancers. Portrayed across gender and body type, these seven iterations of one fading soul represent distinct and nuanced versions of a character seeking something like wholeness and resolution. Hubbard Street Dance

Chicago's core purpose is to bring artists, art, and audiences together to enrich, engage, educate, transform, and change lives through the experience of dance. Celebrating Season 40 in 2017–18 under the artistic leadership of Glenn Edgerton, Hubbard Street continues to innovate and support ascendant creative talent while presenting repertory by internationally recognized living artists.

San Francisco Ballet, Concerto Grosso, Helgi Tomasson

Concerto Grosso, created for the San Francisco Ballet's 2003 Opening Night Gala, is set to the music of Francesco Geminiani after Arcangelo Corelli. The tour-de-force work for five men has received acclaim from both audiences and critics alike. Long recognized for pushing boundaries in dance, SF Ballet has always built upon strong classical roots, while continually exploring and redefining where the art form is headed. The company was the first to create full-length American productions of *Swan Lake* (1940) and *Nutcracker* (1944). Helgi Tomasson's arrival as artistic director in 1985 began a new era at SF Ballet. Tomasson has choreographed extensively for the Company while significantly expanding the repertory by commissioning new works. In 1991, SF Ballet performed in New York City for the first time in 26 years. In recent years, the Company has toured to Paris, London, Moscow, Hamburg, Athens, Shanghai, and Beijing, and is widely acknowledged as one of the preeminent ballet companies in the world.

*David Hallberg, Twelve of 'em, Mark Morris

Venerated choreographer Mark Morris, hailed as "the most successful and influential choreographer alive, and indisputably the most musical" (*The New York Times*), creates this **World Premiere** solo for international ballet star David Hallberg in his first appearance at Fall for Dance. Set to live solo piano, *Twelve of 'em* features costumes designed by Isaac Mizrahi. Morris formed the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1980 and has since created more than 150 works for the company. He is also an acclaimed ballet choreographer, with 20 works commissioned by ballet companies worldwide. David Hallberg is a principal dancer with American Ballet Theatre and Bolshoi Ballet. He has performed as a guest artist with international ballet companies including Mariinsky Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, and La Scala Ballet, and he made history in 2011 when he became the first American to join the Bolshoi Ballet under the title Premier Dancer. In 2017, The Australian Ballet named Hallberg Resident Guest Artist—the first dancer to hold that title with the company.

Danza Contemporanea de Cuba, Matria Etnocentra, George Céspedes

A large ensemble of dancers move to a drill-like rhythm in this **US Premiere** that garnered choreographer George Céspedes the 2015 Critique Villanueva Award for Best Choreography from the Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba. With driving music by Nacional Electrónica and Hermanos Expósito, this explosive piece mines the tension between dance's fluidity and the often regimented nature of daily life in Cuba. Directed by Miguel Iglesias, Danza Contemporanea de Cuba (**Festival Debut**) was founded in 1959 by Ramiro Guerra under the name of Conjunto de Danza Moderna. As Cuba's flagship contemporary dance company, DCC has launched the careers of many of the country's most prominent dancers. The company's unique style is rooted in the principles of Cuban modern dance, a fusion of dance styles and techniques influenced by the country's African and Spanish ancestry. With this firm foundation, DCC remains open to new developments in dance, straddling the past and present with ease. DCC's international recognition has grown for over five decades as the company has performed in cities and festivals across the globe.

Related Events

Dance lessons led by Festival artists will be held at 6:45pm in New York City Center's Grand Tier Lobby prior to select performances. These events are free and open to same-day ticketholders.

Wed, Oct 4 Tango Fire

Thu, Oct 5 Cie Art Move Concept

Fri, Oct 6 Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, with Ronald K. Brown

Wed, Oct 11 Ballet BC

Thu, Oct 12 Company Wang Ramirez

Fri, Oct 13 Danza Contemporanea de Cuba

Master Classes will offer advanced dancers the opportunity to learn directly from the artists and companies associated with the Festival. Classes will be held in New York City Center's studios (131 West 56th Street). Visit NYCityCenter.org for details. Fee: \$15.

Tue, Oct 3 6–7:30pm Tap with Dorrance Dance (Studio 5) **Sat, Oct 14** 12–2pm Ballet with Wendy Whelan (Studio 4)

New York City Center gratefully acknowledges Fall for Dance Festival Lead Sponsor, Bloomberg Philanthropies, and Sustaining Sponsor, The Ford Foundation. City Center is also grateful for the support of its Presenting Partners including Jody and John Arnhold, Barbara and David Zalaznick, Perry and Marty Granoff, and Caroline Howard Hyman. Commissioning support is generously provided by The Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation.

Leadership support for Dance at City Center is provided by the Howard Gilman Foundation and The Harkness Foundation for Dance. City Center thanks Lisa and Richard Witten for their generous support of the Artistic Innovation Fund. Support for the Arts Access Fund is generously provided by The Jerome L. Greene Foundation and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

The 2017 Fall for Dance Festival is dedicated in memory of Marjorie S. Isaac for her visionary leadership and generosity which has ensured the future of the Festival.

New York City Center (Arlene Shuler, President & CEO) has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city since 1943. For nearly 25 years, City Center's Tony-honored Encores! series has been "an essential New York institution" (*The New York Times*). In 2013, City Center launched the Encores! Off-Center series, which features seminal Off-Broadway musicals filtered through the lens of today's innovative artists. Dance has also been integral to the theater's mission from the start and programs like the annual Fall for Dance Festival remain central to City Center's identity. Home to a roster of renowned national and international companies including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (City Center's Principal Dance Company) and Manhattan Theatre Club, New York City Center was Manhattan's first performing arts center, founded with the mission of making the best in music, theater, and dance accessible to all audiences. That mission continues today through robust education and community engagement programs which bring the performing arts to over 9,000 New York City students each year and the expansion of the theatrical experience to include pre-show talks, master classes, and art exhibitions that offer an up-close look at the work of the great theater and dance artists of our time. www.NYCityCenter.org

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