

THE WALLIS

ROBERT VAN LEER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO

L.A. DANCE PROJECT
WITH THE SUPPORT OF DANCE REFLECTIONS BY VAN CLEEF & ARPELS

PRESENT

GEMS

A TRIPTYCH BY BENJAMIN MILLEPIED

Benjamin Millepied CHOREOGRAPHY

October 23 - 25, 2025

BRAM GOLDSMITH THEATER

RUNNING TIME: 2 HOURS 15 MINUTES,

INCLUDING 2 INTERMISSIONS

Benjamin Millepied's **Gems, A Triptych** unites three contemporary dances exploring intimacy, memory, and the power of connection. With evocative scores and immersive visual design, the trilogy celebrates the expressive intersection of movement, music, and art.

Presented with the support of Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Arpels.

Van Cleef & Arpels

DANCE
REFLECTIONS
BY
VAN CLEEF & ARPELS



PROGRAM

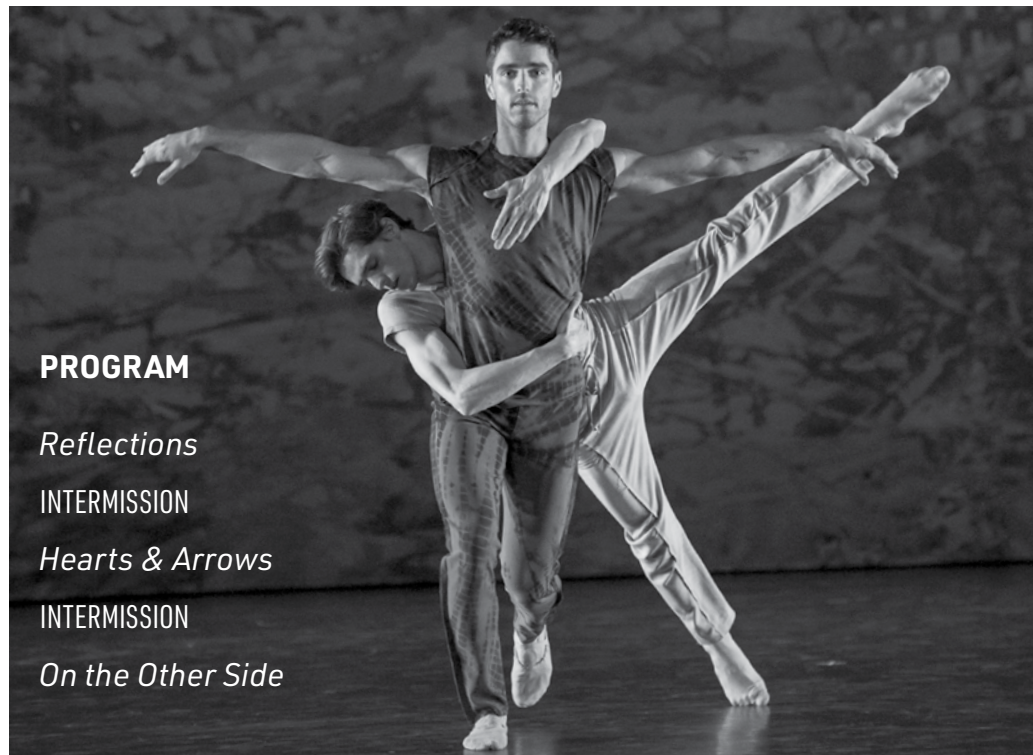
Reflections

INTERMISSION

Hearts & Arrows

INTERMISSION

On the Other Side



DANCE @ THE WALLIS IS GENEROUSLY MADE POSSIBLE BY KONI AND GEOFF RICH

DANCERS

Courtney Conovan
Daphne Fernberger
Robert Hoffer
Shu Kinouchi
Clay Koonar
Audrey Sides
Hope Spears
Noah Wang

MUSICIANS

Reflections

YANFENG "TONY" BAI (PIANO)

Hearts & Arrows

KAILEY YUN AND CHENG LO LO (VIOLIN)

TOM MANTEL (VIOLA)

TESSA NYSETVOLD (CELLO)

On the Other Sides

YANFENG "TONY" BAI (PIANO)

ALL MUSICIANS FROM THE COLBURN SCHOOL.

PRODUCTION

Sebastien Marcovici

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Nathan Shreeve-Moon

DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION

Alisa Wyman

PRODUCTION & TOUR MANAGER

Venus Gulbranson

LIGHTING DIRECTOR

Yelena Babinskaya

STAGE MANAGER

REFLECTIONS CREDITS

Benjamin Millepied,
In collaboration with Julia Eichten,
Charlie Hodges, Morgan Lugo, Nathan
Makolandra and Amanda Wells

CHOREOGRAPHY

Barbara Kruger **VISUAL CONCEPT**

Masha Tsimring **LIGHTING DESIGNER**

David Lang, This was Written by Hand /
Memory Pieces (selections)

MUSIC

*Premiered May 23, 2013 at Théâtre du Châtelet
in Paris, France.*

Commissioned by Van Cleef & Arpels

HEARTS & ARROWS CREDITS

Benjamin Millepied **CHOREOGRAPHY**

Liam Gillick **VISUAL CONCEPT**

Masha Tsimring **LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Janie Taylor **COSTUMES**

Philip Glass,

String Quartet No. 3 (Mishima)

1. 1957 - Award Montage

2. November 25 - Ichigaya

3. 1934 - Grandmother And Kimitake

4. 1962 - Body Building

5. Blood Oath

6. Mishima/Closing

© 1985, Dunvagen Music Publishers Inc.

(ASCAP). Used by permission. Performed

by Kronos Quartet - Nonesuch Records.

Recorded in 1993. Produced by Judith

Sherman, Kurt Munkacs, and Philip Glass.

MUSIC

Premiered December 1st, 2014

in Miami, Florida

Commissioned by Van Cleef & Arpels

ON THE OTHER SIDE CREDITS

Benjamin Millepied **CHOREOGRAPHY**

Mark Bradford **VISUAL CONCEPT**

Masha Tsimring **LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Camille Assaf **COSTUMES**

All compositions by Philip Glass, unless

otherwise noted. *Etude No. 1* – performed by

Maki Namekawa. *Etude No. 2* – performed by

Philip Glass. *Etude No. 6* – performed by Maki

Namekawa. *Etude No. 16* – performed by Maki

Namekawa. *Etude No. 17* – performed by

Vanessa Wagner. *Etude No. 18* – performed by

Maki Namekawa. *Dead Things* (arranged by

Nico Muhly) – performed by Vanessa Wagner

From the album *Les heures immobiles*.

Orphée Suite No. 2: Orphée's Bedroom –

performed by Paul Barnes. *Orphée Suite No.*

7: Orphée's Bedroom, Reprise – performed by

Paul Barnes. Music used with permission.

MUSIC

Premiered June 24th, 2016 at Sadler's Wells

in London, United Kingdom

Commissioned by Van Cleef & Arpels

ARTISTIC TEAM



BENJAMIN MILLEPIED is a renowned choreographer, filmmaker, and former principal dancer with the New York City Ballet. He currently serves as Artistic Director of L.A. Dance Project and Paris Dance Project.

Born in Bordeaux, France, Millepied began dancing in Senegal and trained in ballet from age eleven. He studied at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Lyon and later at the School of American Ballet in New York. He joined the New York City Ballet in 1995, becoming a principal dancer in 2001 and performing works by Balanchine, Robbins, Martins, and other celebrated choreographers.

Millepied began choreographing in 2001 and founded Danse Concertantes in 2002. His work has been commissioned by major companies including NYCB, Paris Opera Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, San Francisco Ballet, and Mariinsky Ballet. He has collaborated with visual artists such as Barbara Kruger, Mark Bradford, and Rodarte.

In 2010, he choreographed and appeared in Darren Aronofsky's *Black Swan*. Two years later, he co-founded L.A. Dance Project, which has presented hundreds of performances globally and developed a permanent home in downtown Los Angeles. In 2013, Millepied became Director of the Paris Opera Ballet, where he launched new digital and wellness initiatives before departing in 2016.

He made his directorial film debut in 2023 with *Carmen*, released by Sony Pictures Classics. Millepied is a recipient of the Prix de Lausanne, a United States Artists Wynn Fellowship, and was named Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters by the French Ministry of Culture in 2010.

COMPANY



COURTNEY CONOVAN is an Austin, Texas native. There she spent her early years training in gymnastics and dance. Once graduating high school Courtney went on to further her education at Conservatory of Dance at Purchase College SUNY where she performed works by Jie-Hung Connie Shiau, Doug Varone, Annie Rigney, Roderick George, and Rosalind Newman. During her time at Purchase she was selected to study abroad at the London Contemporary School of Dance for a semester. In 2020 Courtney performed for Marc Jacobs in New York Fashion Week, directed and choreographed by Karole Armitage. She has worked closely with SoulEscape for numerous years, performing as a company member for Justin Giles. Courtney is

currently finishing up her BFA degree at Purchase college where she is expected to graduate in spring of 2022 while recently joining L.A. Dance Project for her first season with the company.



DAPHNE FERNBERGER, born and raised in NYC, began her professional career with Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet before moving to Europe to join Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company. As a freelance artist, she danced for the Merce Cunningham Trust in

Night Of 100 Solos: A Centennial Event, Ersan Mondtag, Margie Gillis Legacy Project, among others, in both Europe and the United States. Daphne graduated from American Ballet Theatre's Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School and received her BFA from The Juilliard School. During her time at Juilliard, Daphne had the honor of performing a lead role in Pina Bausch's rarely seen work, *Wind von West*, also traveling to Germany to perform in celebration of Tanztheater Wuppertal's 40th anniversary. Her own choreographies include *Hellerau is Female*, *WHOLE*, a short film for the fashion brand Rentrayage, the dance film *Environment as Self*, and *The River Within*. Daphne also movement directs for other projects, collaborating with visual artists, theater productions and more. Daphne joined L.A. Dance Project in 2021.



ROBERT HOFFER, originally from Long Island, NY, received his early training at Fusion Dance Complex under Kyle and Amanda Preiser, along with mentorship from Daniel Tidwell. He earned his BFA from the USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance, performing works by Jiří

Kylián, Kyle Abraham, Peter Chu, Roderick George, Bret Easterling, and Micaela Taylor. Hoffer has trained extensively in contemporary and improvisational-based techniques and has participated in programs such as Gaga Lab and Gallim L.A. Experience. He has also worked in masterclasses with Garen Scribner, Yin Yue, Spenser Theberge, Bobbi Jene Smith, and Or Schraiber. Currently, Hoffer is performing alongside L.A. Dance Project in repertory by Benjamin Millepied. His interests also include choreography and youth education, which continue to inform his evolving practice as a performer and creator.



SHU KINOUCHI is a ballet dancer and multidisciplinary artist from a suburban town near Yokohama, Japan. He began training at Mayumi Kinouchi Ballet Studio at age 2 and later studied at the Hamburg Ballet and the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis

School at American Ballet Theatre. As a teen, he joined the Studio Company at ABT in New York. Shu has danced with Houston Ballet, Tulsa Ballet, and,

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

since 2020, with Benjamin Millepied's L.A. Dance Project. With LADP, Shu has performed internationally in works by Millepied, Bobbi Jene Smith & Or Schraiber, Rauf "Rubbertegz" Yasit, Janie Taylor, Dimitri Chamblas, Idio Chichava, and others. His touring credits include the Sydney Opera House, Joyce Theater in NYC, Théâtre du Châtelet, La Seine Musicale, Philharmonie de Paris, Dubai Opera, and the Museum of Islamic Art in Qatar, among others. His choreographic work blends ballet, martial arts, theater, and performance art, often drawing from the nuance and restraint of Japanese unspoken culture. Recent creations include *This Could Be You*, developed at LADP's Dancer Create, and *SHU LOVES CHAIRS: a piece about support*, a solo dance-theater work in collaboration with LA-based studio WAKA WAKA by Shin Okuda and director Carolyn Braver. In 2025, Shu will serve as Creative Lead for the Everybody Dance LA! Summer Intensive at LA Dance Project. As a freelance artist, dancer, and model, Shu was featured in *PhotoVogue* in 2024, in a portrait by Dan Chan. He also performed a lead solo in RZA's production *A Ballet Through Mud*, and his performance in the experimental film *SHU (周)* by Mike Schwartz was selected for the LA Dance Film Festival. Shu joined L.A. Dance Project in 2020.



CLAY KOONAR, a Vancouver-born dancer, began training in ballet, tap, and modern dance at the Richmond Academy of Dance. After high school, he relocated to Germany to study at the Palucca Hochschule für Tanz. He furthered his education during an internship at Saarländisches Staatstheater Saarbrücken, before joining the Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company under the direction of Jacopo Godani. Over the course of six years with the Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company, Clay performed a wide array of original dance works, museum installations, and featured roles in pieces by choreographers William Forsythe and Marco Goecke. Since 2023, Clay has been working as a freelance dancer and performance artist and has been a part of projects for the Venice Biennale, artist duo Operator, and choreographer Oona Doherty.



AUDREY SIDES was born in Oakland, CA and received her early dance training at the Oakland Ballet School and the Oakland School for the Arts. She went on to train at the San Francisco Ballet School and joined Ballet Austin as a trainee upon graduation. In 2019, she moved to Chicago to train with the Hubbard Street Professional Program and in 2020 was a founding member of Little Fire Artist Collective. In 2021, Audrey moved to Vancouver, BC where she worked with artists such as Daina Ashbee, Joshua Beamish, The Biting School (Aryo and Arash Khakpour), Alyssa Favero/VOLT24, and Eilish Shin-Culhane, while developing her own choreographic practice and training at Modus

Operandi, a contemporary dance training program directed by Tiffany Tregarthen, David Raymond, and Kate Franklin. While in Modus, Audrey performed new works by Shay Kuebler, Nicolas Ventura, b. Solomon, Brandon Alley, Yin Yue, and Zahra Shahab. Audrey joined LA Dance Project in 2023.



HOPE SPEARS was born in Thai Nguyen, Vietnam and raised in West Palm Beach, Florida where she began her dance training before graduating from Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts. She recently graduated with her BFA in Dance from George Mason University where she performed works by Micaela Taylor, Kyle Abraham, Shaun Boyle Darcy, Christopher d'Amboise, and Hope Boykin. Hope joined L.A. Dance Project in 2023.



NOAH WANG (he/they) was born in San Francisco, CA, where he received his primary dance training at the San Francisco Ballet School and Ruth Asawa School of the Arts (SOTA). From 2016-2020, he attended The Juilliard School, where he performed in both new and classic works by John Hignenbotham, Peter Chu, Martha Graham, Stephen Petronio, Twyla Tharp, and Jose Limon. Since graduating from Juilliard with a BFA in Dance, he has collaborated and performed with numerous companies across the U.S., including Alonzo King LINES Ballet, ODC Theater, Buglisi Dance Theatre, Peridance Contemporary Dance Company, and The Metropolitan Opera. In 2023 he joined the cast of *Sleep No More*, created by Punchdrunk, which ran at The McKittrick Hotel in New York City for 14 years before closing in 2025. Outside of their dance career, Noah is a certified trainer in the GYROTONIC™ Method and an apprentice trainer in the GYROKINESIS™ Method. Noah joined L.A. Dance Project for the 2025/26 season.

L.A. DANCE PROJECT is a non-profit dance company under the Artistic Direction of Benjamin Millepied. Founded in 2012, we opened the doors to our studio and performance space in Los Angeles' downtown arts district in 2017. L.A. Dance Project is dedicated to the pursuit of artistic innovation and excellence in the realm of contemporary dance. Our mission is to explore the boundaries of movement, creativity, and expression. Through experimentation and collaboration, we strive to create captivating performances that challenge, provoke, and inspire audiences worldwide. Grounded in a commitment to artistic integrity and authenticity, we aim to cultivate a culture of curiosity, openness, and growth within our company and beyond. With humility and passion, we seek to contribute to the evolution of dance as a dynamic and transformative art form, enriching lives and fostering connections across cultures and communities.