

WallisAnnenberg
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&

JOSÉ LIMÓN DANCE FOUNDATION, INC.

present

LIMÓN

DANCE COMPANY

FOUNDERS

José Limón and Doris Humphrey

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Colin Conner

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Juan José Escalante

THE COMPANY

Kathryn Alter, Bradley Beakes,
Leon Cobb, Elise Drew Leon,
Kristen Foote, David Glista,
Ross Katen, Logan Frances Kruger, Alex McBride*,
Brenna Monroe-Cook, Jesse Obremski, Savannah
Spratt, Mark Willis

*APPRENTICE

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The Limón Dance Company is a member of Dance/USA, Dance/NYC, Association of Performing Arts Presenters, Western Arts Alliance, National Association of Schools of Dance, the Arts & Business Council, and the United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce.

MARCH 24-25, 2017

Bram Goldsmith Theater

Running Time: 85 minutes with a 15 minute intermission

Program

CONCERTO GROSSO

CHOREOGRAPHY: José Limón

STAGING AND DIRECTION: Risa Steinberg

MUSIC: Antonio Vivaldi,
Concerto #11 in D Minor, Opus 3

COSTUME: Keiko Voltaire

LIGHTING DESIGN: Christopher Chambers

DANCERS: Kathryn Alter, Elise Drew Leon,
Jesse Obremski

PREMIERE: May 19, 1945 at the Humphrey-
Weidman Studio in New York City

CHACONNE

CHOREOGRAPHY: José Limón

STAGING AND DIRECTION: Gary Master

MUSIC: J.S. Bach, Chaconne from *Partita #2*
in D Minor for Unaccompanied Violin

COSTUME: Christina Giannini

LIGHTING DESIGN: Steve Woods,
executed by Michael Klaers

DANCER: Logan Frances Kruger

PREMIERE: December 27, 1942 at the
Humphrey-Weidman Studio Theater
in New York, NY

The Chaconne as a dance form originated in New Spain, now Mexico, as a robust and raucous dance. Bach employed the strict musical form of the Chaconne but enriched it with powerful emotional implications. Mr. Limón has tried to capture in his dance both the formal austerity and the profound feeling of the music.

CORVIDAE

CHOREOGRAPHY: Colin Connor

MUSIC: Phillip Glass,
Violin Concerto #1, 1st movement

COSTUME: Colin Connor and Keiko Voltaire

LIGHTING DESIGN: DK Kroth,
executed by Michael Klaers

DANCERS: Kathryn Alter, Bradley Beakes,
Leon Cobb, Elise Drew Leon, David Glista,
Jesse Obremski, Savannah Spratt

PREMIERE: September, 2016 at
Hope College, Michigan

Considered the most intelligent of birds, Corvids, especially ravens and crows, have been seen as messengers throughout the ages.

15 minute intermission

THE MOOR'S PAVANE

(Variations on a theme of Othello)

CHOREOGRAPHY: José Limón

MUSIC: Henry Purcell,
arrangement by Simon Sadoff

STAGING AND DIRECTION: Carla Maxwell

COSTUME: Pauline Lawrence

LIGHTING DESIGN: Steve Woods,
executed by Michael Klaers

DANCERS: The Moor: Bradley Beakes,
His Friend: Jesse Obremski, His Friend's
Wife: Kathryn Alter, The Moor's Wife:
Elise Drew Leon

PREMIERE: August 17, 1949, at the American
Dance Festival,
Connecticut College

In the form of a Pavane and other dances of the high Renaissance, the legend is told of the hapless Moor, his wrongfully suspected wife, the Moor's treacherous friend and his wife. The four characters portray the tragedy of Everyman, and the ballet is, therefore, timeless in its implications. This work has been cited by critics the world over as José Limón's "masterpiece."

NIGHT LIGHT

CHOREOGRAPHY: Kate Weare

STAGING AND DIRECTION: Gary Master

MUSIC: Cathedral City, *A Song for Mick Kelly*;
Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber, performed
by Andrew Manze and Richard Egarr,
Passacaglia for unaccompanied violin

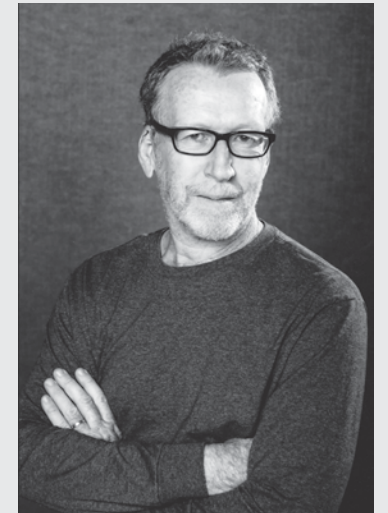
COSTUME: Fritz Masten

LIGHTING DESIGN: Clifton Taylor,
executed by Michael Klaers

DANCERS: Kathryn Alter, Bradley Beakes,
Leon Cobb, Elise Drew Leon,
Logan Frances Kruger, David Glista, Jesse
Obremski, Savannah Spratt

PREMIERE: December 10, 2014 at the Peter
Jay Sharp Theater, The Juilliard School,
New York, NY

About the Program



In an evening of musicality, athleticism and drama, the contemporary and the classic resonates together in the Limón Dance Company's first season of performances under its new Artistic Director, Colin Connor.

The program begins with two classic Limón works, the elegant and warm *Concerto Grosso*, and *Chaconne*, his powerful solo. The first half ends with the intensity and individuality of the company's dancers in Colin Connor's driving *Corvidae*.

After intermission, the company returns with one of Limón's greatest works, *The Moor's Pavane*. This distilled telling of Shakespeare's *Othello* is followed by the dramatically luminous and sharply etched *Night Light* of Kate Weare.

We thank you for joining us in celebrating the dancing of these powerful dances, past and present, resonating together. Enjoy the show!

- Colin Connor,
Artistic Director



KATHRYN ALTER attended Interlochen Arts Academy and graduated from Purchase Conservatory of Dance in 2001. A member of LDC since 2002, she is also a founding member of Riedel Dance Theater and is grateful to have worked with Alan Danielson and Kazuko Hirabayashi. Ms. Alter is on faculty at the Limón Institute and teaches and choreographs around the globe.



BRADLEY BEAKES is a graduate of California State University, Fullerton and hails from Glendora, CA. While in California, Bradley danced with BARE Dance Company and Visions Dance Theatre, where at the latter he was named the 2010 Lester Horton Award Winner for "Outstanding Male Performance". In 2010, he attended the Ailey School, and shortly thereafter danced with NYC based companies Project 44 and Naganuma Dance. In 2011, Bradley moved to Salt Lake City, UT to perform and teach with Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company until 2016. His choreography has been presented in venues across California and Utah. Bradley joined Limón Dance Company in 2016.



LEON COBB Born in Ft. Lauderdale, FL Leon Cobb began his dance training at age 17 at Boynton Beach Community High School and Southern Dance Theater. While in high school, he attended summer intensives at the Alvin Ailey School and Alonzo King's Lines Ballet. Leon danced with José Garrant Dance Company, later joining Peter London Global Dance Company where he danced for four seasons. Upon graduating New World School of the Arts/ University of Florida in 2015, he performed with the Martha Graham Dance Company. Leon also received recognition for Top Ten Contemporary choreography at the YAGP. This is his first season with the Limón Dance Company.



ELISE DREW LEON of Puerto Rican descent, is originally from Oxford, CT. She received her early training with the Brass City Ballet School before graduating with honors from the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program in Dance. Performance credits include Barkin/Selissen Project, Camille A. Brown and Dancers, Luna Negra Dance Theater, Pajarillo Pinta'o, the Santa Fe Opera, Seán Curran Company, TAKE

Dance Company, and Mark Morris Dance Group's The Hard Nut. Elise joined the Limón Dance Company in 2010, where she received a 2014 Princess Grace Dance Honorarium and was designated the 2015 Puerto Rican Day Parade's Rising Star in the Performing Arts.



KRISTEN FOOTE hails from Toronto, Canada where she trained with CCDT. She joined the Limón Company in 2000 and was highlighted by *Dance Magazine* in 2005 as a "Top 25 to Watch" and one of 2010's "Most Amazing Performers". She was a Radio City Rockette, performed with Mark Morris Dance Group, Pajarillo Pinta'o and Dance Heginbotham. Foote is proudly supported by The Bay & Paul Foundations and the Enoch Foundation.



DAVID GLISTA is a graduate of The Boston Conservatory with a BFA in Dance Performance. At The Conservatory, he performed works by José Limón, Anna Sokolow, Doug Varone, Alwin Nikolais, Paul Taylor, and Bill T. Jones. Since graduating in 2013, David has been a member of Prometheus Dance, The People Movers, and The Anna Sokolow Theatre Dance Ensemble. David also works as a freelance set and lighting technician, and stage manager.



ROSS KATEN Originally from Gaston, Oregon, Ross trained at the Westside Dance Academy, The Portland Ballet, and Arts & Communication Magnet Academy. Additionally Katen has studied at The Juilliard School, Nashville Ballet, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, and at the Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance. Ross graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts in 2013 with a BFA in Dance. Ross joined the Limón Company in 2013. Ross also performs with ChrisMastersDance, Chuck Wilt's Una Projects, Company XIV, and with Adam Weinert.



LOGAN FRANCES KRUGER hails from Atlanta, Georgia, where she trained with Annette Lewis and Pamala Jones-Malavé, and received a BFA in dance from The Juilliard School. Logan has performed across five continents, worked with Adam H. Weinert, Jonah Bokaer, Shen Wei Dance Arts, and has appeared as part of Damian Woetzel's *DEMO*. Logan joined the Limón Dance Company in 2009 and has performed featured roles in works by José Limón, Jiří Kylián, and

Rodrigo Pederneiras. Additionally, Logan has served as rehearsal director for Mr. Weinert's *MONUMENT*, and has reconstructed Limón repertory for Dancewave, *MONUMENT*, and the Vail International Dance Festival.



BRENNA MONROE-COOK is originally from Oak Park, Illinois. She began her dance training at The Academy of Movement and Music and The Ruth Page Foundation. She received her BFA from The Juilliard School under director Benjamin Harkavy. From 2002-2007 Ms. Monroe-Cook was a dancer with the Limón Dance Company. In 2011 she earned her MFA from the University of Washington. She rejoined Limón in 2013 and now divides her time between New York and Seattle. Ms. Monroe-Cook has served on the faculties of Cornish College, Dance Fremont, PNB School, and the University of Washington. She is certified in Pilates and the GYROKINESIS® method.



JESSE OBREMSKI a New Yorker, trained at The Ailey School and LaGuardia High School. Jesse, an Eagle Scout Rank recipient (2010) and recipient of the 2016 Jadin Wong Dance Award, administered by the Asian American Arts Alliance, is a graduate of The Juilliard School. He has performed repertory by Alvin Ailey, Robert Battle, Brian Brooks, Nacho Duato, Sharon Eyal, Martha Graham, José Limón, Crystal Pite and Paul Taylor. Jesse performs with Buglisi Dance Theatre, Lar Lubovitch Dance Company and this is Jesse's first season with the Limón Dance Company.



SAVANNAH SPRATT born and raised in Rochester, Pennsylvania, began dancing at age three before attending the Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School to study dance alongside high school academics. In the spring of 2016, she graduated from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts earning a BFA in Contemporary Dance while being the named recipient of the Sarah Graham Keenan scholarship. Savannah has had the honor and joy of performing works by Merce Cunningham, Jose Limón, Lucinda Childs, Doug Varone, Ton Simons, Shen Wei, Xan Burley, Helen Simoneau, Anna Sperber, Brenda Daniels, Sean Sullivan, and Ming Lung Yang. She joined the Limón Dance Company as an Apprentice early 2016 and was promoted to Dancer in December 2016.



MARK WILLIS born in NYC, is a graduate of Montclair State University where he received his B.F.A. in Dance. While attending, he performed the works of José Limón, Anna Sokolow, Bill T. Jones, Earl Mosley and worked with interactive filmmaker/collection artist Grahame Weinbren. In 2013, Mark was recipient of the Spirit of Dance Award given by the Department of Theatre and Dance. Since graduating, he has worked with Douglass Dunn and Dancers, WHITE WAVE Dance, ARCOS Dance and Christina Noel and The Creature among others. Mr. Willis joined the Limón Dance Company in the spring of 2015.



ALEX MCBRIDE (Apprentice) is originally from Lafayette, Louisiana where he began his early dance training at Lafayette Ballet Theater. He went on to receive his BFA from The University of Arizona in Tucson. While in school, he performed works by Jose Limon, George Balanchine, Ohad Naharin, and Larry Keigwin. Additionally, Alex has trained at the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance and River North Dance Company in Chicago. Since moving to New York City, Alex has performed with Randy James' 10 Hairy Legs. After graduating in 2016, he joined the Limon Company as an Apprentice.

JOSÉ LIMÓN (Founder/Choreographer, 1908-1972) electrified the world with his dynamic masculine dancing and dramatic choreography. One of the 20th century's most important and influential dance makers, he spent his career pioneering a new art form and fighting for its recognition. Born in Culiacán, Mexico in 1908, he moved to California in 1915, and in 1928 came to New York where he saw his first dance program. Limón enrolled in Doris Humphrey and Charles Weidman's dance school and performed in several of their works from 1930 to 1940. In 1946, with Doris Humphrey as Artistic Director, Limón formed his own company. Over the next 25 years, he established himself and his company as a major force of 20th century dance. Limón created a total of seventy-four works, including *The Moor's Pavane*, *Concerto Grosso*, and *Missa Brevis*.

DORIS HUMPHREY (Founder and 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 LDC, creating new works for him and choreographing for The Juilliard Dance Theater.

COLIN CONNOR (Artistic Director), born in London, England, is the fifth Artistic Director in the Foundation's 70-year history. Mr. Connor began dancing in Canada and was a soloist with the Limón Dance Company for eight years, guest performed with several other companies, and toured extensively with his own work. He has always been committed to the idea that dancers are creative artists and that dancing is the act of drawing from a large range of influences, musical, literary, sensory, social and scientific, to bring attention back to the visceral communicative power of the human body. Mr. Connor's over fifty choreographic commissions span the worlds of contemporary, ballet and flamenco companies, and his works have been presented at numerous venues across the Americas and Europe.

KATE WEARE (Choreographer) received her bachelors of arts from California Institute of the Arts and danced in Los Angeles, San Francisco, London, Belgrade and Montreal before settling in New York City. She founded Kate Weare Company in 2005 and has steadily gained recognition for her uncompromising, articulate choreographic vision. Weare is a 2014 Guggenheim Fellow, 2011 Mellon Foundation Awardee, and 2009 Princess Grace Award-Winner for Choreography.

LIMÓN DANCE COMPANY (LDC) has been at the vanguard of dance since its inception in 1946, distinguishing itself as the first dance group to tour internationally under the auspices of the State Department and the first modern dance company to perform at Lincoln Center in New York, as well as performing twice at The White House. Thematically, founder José Limón possessed a social awareness that transcended distinct groups to address how we all search for commonality, earning him a special place in American culture. With their arresting visual clarity, theatricality, and rhythmic and musical life, his works continue to influence the evolution of the art form more than 40 years after his passing. The Company has developed a repertory of unparalleled breadth to complement the classics by its founders Humphrey and Limón. This oeuvre represents 44 choreographers and 45 new commissions/acquisitions by such luminaries as Lar Lubovitch, Doug Varone, Donald McKayle, Murray Louis, Susanne Linke, Meredith Monk, Jiří Kylián, and now Kate Weare. The José Limón Dance Foundation, encompassing the Company and the educational and licensing Institute, was awarded a 2008 National Medal of the Arts, the nation's highest honor for artistic excellence.

JOSÉ LIMÓN DANCE FOUNDATION

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The Limón Institute is the official school of the Limón Dance Company, offering Limón Technique classes at Peridance Center in New York City, as well as West and East coast summer programs for professional and pre-professionals. Intensive workshops are offered in NYC with master teachers Risa Steinberg, Betty Jones, Carla Maxwell, Roxane D'Orléans Juste and Clay Taliaferro, among others. The Professional Studies Program, accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance, offers nine months of intensive training. To enroll call Becky Brown at 212-777-3353, x18. The Institute also licenses Limón's dances. To license a dance, call Yasuko Tokunaga at 212-777-3353 x15.