



5th  
ANNIVERSARY

ASBURY PARK DANCE FESTIVAL  
We Move You

# 2024 ASBURY PARK DANCE FESTIVAL

AN EVENING OF DANCE IN SUPPORT OF ARTS ED NJ

We believe in the power of dance to move  
and inspire a community.

## APDF CO-FOUNDERS

VJ CARBONE  
MICHELLE FLEET  
LAURA HALZACK  
MICHAEL TRUSNOVEC



## INTERSTATE

Choreography: **KEERATI JINAKUNWIPHAT**

Performed by **JOURDAN EPSTEIN, JOHN LAM, JOSEPH MARKEY**

Music: "BLACK DOG" by LED ZEPPELIN

Costumes: MARK ERIC

*Interstate* was creatively supported in collaboration with Fire Island Dance Festival with generous support from The Charles & Lucille King Family Foundation in memory of Diana King.

## SOLO from the EMPTY SUITOR

Choreography: **MICHAEL TRACY**

Performed by **PAUL LIU** with special guest, **Kristin Draucker**

Music: BEN WEBSTER, "SWEET GEORGIA BROWN" used by permission of Warner Bros.

Costume: KITTY DALY

Original Lighting: NEIL PETER JAMPOLIS

## TWO ECSTATIC THEMES

Choreography: **DORIS HUMPHREY (1931)**

Performed by **JESSICA SGAMBELLURI**

Music: NIKOLAI KAROLOVICH MEDTNER & GIAN FRANCESCO MALIPIERO performed by MICHAEL SCALES

**A. Circular Descent**

**B. Pointed Ascent**

*Two Ecstatic Themes* is the keynote to Miss Humphrey's mature work.

*"The first part is in circular and spiral movements, soft and sinking, to convey a feeling of acquiescence. The second part, in contrast to the first, moves in pointed design to a strident climax suggestive of aggressive achievement. The whole is a counterpoint of circular and angular movement, representing the two inseparable elements of life as well as design." (D.H.)*

*First performance October 31, 1931 at Washington Irving High School, NY.*

*The Dance Notation Bureau, a non-profit service organization, has provided a Labanotation score for this staging of Two Ecstatic Themes.*

## SHANKAR ATI PRACHAND

Choreographed and Performed by **BARKHA PATEL**

Composition: Pandit Rajendra Gangani

Vocals: raj brothers (Balraj & Vanraj Shastri)

Tabla & Pakhawaj: Joby Joy

Padhant (scatting) - Shri Rohit Parihar

Harmonium: Jaymin Vaidhya

Sarangi: Vanraj Shastri

### About the work

*Shankar Ati Prachand* is a stuti or invocation to Lord Shiva and his creative energy which manifests through the sound of his drum or damru. This work is an experience of kathak in its most traditional sense, represented in the Jaipur gharana or style of kathak. In it is present storytelling through expressions, and recitation and performance of intricate rhythmic compositions that kathak is known for. The music is an original composition of Guru Pandit Rajendra Gangani.

# PROGRAM





# PROGRAM

## **NIGHT FALLS**

Choreography: **BRADY FARRAR**

Performed by **SUNMI PARK & JOSEPH MARKEY**

Music: **FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN**

(Nocturne No. 19 in E Minor Op. 72 No.1)

*Commissioned by ABT Studio Company.*

## **ANOTHER KIND OF LLOYD**

Based on the improvisations of choreographer **STEPHEN PETRONIO**  
to Bach Partita in D Minor.

Performed by **LLOYD KNIGHT**

## **STEPPING OUT WITH MY BABY GET ME TO THE CHURCH ON TIME**

Choreography: **JAMES KINNEY**

Performed by **ARISA ODAKA & WESTON KRUKOW; JESS LEPROTTO**

Music: **IRVING BERLIN; LERNER AND LOEWE**

Sung by: **TONY BENNETT; FRANK SINATRA**

## **excerpt from MURDER BALLADES**

Choreography: **JUSTIN PECK**

Performed by **ILSE KAPTEYN & FELIPE VALENTINI**

Staged by **CHARLIE HODGES**

Music: **BRYCE DESSNER**

*presented under license by G. Schirmer, Inc., o/b/o Chester Music Ltd. copyright owners.*

Costumes designed by **JUSTIN PECK**

Original Lighting Design: **BRANDON STIRLING BAKER**

Visual Design: **STERLING RUBY**

*Murder Ballades was originally commissioned by L.A. Dance Project – World Premiere, 2013.*

## **SWIMMERS**

Choreography: **CHLOE CRENSHAW**

Performed by **SYDNEY CHOW & MARC ANTHONY GUTIERREZ**

Music: **BEN WATERS**

Costumes: **JULES PRZYBYLSKA**

## **THE DYING SWAN**

Performed by **OLGA SUPPHOZOVA (ROBERT CARTER)**

Music: **CAMILLE SAINT-SAENS**

Costume: **MIKE GONZALES**

*The ballet world had little notion when this solo was created for Anna Pavlova in 1905 that it would become, in later years, her signature dance - and perhaps the most famous solo in ballet. The Trockadero offers its own distinctive interpretation of the terminal fowl.*

## **CHIMES**

Choreography: **JARED ALEXANDER**

Performed by **JARED ALEXANDER, RACHEL BINNEY, ROBBIE RYSER**

Music:





DONALEE KATZ  
COLIN BROWN  
STACEY JO MARINE  
GEORGE SMALLWOOD  
TYLER BRUNSON

## **PRODUCTION TEAM**

JOHN HERR

## **PHOTOGRAPHY**



# ABOUT US

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VJ Carbone, Michelle Fleet, Laura Halzack and Michael Trusnovec founded the Asbury Park Dance Festival in 2019. Fleet, Halzack and Trusnovec are all distinguished alumni of the internationally acclaimed Paul Taylor Dance Company sharing a combined 58 years of professional dance experience. Carbone has worked as a film publicist with some of the most respected companies in Hollywood for over two decades. Together they all share a passion for dance and a mutual appreciation for all art forms. It is their shared belief that the arts have the power to build community, break down barriers, spread joy, and enrich people's lives.

The festival's mission is to present dance and raise funds for arts education advocacy through a partnership with the non for profit Arts Ed NJ. Together APDF and Arts Ed NJ want to ensure that the next generation of budding artists and arts-lovers have access to what they need to pursue their dreams of living a life in the arts or a life that is enriched and made full by the arts.



# APDF 2024 ARTIST COMMISSION

## Keerati Jinakunwiphat

*Originally from Chicago, IL., Keerati received her BFA from the Conservatory of Dance at SUNY Purchase and was a recipient of the Adopt-A-Dancer Scholarship. She has additionally studied at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, and Springboard Danse Montreal. She has worked with and performed works of artists such as Kyle Abraham, Nicole von Arx, Trisha Brown, Jasmine Ellis, Hannah Garner, Shannon Gillen, Paul Singh, Kevin Wynn, and Doug Varone. Keerati began working with A.I.M. by Kyle Abraham in 2016. As a creator, Keerati has presented her own choreographic works at the American Dance Guild Festival, Battery Dance Festival, Dance Gallery Festival, the Joyce Theater, New Victory Theater, MASS MoCA, Lincoln Center, Works & Process at the Guggenheim, Chelsea Factory and more. She has been commissioned to set and create works on the Evanston Dance Ensemble, the Martha Graham School, SUNY Purchase College Conservatory of Dance, A.I.M. by Kyle Abraham, Houston Contemporary Dance Company, New England Ballet Theatre, Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, Bang On A Can, Princeton University, PARA.MAR Dance Theatre, Whim W'him Seattle Contemporary Dance, New York Choreographic Institute, Rutgers University, and the Juilliard School. Keerati has graced the cover as one of Dance Magazine's '25 to Watch' in 2021. In 2023, she had the honor of becoming the first Asian American woman to be commissioned to choreograph for the New York City Ballet. Keerati is a 2024 Artist in Residence at the Baryshnikov Arts Center. Additionally, Keerati has been awarded with the Jadin Wong Fellowship Artist of Exceptional Merit by the Asian American Arts Alliance and is a 2023 Princess Grace Award winner in choreography.*



Photo by Alexander Diaz

Keerati's new work **Interstate** was creatively supported in collaboration with, and premiered at, Dancers Responding to Aids 2024 Fire Island Dance Festival and was also performed at Gold Coast Dance Festival in Glen Clove, NY.



# ARTISTS

**JARED ALEXANDER** - *Choreographer/Dancer* - is a New York City based Tap Artist, Beat Maker and Curiosity inspired Creative. He earned his BFA from the Commercial Dance program at PACE University in 2019. Jared has Graphic Synesthesia, obsesses over the feeling of wind along the sensations/textures of the outdoors, and wishes to endeavor in the study of the brain while tap dancing. Jared is beginning to combine these different worlds into what would be a 26 piece suite of choreography and physical paintings dedicated to the alphabet coincided with his graphic synesthesia, (Associated to the color of numbers, letters, and their synchronicity to one another). Alexander has worked under Ayodele Casel and Torya Beard for multiple projects including: Rooted (2024) an All Arts documentary, Artists at the Center, City Center (2023), Rooted Tour (2023), Chasing Magic (2022-2024) at The Joyce Theater, Spoleto Dance Festival & McCarter Theatre; MET Gala (2022), Fords Gala (2022), Bordeaux, France; Warner Bros., and Little Island Summer Dance Festival (2021 & 2022). Jared has also worked under Caleb Teicher & Co. in Bzzz (2023) at The Joyce Theater, and Artists at the Center (2023) in collaboration with Naomi Funaki. Max Pollak at Little Island (2022). Jared just recently presented his own work at Bryant Park, NYC in June of this year along side Naomi Funaki for their free Picnic Performances series. Jared also premiered a work along side Tomoe "Beasty" Carr at City Center for Artists at the Center (2023), Little Island Dance Festival (2021 & 2022). Sometimes you can find Alexander performing on various street corners in NYC, with BC Jazz Band at local Farmers markets and even travels to NJ to dance at the Asbury Park Book Collective at the start of summer for the past two years now. Instagram: Jared\_alexandah

**RACHEL BINNEY** is a tap dancer based in New York City. Rachel began dancing in Brewster, NY where she studied as a multidisciplinary dancer with Nicole Aravena. She took a special interest in tap dance, and sought further training at Steps on Broadway with Derick K Grant, and the American Tap Dance Foundation as part of the Tap CitY Youth Ensemble. Some of Rachel's performance appearances include the New York City Tap Festival, Chicago Human Rhythm Project, Tribeca Film Festival, Dance Off The Grid, Tap Family Reunion, and more. Rachel has co-produced and choreographed a show entitled "Love Notes to Tap Dance" through the Gallatin School of Individualized Study at NYU. Recently, she was a featured choreographer for Steps Beyond Foundation's Performance Lab presented at Steps on Broadway. Rachel joined Dance Lab New York as Rehearsal Director for their 2022 Tap Dance Lab Cycle under the direction of Ayodele Casel and Torya Beard with choreographers Naomi Funaki, Dario Ntarelli, and Demi Remick. Rachel attended Lehman College for Rehabilitation Science and collaborates with arts education organizations such as A Free Bird and Dance Education Equity Association (DEEA). Rachel is currently on faculty at the American Tap Dance Foundation, Rivertown Dance Academy, and a guest teacher at studios across the greater New York (city) area.

**OLGA SUPPHOZOVA** (ROBERT CARTER) made her first public appearance in a KGB lineup under dubious circumstances. After a seven-year-to-life hiatus, she now returns to her adoring fans. When questioned about her forced sabbatical, Olga's only comment was "I did it for Art's sake." Art said nothing however.

**ROBERT CARTER:**

Birthplace: Charleston, SC

Training: Ivey Ballet School, Joffrey Ballet School

Joined Trockadero:

November 1995

Other Companies: Florence Civic Ballet, Dance Theater of Harlem Ensemble, Bay Ballet Theater

**SYDNEY CHOW** is a New York-based dancer from Los Angeles, California. She attended the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts, where she was named a YoungArts winner in Modern/Contemporary Dance. She then received her BFA in Dance and minor in Computer Programming from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. As a company member with Gallim Dance under the direction of Andrea Miller, and YY Dance Company under the direction of Yin Yue, she has performed at venues such as the Joyce Theater, Chelsea Factory, Lincoln Center, and New York Live Arts. Since graduating, she has also performed in works by Gabrielle Lamb, Rohan Bhargava, Gina Moxley, and Crystal Pite and Chuck Wilt at Springboard Danse Montreal, amongst others.

From Los Angeles, **CHLOE CHRENSHAW** - *Choreographer* - is based in New York, where she is a company artist with GALLIM Dance Company under Andrea Miller. Previously, Chloe danced with Ballet BC as an Emerging Artist under Medhi Walerski. She has performed at venues including the Kennedy Center, New York City Center, the Joyce Theater, Grand Théâtre de Luxembourg, The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA, Chelsea Factory, and REDCAT. As a choreographer, Chloe's work was recently selected for the 2024 Hannover International Choreographic Competition, where she presented her duet, "Swimmers." This past spring, she was also a resident at Tanztendenz in Munich, where she created a new duet, "ME ALSO ME!" Chloe was a 2024 recipient of the Eryc Taylor Dance New Choreographer Grant, and has been commissioned by Ballet Collective, Houston Contemporary 2, and Culpdid Dance Company. She holds a BFA in Dance from the California Institute of the Arts.

**JOURDAN EPSTEIN** is a performer, educator, facilitator & creator based in NYC. She is thrilled to be performing work by Keerati Jinakunwiphat! Jourdan began her professional career with Complexions Contemporary Ballet, and has since been a member of The Met Opera, Company XIV, The Radio City Rockettes, Heartbeat Opera, Bad Boys of Dance and most recently: Twyla Tharp's "How Long Blues" at Little Island NYC. She is currently Assistant Choreographer to Marguerite Derricks on Amazon Prime's Ballet series: Etoile. Jourdan was Assistant Choreographer to Andy Blankenbuehler on Only Gold, and she has assisted and coached Gala pieces for dancers of NYCB, DTH and CCB. Jourdan was in the original cast & Dance Captain of The Prince of Egypt musical, was a featured performer at The Met Gala w/ Leslie Odom Jr & Lenny Kravitz, and a featured Pointe dancer in Art On Ice w/James Blunt. TV/film credits: Marvelous Mrs Maisel, In The Heights, The Flight Attendant, The Tonight Show, Evil, NBC Upfronts, SYTYCD, Dispatches From Elsewhere & Etoile. Jourdan is on faculty at Steps on Broadway, The Joffrey Ballet School and Complexions Academy. All for you Mom and Dad <3.

**BRADLEY FARRAR** - *Choreographer* - began dancing at age five and has trained at Stars Dance Studio and The Art of Classical Ballet in Miami, Florida. He is a five-time Youth America Grand Prix Finals medalist and was the 2021 Grand Prix Winner of the North American Finals. Farrar is also a three-time Best Dancer Winner at The Dance Awards, the 2021 winner of the Carla Fracci Prize at Novara Dance Experience in Novara, Italy, and a double gold medal winner at the South African International Ballet Competition in 2020. In November 2021, Farrar performed in Twyla Tharp's Twyla Now at New York City Center. He has also performed in international galas at the David H. Koch Theater at Lincoln Center and in Germany, Italy, Israel, and Mexico. Farrar attended the American Ballet Theatre Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School in the spring of 2022, under the direction of Cynthia Harvey. He joined ABT Studio Company in September 2022, where he created roles in works by Gemma Bond, Hope Boykin, Amy Hall Garner, Jamar Roberts, James Whiteside, and Aleisha Walker, and performed in works by Rena Butler, Emily Kikta, and Houston Thomas, alongside a variety of classical and neoclassical repertoire. Farrar has choreographed works for ABT Studio Company, the Youth America Grand Prix Finals in Tampa, Florida, and the Nervi International Dance Festival in Italy.

**MARC ANTHON Y GUTIERREZ** (he/him) is originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, where he began his dance training with DACPAC under the direction of Cheryl Copeland and Dominique Lomuljo. He received his BFA from SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance as a scholarship recipient in 2022. Over the years, he has had the privilege of performing works by Sidra Bell, Andrea Miller, Kyle Abraham, Doug Varone, and Cindy Salgado. He is currently a company artist with GALLIM Dance Company and has also danced with DOVA (Doug Varone and Dancers).



**DORIS HUMPHREY** (Founder/Choreographer, 1895-1958) is recognized as a founder of American Modern Dance. She developed a distinctive movement approach based on the body's relationship to gravity and the use of weight. The company she formed with Charles Weidman produced great dances as well as outstanding performers, José Limón among them. When physical disability ended her career as a dancer, she became the Artistic Director for José Limón and his company, creating new works for him and for The Juilliard.

**ILSE KAPTEYN** grew up in western Massachusetts and trained with Irina Vakhromeeva and Ruth and Noble Barker. She spent summers at the School of American Ballet, American Ballet Theater NY, and the Chautauqua Institution. She graduated from Deerfield Academy and also spent a year at the Moscow State Academy of Choreography (Bolshoi Ballet Academy) before joining New Jersey Ballet in 2012. Since joining New Jersey Ballet Ms. Kapetyn has performed leading roles including Lilac Fairy in The Sleeping Beauty, Sugar Plum Fairy and Snow Queen in Nutcracker, Myrtha in Giselle, Mercedes in Don Quixote. Ms. Kapetyn has originated roles in Jackson Ferreira's About Happiness, Pedro Ruiz Estancia, and Harrison Ball's Purcell Suite. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Maria Kowroski Ms. Kapetyn has been featured in Christopher Wheeldon's After the Rain, George Balanchine's Who Cares?, Concerto Barocco and Rubies, Justin Peck's Murder Ballades and Gustavo Ramirez Sansano's Reencounter. She has guested as Swanhilda in Coppelia and Kitri in Don Quixote. Ms. Kapetyn is a faculty member and teacher at the New Jersey Ballet School and is a certified instructor of BodyCode System, which helps improve body awareness and function.

**LLOYD KNIGHT** was born in England and reared in Miami. Has a BFA from the New World School of the Arts under Artistic Director Daniel Lewis. Mr. Knight joined the Martha Graham Dance Company in 2005 and was promoted to Principal in 2014. He has had ballets choreographed on him by Nacho Duato twice, Andonis Foniadakis, Larry Keigwin, Doug Varone, Lar Lubovitch, Kyle Abraham, Liz Gerring, Michelle Dorrance, Anne Bogart, Pontus Linberg, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Pam Tanowitz, Hofesh Shechter and Mats Ek. Dance Magazine named Mr. Knight as one of the "Top 25 Dancers to Watch" in 2010. He partnered with New York City Ballet Principal Wendy Whelan in Graham's "Moon Duet" and with American Ballet Theatre's Principal Misty Copeland in a Graham's "Letter to the World". He was picked Best Performer of 2015 by Dance Magazine. Bessie Nominated for best Performer in 2022, as well as a Guest Principal Dancer for Twyla Tharps City Center Season in 2022. Most recently he was a guest Principal artist for The Royal Ballet of Flanders.

**WESTON KRUKOW**, a University of Arizona School of Dance awarded alumni, has performed most notably with San Francisco's Smuin Ballet, Chicago's Lyric Opera, Radio City's Christmas Spectacular, Broadway's Phantom of the Opera and an American in Paris. For television, Weston has danced for Marguerite Derricks (The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel), Camille Brown (Harlem), John Caraffa (The Gilded Age, Westworld), Susan Mizner (Elsbeth), and Ben Stiller (Severance) to name a few. He produced, choreographed, and danced in BaseBallet: Into the Game which is a documentary film showcasing the athleticism of dance. This was featured on NBC Sports Bay Area, Virgin and Alaska Airlines, honored in a dozen film festivals nationwide, and received five Emmy awards. Weston is currently based in New York where he teaches on faculty for the Institute of American Musical Theatre while his freelance performing adventure continues to thrive in pre-production labs, music video contracts, and commercial projects which keep him busy throughout the year

**JOHN LAM** began dancing at the age of four at the Marin Ballet in San Rafael, CA. He rose quickly through the ranks and was awarded a scholarship to attend Canada's prestigious National Ballet School before being invited to join the Boston Ballet in 2003, where he was promoted to Soloist in 2008 and named Principal Dancer in 2014, performing in leading roles and multiple premieres created for Lam. He is a recipient of the 2005 Princess Grace Fellowship and has been lauded by the Boston Globe as one of Boston Ballet's "most versatile and expressive soloists." In addition to his stage work, Lam has choreographed and produced an array of independent dance films including Dance Is, Movement in Structure, SHE/I, Moving pArts, The Gift, The Air Before Me, and Quiet Beauty several of which Lam have received critical acclaim at international dance film festivals. Lam appeared in the Disney film, The Game Plan, and performed the role of Ariel in the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company's Production of The Tempest. Most recently, Lam served as a Principal Core Dancer Performer in the Amazon Prime Series, Étoile, season one. Lam continues to bring authenticity and passion to his craft as a creative director, dancer, teacher, choreographer, actor, and arts advocate. Following his 20th season with the Boston Ballet, Lam accepted an offer to serve as Associate Professor of Dance with the Boston Conservatory at Berklee for fall 2024. As an extension of Lam's commitment to the arts, LamDanceWorks was established in 2024 to engage and inspire members of the community through the collaborative production of innovative dance works reflecting the full spectrum of artistic expression for years to come. Lam is married and the father of two beautiful boys.

**JESS LEPROTTO** is a New Jersey native and Broadway performer. Broadway: A Beautiful Noise (OBC); Carousel; Hello, Dolly!; Cats (Mungojerrie); On the Town; Newsies (OBC); Bye Bye Birdie; How the Grinch Stole Christmas! (OBC); The Boy From Oz. National Tour: Hello, Dolly! (Barnaby Tucker); Radio City Christmas Spectacular. World Premieres: The Wanderer and A Bronx Tale at Papermill Playhouse; In Your Arms at Old Globe; American Dance Machine at Joyce Theatre; Jersey Boys (Frankie Valli) at The Rev. Film/TV: Steven Spielberg's West Side Story (A-Rab), "So You Think You Can Dance" (Season 8/Top 8 Finalist), "Smash," "Law & Order: SVU," "One Life to Live," and the MTV VMAs. Pace University BFA, Musical Theatre. Bloc NYC. Instagram: @the\_jess\_leprotto

#### ABOUT LIMÓN DANCE COMPANY


The Limón Dance Company (LDC) has been at the vanguard of dance since its inception in 1946. The first dance group to tour internationally under the auspices of the State Department, and first modern dance company to perform at Lincoln Center in New York, it has performed twice at The White House. The José Limón Dance Foundation, with Company and Institute, is the recipient of a 2008 National Medal of the Arts. José Limón has a special place in American culture for a social awareness that transcended distinct groups to address how we all search for commonality. It is with this ethos that we continue to commission works by critically acclaimed and emerging international voices 50 years after Limón's passing. His works continue to influence the evolution of the art form with their arresting visual clarity, theatricality, and rhythmic and musical life. [www.limon.nyc](http://www.limon.nyc)



ARTISTS



# ARTISTS



**PAUL LIU** grew up in New Jersey training in traditional Chinese dance and acrobatics as well as breaking. He has studied with the Nai-Ni Chen Youth Dance Company, the Academy of Dance Arts New Jersey, the Central Academy of Drama in Beijing, and the Boston Conservatory. He has worked with Avary Gerhardt, Fukudance, Hybridmotion Dance Theatre and is a collaborator with Motlee Party. He is almost always upside down doing floorwork except while eating or getting tattoos. Paul joined Pilobolus in 2019.

**JOSEPH MARKEY** originally from Jacksonville, Florida, began his training at Debbie's Dance Company under the direction of Debra Ford. There, he worked with artists such as jazz musician Donald Byrd, choreographer Francesca Harper, tap dancer Anthony Morigerato, and choreographer Dwight Rhoden. In 2017, Markey moved to Orlando, Florida, and became a trainee with Orlando Ballet School. He joined American Ballet Theatre Studio Company the following year. Markey attended summer programs at Ballet West, Orlando Ballet, Next Generation Ballet, Art of Movement, and Complexions Contemporary Ballet. He won a silver medal as a YoungArts finalist in 2017, a bronze medal at the USA International Ballet Competition Jackson in 2018, and first place at Youth America Grand Prix Tampa semi-finals in 2018. Markey joined American Ballet Theatre as an apprentice in December 2019 and became a member of the corps de ballet in September 2021. His repertoire includes the Russian Dance in Alexei Ratmansky's *The Nutcracker*, the Spanish Dance in *Swan Lake*, and featured roles in *La Follia Variations*, *Indestructible Light*, and *Petite Mort*.


**ARISA ODAKA** was born in Tokyo, Japan. Graduated from several international ballet schools before dancing at Tokyo Disney Resort. She then moved to the United States where she performed in 'The King and I' on Broadway, 'Radio City Christmas Spectacular,' and featured in a commercial for Kate Spade's 2021 season. Arisa also performed in the award-winning short film 'The Game,' choreographed and directed by James Kinney.

**SUNMI PARK** was born in South Korea and began ballet at age 10. She received ballet training at Sun-hwa Middle and High School of the Arts (2012-2016) and at Korea National Institute of Gifted Arts (2014-2016). She was awarded the First Prize at Moscow IBT (2017) and the Youth America Grand Prix (2018). Park graduated from Korea National University of Arts in August 2019 and joined American Ballet Theatre Studio Company that September. Park became an apprentice with the main Company in November 2021, joined the corps de ballet in February 2022, and was promoted to Soloist in September 2022. Her repertoire includes a Flower Girl in *Don Quixote*, the peasant pas de deux and Moyna in *Giselle*, Tita in *Like Water for Chocolate*, Clara, the Princess, one of the *Nutcracker's* Sisters and the Spanish Dance in Alexei Ratmansky's *The Nutcracker*, Natalia in *On the Dnipro*, Hail in *The Seasons*, the pas de trois and a big swan in *Swan Lake*, a leading role in *Children's Songs* Dance, and featured roles in *Petite Mort* and *Songs of Bukovina*.

**BARKHA PATEL** is a kathak dancer, choreographer, educator, and the Artistic Director of Barkha Dance Company (BDC) based in NYC. BDC aims to uphold the traditional lineage of kathak and mindfully create contemporary works that uncover new movement possibilities and means of storytelling within the form. Barkha has performed solo and ensemble works at dance festivals in India and the U.S. Her work has had the opportunity to present at venues such as Dance Theatre Harlem, Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out, Joyce Theatre and Little Island Dance Festival, 92Y, and Chelsea Factory among others. Barkha was a Dance/USA Institute for Leadership mentee and a recipient of the 2023 Juried Bessie Award. She was recently named a recipient of the Princess Grace Award 2024. She is currently in residency with Movement Research and a Harlem Stage WaterWorks Fellow where she is developing a part of her new full-evening work called *Ramti Aave - Her Playful Arrival*. Barkha teaches kathak to young and adult students in New York and across the U.S in person and via zoom. You can learn more about her dance and community work at [www.barkhadance.com](http://www.barkhadance.com).

**JUSTIN PECK** is a two-time Tony Award winning director, choreographer, filmmaker, and dancer based in New York City. He is the Resident Choreographer of the New York City Ballet, and only the second person in the institution's 75-year history to hold this title. He has developed and created over 50 stage and theater works that have been presented on stages around the world, including Lincoln Center, the Palais Garnier, Sydney Opera House, Brooklyn Academy of Music, and Broadway (most recently, directing and choreographing the 2024 Tony Award-winning production of *Illinoise*). His creations for the dance world have been performed by companies all over the world, including the Paris Opera Ballet, Australian Ballet, Dresden Semperoper Ballet, Hong Kong Ballet, Boston Ballet, Juilliard, National Ballet of Canada, Miami City Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, LA Dance Project, Dutch National Ballet, the School of American Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, and Houston Ballet among many others. Peck works extensively as a filmmaker, with credits including direction of music videos for The National, Chris Thile, and Dan Deacon; choreographing the 2021 film *West Side Story* in collaboration with director Steven Spielberg; and being commissioned by the New York Times to direct 10 films celebrating the best acting performances of the 2018 year, which included performances by Julia Roberts, Ethan Hawke, Lakeith Stanfield, Glenn Close, Emma Stone, and Toni Collette. Peck celebrates the art of collaboration and is honored to have worked across mediums with a wide array of luminaries, including Sufjan Stevens, Raf Simons, Elizabeth Moss, Steven Spielberg, Caroline Shaw, Jeffrey Gibson, Renee Fleming, Shepard Fairey, Sofia Coppola, Stephen Sondheim, Shantelle Martin, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Humberto Leon, Bradley Cooper, Nico Muhly, Jackie Sibblies Drury, John Baldessari, Dries Van Noten, Damien Chazelle, Jack O'Brien, Anthony Roth Costanzo, Marcel Dzama, and Jody Lee Lipes. Peck danced with New York City Ballet from 2006-2019, eventually achieving the rank of soloist in 2013. He has performed a vast repertoire of works by George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, Twyla Tharp, Alexei Ratmansky, Lynn Taylor-Corbett, Christopher Wheeldon, and many others. Peck's is a two-time Tony Award recipient for Best Choreography for the Broadway productions of *Carousel* (2018) and *Illinoise* (2024); as well as a recipient of the National Arts Award (2018), the Golden Plate Honor from the Academy of Achievement (2019), the Bessie Award for Outstanding Production for *Rodeo: Four Dance Episodes* (2015), the World Choreography Award for the film *West Side Story* (2022), and the Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Choreography for the new musical *Buena Vista Social Club* (2024).





**STEPHEN PETRONIO** is an acclaimed American choreographer, dancer and artistic director known for his innovative and boundary-pushing work in contemporary dance. As a graduate of Hampshire College, early student of Steve Paxton, and the first male dancer in the Trisha Brown Dance Company, Petronio has made a significant impact on the dance world through his unique artistic vision and his commitment to pushing the limits of movement and expression. In 1984 Petronio founded the Stephen Petronio Company, committed to touring and performing throughout the world. The company quickly gained recognition for its bold and visually stunning performances that combined elements of modern, ballet, and postmodern dance. Petronio's choreography challenged traditional notions of movement and explored themes of sexuality, gender, and identity. Over the years, Petronio has collaborated with a wide range of artists and musicians including Cindy Sherman, Anish Kapoor, Robert Longo, Stephen Hannock, Teresita Fernandez, Janine Antoni, Lou Reed, Laurie Anderson, Rufus Wainwright, Ryan Lott/Son Lux, Mostah Black and David Linton, Narciso Rodriguez, Tara Subkoff/ Imitation of Christ, Patricia Field/Iris Bohnner, Leigh Bowery, Ghost and Michelle Rhee, and choreographers Anna Halperin, Michael Clark and Johnnie Cruz Mercer. He has also created dances for numerous other companies around the world, including the Frankfurt Ballet, Lyon Opera Ballet, Sydney Dance Company, and the Deutsche Oper Berlin. In 2019, The Juilliard School commissioned him to create a work, #PrayerForNow, on their fourth-year students for their New Dances Edition. This production was the last creative experience of the graduating class before closing for the Covid-19 Pandemic. In 2014 he conceived the ongoing signature initiatives, Bloodlines, to honor the experimental Judson pioneers that have inspired him and Bloodlines(future), to support a new generation of dancers and choreographers more equitably in this artistic lineage. He also founded the Stephen Petronio Residency Center (2017-2023), a research and development facility immersed in the Catskill Forest of upstate New York that provided rare support for artists and their personal creative growth in nature and without restriction. As part of this endeavor, The Doris Duke Preserve at Round Top, Greene County was established to protect 77 acres of the residency forest, designating the open space as "Forever Wild". Petronio has received numerous awards including a New York Performance Award (Bessie), an American Choreographers Award, A Doris Duke Artist Award, A Guggenheim Fellowship and 2017 McCormack Artists-in-Residence at Skidmore College. Petronio's memoir, Confessions of a Motion Addict, is available on Amazon.com. His latest limited-edition book, In Absentia, features entries from his journals written in quarantine at the Petronio Residency Center paired with never-before-seen studio photos by Sarah Silver and Grant Friedman. Stephen Petronio's contributions to the field of contemporary dance have had a lasting impact on the art form. His fearless exploration of movement, his commitment to collaboration and his relentless pursuit of innovation have solidified his place as one of the most influential choreographers of his generation.

#### **ABOUT PILOBOLUS**

Pilobolus is a rebellious dance company. Since 1971, it has tested the limits of human physicality to explore the beauty and the power of connected bodies creating awe-inspiring and accessible performances. In the five decades since, Pilobolus has continued to propel the seeds of expression through their collaborations with some of the greatest influencers, thinkers, and creators in the world and its unique educational programming. The company offers classes serving all ages and movement abilities. Pilobolus classes use movement to teach dancers and non-dancers alike to harness the creative potential of groups. Bespoke leadership workshops for corporate executives, employees, and business schools teach teams how to maximize creativity, solve problems, create surprise, and generate joy through the power of nonverbal communication. Pilobolus continues to bring the beauty of movement to the world, growing and changing each year while reaching new audiences and exploring new visual and physical planes. Learn more at [pilobolus.org](http://pilobolus.org).

**ROBBIE RYSER** is a NYC based tap dancer.

**JESSICA SGAMBELLURI** is a graduate of Marymount Manhattan College, where she received her BFA in Dance in 2014. During her time there she was selected to perform in the Yang Liping International Dance Festival in Kunming, China. Upon graduating, Jessica joined Graham 2 where she received the Pearl Lang Award and performed on TED Talks Live. Since then, she has worked with Odyssey Dance Theater, ARIM Dance, Caterina Rago Dance Company, The Metropolitan Opera, and Buglisi Dance Theatre. Jessica is also a part-time faculty member at The Martha Graham School, Peridance, and a Pilates instructor at Groundfloor Exercise. Jessica joined The Limón Dance Company in 2019.

**MICHAEL TRACY** - Choreographer - was born in Florence and raised in New England. He met the other Pilobolus founders at Dartmouth in 1969 and became an artistic director after graduating magna cum laude in 1973. Michael toured with Pilobolus for 14 years and choreographed and directed the company until his retirement. He has set his work on the Joffrey, Ohio, Hartford, Nancy, and Verona Ballets and with Pilobolus choreographed a production of Mozart's Magic Flute. Michael taught at Yale University for two decades and lives in northwestern Connecticut.

**FELIPE VALENTINI** began his training at the Classical Dance School of La Plata in Buenos Aires, Argentina. During his time there, he also began a Ballet Technique workshop in the Sarmiento de La Plata Association with Professor Victor Filmonov and Pas De Deux training with Professor Raúl Gato at Teatro Argentino. Mr. Valentini has also studied ballet at the Instituto Superior de Arte del Teatro Colon and Maximiliano Guerra Foundation in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the Cary Ballet Conservatory Professional Training Program in North Carolina. Ballets that he has performed in include Harlequin at Teatro Coliceo Podesta, Waltz of Beauty and the Beast, Waltz of the Flowers, The Nutcracker, traditional Argentinian dances, among others at Teatro Colon, and many more at Teatro Quilmes, Teatro de Parana. He has performed with Ballet Teatro Argentino de La Plata, Teatro Dardo, Huston Conservatory Ballet, and Cary Ballet Company. He has participated in and placed at the Youth America Grand Prix in multiple categories. Mr. Valentini's company experience includes Philadelphia Ballet II for their 2021/2022. Under the leadership of Maria Kowroski, Mr. Valentini has performed in George Balanchine's Who Cares? and Rubies, Peter Martins Hallelujah Junction and featured in Justin Peck's Murder Ballades.

## **ARTISTS**



# APDF'24 ARTISTS



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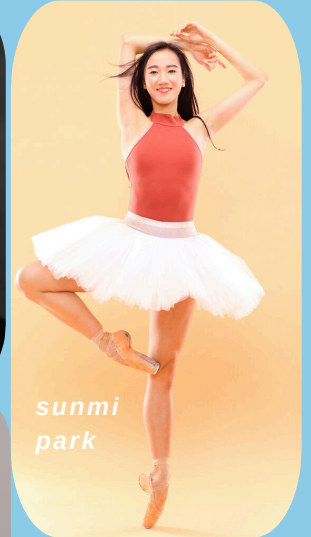
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gutierrez*



*robbie ryser*



*john lam*



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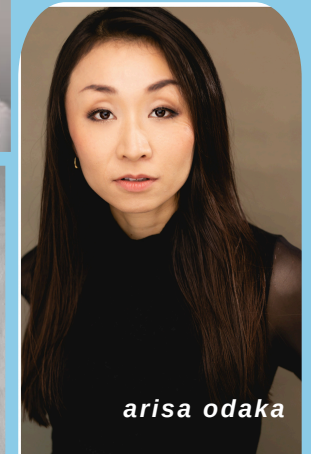
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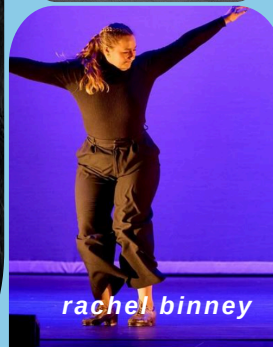
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# THE APDF/JANICE TUOHY-AGUILERA AWARD



Janice Tuohy-Aguilera was a mother, mentor, educator and friend whose love of dance inspired countless young artists to reach and exceed their potential. APDF co-founder Michael Trusnovac was one of the many dancers touched by her passion and dedication.

Janice sadly passed away in 2016.

This award supports Monmouth County dancers' studies and celebrates Janice's passion and commitment to dance education.

With generous support from Dawn Tarpinian, a dear friend of Janice and local Asbury Park resident, of the Bevier-Evans Foundation and John and Jody Arnhold we are proud to provide two annual tuition scholarships to local NJ dancers to assist them on their educational journey.

This year we celebrate the accomplishments of:

Lilakoi Grover



*Dance is the foundation of my life. It has been shaping me as both an artist and a person since I was very young. It enables me to express myself through many emotions and feelings that can't be said in words. Dance is both a connection to and an escape from the world.*

Emma Lightbody-McAllan



*Dancing has been a passion of mine since age 5. While dancing I feel free, confident, and happy. I enjoy the feeling of connecting with the music and movements as I dance... I can't imagine even one day of life without some form of dance as part of it.*



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4WALL NEW YORK, JULIAN GELLMAN, MIKE RUSSO AND THE STAFF AND CREW OF HOUSE OF INDEPENDENTS  
MARY KATE SCHMIDT, KATHLEEN PEARLBERG AND EVERYONE AT AXCBT & AXELROD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
DANCE NJ, KELLY BOURKE & OCVTS PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY, DAVID PARKER & JEFFREY KAZIN

**AND MOST ESPECIALLY ALL OF THE DANCERS, VOLUNTEERS AND OUR PRODUCTION TEAM  
WHO GIVE THEIR TIME, TALENT AND EXPERTISE TO BRING OUR VISION TO LIFE.**



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