

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 1

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

Thursday, October 14, 2021

## STREB EXTREME ACTION

Elizabeth Streb, *Artistic Director*

### ***MolINETte, Add / Pole Vaults, and Air***

Choreography by ELIZABETH STREB

Production Manager/Technical Staging: MATTHEW MCADON

Music for *Air* by FRESHBEATZ

Music for *MolINETte* by BALANESCU QUARTET

Composed by ALEXANDER BALANESCU

Scenery Design for *MolINETte* by NOE ESPAÑA

Costume Design by ANDREA LAUER and TIMBERLAKE

Lighting Design by FLETCHER MCCUNE

Sound Design by PAUL PIEKARZ

Stage Manager: SHANNON REYNOLDS

*Premieres*

*MolINETte*

September 2019

Théâtre du Châtelet

Paris, France

*Air*

2003

Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts

Vienna, VA

*Action Heroes*

**CASSANDRE JOSEPH JACKIE CARLSON DANIEL RYSAK TYLER DUBOYS  
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*Emcee/DJ*

**FELIX HESS**

*Upcoming Performance*

Spring 2022

Streb Lab for Action Mechanics (SLAM)

Brooklyn, NY

PAUSE



## PROGRAM 1 (cont.)

### **A.I.M BY KYLE ABRAHAM**

Kyle Abraham, *Artistic Director*

### ***Our Indigo: If We Were a Love Song***

*NY Premiere*

Choreography by KYLE ABRAHAM in collaboration with A.I.M

Music by NINA SIMONE

Costume Design by KYLE ABRAHAM and KAREN YOUNG

Lighting Design by DAN SCULLY

*Premiere*

September 9, 2021

American Dance Festival

Durham, NC

*Dancers*

**TAMISHA A. GUY KEERATI JINAKUNWIPHAT CLAUDE “CJ” JOHNSON  
CATHERINE KIRK JAE NEAL DONOVAN REED GIANNA THEODORE**

*Our Indigo: If We Were a Love Song* by Kyle Abraham is commissioned by ADF with support from the Doris Duke/SHS Foundations Award for New Works. This work was created in part during a “bubble” residency at Kaatsbaan Cultural Park and LUMBERYARD, made possible by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

*Upcoming Performance*

November 6, 2021

DANCECleveland

Cleveland, OH

PAUSE



## PROGRAM 1 (cont.)

### THE VERDON FOSSE LEGACY

Nicole Fosse, *Artistic Director*

#### ***Sweet Gwen Suite***

*New York City Center Commission*  
*World Premiere*

Choreography by BOB FOSSE and GWEN VERDON

Direction, Reconstruction, and Additional Choreography by LINDA HABERMAN

Assistant to Linda Haberman: HANNAH SIDES

Music Arrangements and Orchestrations by LYNNE SHANKEL

Costume Design by BOBBY PEARCE

Lighting Design by DAVID AGRESS

Production Manager: MICHAEL DOMUE

Project Manager: MARY CALLAHAN

*Dancers*

**GEORGINA PAZCOGUIN**

with **ZACHARY DOWNER** and **TYLER EISENREICH**

**KHORI PETINAUD**, *alternate for Ms. Pazcoquin*

**SAM FAULKNER**, *alternate for Mr. Downer and Mr. Eisenreich*

Music Credits: Universal Music ("Mexican Shuffle") and Warner Chappell Music ("Cool Hand Luke"/"Mexican Breakfast") have granted TVFL permission to produce this music for *Sweet Gwen Suite* in New York City Center's Fall for Dance Festival 2021.

*Sweet Gwen Suite* 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.

*Sweet Gwen Suite* was produced by The Verdon Fosse Legacy, Bill Butler, Tommy Kail & Michelle Williams, Michael and Tina Lobel, The BWF Foundation, John Dimos in honour of Marianne Fosse Dimos, and Alex Lacaimore.

Special thanks Yellow Sound Label, LaDuca Shoes, Tara Rubin Casting, John Kristiansen Costume Shop, and Ripley Grier Studios.



## PROGRAM 2

Friday, October 15, 2021  
Saturday, October 16, 2021

## STEPHEN PETRONIO COMPANY

Stephen Petronio, *Artistic Director*

### *American Landscapes*

Choreography by STEPHEN PETRONIO  
Music by JIM JARMUSCH and JOZEF VAN WISSEM  
Images by ROBERT LONGO  
Projection Designer: DON CIESLIK  
Costume Design by H. PETAL  
Lighting Design by KEN TABACHNICK  
Production Manager: JOE DORAN

#### *Premiere*

April 11, 2019  
NYU SKIRBALL CENTER  
New York, NY

#### *Dancers*

LARISSA ASEBEDO JAQI MEDLOCK TESS MONTOYA RYAN PLISS  
NICHOLAS SCISCIONE MAC TWINING BRANDON COLLWES\*  
KRIS LEE\* TIFFANY OGBURN\*

\*Guest Performers

#### *Upcoming Performance*

November 18-21, 2021  
La MaMa  
New York, NY

PAUSE



## **PROGRAM 2 (cont.)**

### **HOUSTON BALLET**

Stanton Welch AM, *Artistic Director*

### **SONS DE L'ÂME**

Choreography by Stanton Welch AM

Music by FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN

Lighting Design by LISA J. PINKHAM

Production Manager: JONATHAN MOORE

*Premiere*

October 31, 2012

Théâtre des Champs-Élysées

Paris, France

*Dancers*

**KARINA GONZÁLEZ CONNOR WALSH**

*Pianist*

**VLADIMIR RUMYANTSEV**

*Upcoming Performance*

February 24 – March 6, 2022

Wortham Theater Center

Houston, TX

PAUSE



## PROGRAM 2 (cont.)

### EPHRAT ASHERIE DANCE

Ephrat Asherie, *Artistic Director*

### ***ODEON:Redux***

Choreography by EPHRAT ASHERIE in collaboration with EAD

Music by ERNESTO NAZARETH

Musical Director: EHUD ASHERIE

Percussion Arrangements: SERGIO KRAKOWSKI

Staging by EPHRAT ASHERIE

Costume Design by MARK ERIC

Lighting Design by KATHY KAUFMANN

Lighting Supervisor: SERENA WONG

Production and Stage Manager: DIEGO QUINTANAR

#### *Premiere*

June 27, 2018

Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival

Becket, MA

#### *Dancers*

EPHRAT "BOUNCE" ASHERIE MANON BAL TEENA MARIE CUSTER  
VALERIE "MS. VEE" HO MATTHEW WEST OMARI WILES

#### *Musicians*

EHUD ASHERIE EDUARDO BELO ANGEL LAU JEREMY SMITH

*ODEON:Redux* is made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and was developed in part through two residencies at Jacob's Pillow, as well as the inaugural Jacob's Pillow Fellowship program at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts at LIU Post.

#### *Upcoming Performance*

November 15, 2021

Coker College

Hartsville, SC



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**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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# NEW YORK CITY CENTER



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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.

Their advocacy was crucial to the reopening of our theater. Please join us in thanking them for their vital support of the arts!

**#SaveOurStages**

# NEW YORK CITY CENTER



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Please use the restroom that best aligns with your  
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New York City Center is accessible to people with  
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See the House Manager for assistance.

Resuscitation masks and latex gloves are available at the House  
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New York City Center is a fully vaccinated venue.  
Approved masks must be worn by all audience members,  
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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

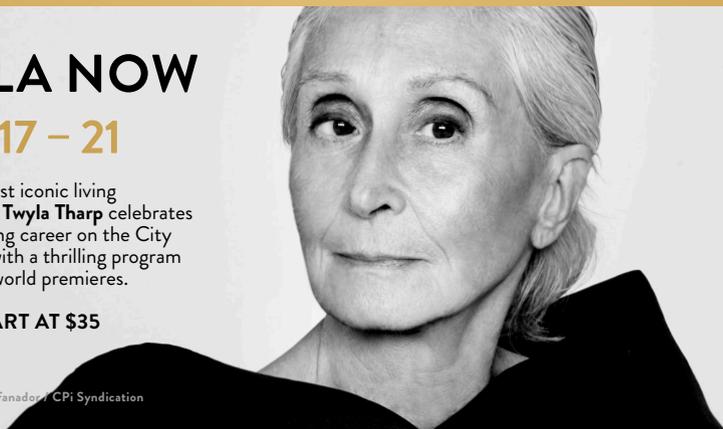
## TWYLA NOW

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

Photo by © Ruven Afanador, CPI Syndication



## ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

DEC 1 – 19

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.

TICKETS START AT \$29



Photo by Gert Krautbauer

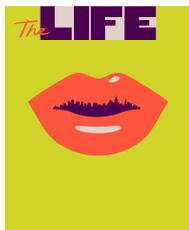
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FEB 2 – 6



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MAR 16 – 20



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MAY 4 – 15