

**L.A. Dance Project's *Harbor Me* and Debbie Allen's *Freeze Frame* To
Make U.S. Premieres in Jan/Feb 2016 at The Wallis**

**A Suzanne Farrell Master Class and New Work
by Benjamin Millepied and Justin Peck also Featured**

**Dance @ The Wallis 2015-16 Season Concludes with a
Judith Jamison Master Class and the Ezralow Dance Company in April**

January 24 – April 30, 2016

(Beverly Hills, CA Jan 8) The New Year ushers in an exquisite lineup of dance performances from renowned choreographers Debbie Allen, Benjamin Millepied, Justin Peck, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, and Daniel Ezralow at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts located in Beverly Hills. Legendary American ballerina Suzanne Farrell will launch **Dance @ The Wallis** on January 24 with a special public master class for local L.A. dance students at which audiences will have the rare opportunity to observe an extraordinary artist working with the next generation of dancers.

"We are thrilled to launch 2016 with performances showcasing three very different L.A.-based dance companies," said Paul Crewes, the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts' new Artistic Director who takes the reins full time in April 2016. "Each work from L.A. Dance Project, Debbie Allen and the Ezralow Dance Company brings a strong particular aesthetic that can also deliver a powerful message. Suzanne Farrell and Judith Jamison are living legends and their master classes will most certainly inspire not only the next generation of performers and choreographers, but also The Wallis audience members."

On January 29 & 30, the artist collective L.A. Dance Project makes its debut at The Wallis, featuring three exciting works. Making its U.S. premiere, *Harbor Me*, choreographed by award-winning Belgian artist Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, explores shelter and protection while showcasing a dance trio accompanied by a score from Woojae Park. From renowned choreographer and director of the Paris Opera Ballet Benjamin Millepied, *Hearts & Arrows* brings together eight dancers on stage set to Philip Glass's *String Quartet No. 3 (Mishima)*. In *Murder Ballades*, Justin Peck, Resident Choreographer of the New York City Ballet, the second in the Company's history, draws inspiration from the strange and rich tradition of American "murder ballad" folk songs.

The following week, three-time Emmy Award-winner Debbie Allen's *Freeze Frame* takes audiences on a rollercoaster ride through some of LA's toughest city streets in a dance-driven narrative that will reframe the conversation about violence in America. Fusing together dance, music, film and theater, *Freeze Frame* is the next installment of The Wallis' *Arts & Ideas: Community Connections* series, which aims to spark dialogue about societal and cultural issues and ideas through stimulating conversations and thought-provoking performances.

The 2015-16 season's dance programming concludes with a master class taught by American dance icon Judith Jamison, Artistic Director Emerita of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in New York, on April 5, and the return home of the Ezralow Dance Company on April 29 & 30 to perform *Open*, which blends contemporary dance with playful humor, provocative ideas, striking visuals and an unforgettable classical score.

Dance @ The Wallis tickets and subscriptions, ranging from \$25 - \$117, are available at TheWallis.org, by calling 310.746.4000, or in person at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Ticket Services located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90210. Ticket prices subject to change. For complete information, visit TheWallis.org, or call 310.746.4000.

For downloadable photos, please visit TheWallis.org/press.

About Dance @ The Wallis:

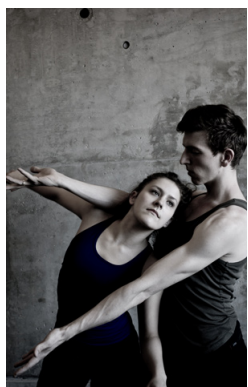


[Suzanne Farrell Master Class](#)

January 24, 2016

A living legend and Balanchine's most influential muse Suzanne Farrell will lead an advanced Master Class on the Bram Goldsmith stage with Los Angeles's finest ballet students accompanied by a pianist. The Suzanne Farrell Ballet Company at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. grew from Exploring Ballet with Suzanne Farrell, a summer program started in 1993 for young dancers, which Ms. Farrell continues to teach today. As a teacher, she has an amazing gift of passing on her knowledge to others and believes "we know what we can do but we don't know all that we can do."

- Sun, Jan. 24 at 11:30 a.m.



[L.A. Dance Project](#)

January 29-30, 2016

L.A. Dance Project is one of the world's most exciting new dance companies, creating innovative platforms for contemporary dance. Founded by 2012 by renowned choreographer and director of Paris Opera Ballet Benjamin Millepied, along with composer Nico Muhly, art consultant Matthieu Humery, Founding Producer Charles Fabius and Nicholas Britell, L.A. Dance Project has enjoyed critically acclaimed sold-out performances worldwide. The Wallis program features *Hearts & Arrows* by Millepied with music by Philip Glass, the U.S. Premiere of Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui's *Harbor Me* and *Murder Ballades* by Justin Peck featuring an original score by Bryce Dessner and visual installation by Sterling Ruby.

- Fri, Jan 29 at 8:00 p.m.
- Sat, Jan. 30 at 8:00 p.m.



[Freeze Frame](#)

(Part of The Wallis' *Arts & Ideas: Community Connections* series)

February 5-6, 2016

Exploding onto the stage in a fusion of Dance, Music, Film and Theater, this U.S. Premiere will bring the passion and pain of L.A.'s toughest streets to The Wallis. Written, directed and choreographed by three-time Emmy Award-winning choreographer/director Debbie Allen, *Freeze Frame* will inspire, stun and awaken the audience with powerful dance, soulful voices and true stories that transform lives.

- Fri, Feb 5 at 8:00 p.m.
- Sat, Feb 6 at 3:00 pm
- Sat, Feb 6 at 8:00 pm



[Judith Jamison Master Class](#)

April 5, 2016

Judith Jamison, Artistic Director Emerita of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in New York is an international dance luminary. Honored with a prime time Emmy Award, an American Choreography Award, the Kennedy Center Honor, a National Medal of Arts, and a “Bessie” Award, she was a soloist for Alvin Ailey for 15 years. On the Wallis’ Bram Goldsmith stage, she will graciously conduct a master class for 20 young dancers. Ms. Jamison will focus on her specific “warm up” utilizing the Lester Horton technique, the dance form which serves as the foundation for Alvin Ailey’s choreography. After the Horton “Warm Up” the class will be followed by Repertory. The class will be 90 minutes followed by a question and answer session with the dancers providing them new insights into the world of dance.

- Tues, April 5 at 7:00 pm



[Ezralow Dance Company: Open](#)

April 29-30, 2016

Award-winning choreographer Daniel Ezralow makes his ‘hometown debut’ in Beverly Hills with his new dance company. Ezralow’s unique style of physical expression and articulate choreography has earned him a distinguished reputation as a groundbreaking artist worldwide. His work is celebrated in the seminal film *Across the Universe*, Cirque du Soleil’s *Love* and in the opening ceremony of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.

- Fri, April 29 at 8:00 pm
- Sat, April 30 at 8:00 pm

About the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

The mission of The Wallis is to be a vital cultural hub that uses unique arts events and education programming to entertain, enlighten and inspire children and adults in our community and across the nation. Since opening its doors in October 2013, The Wallis has produced or presented over 100 dance, theatre, opera, classical music and children’s programs to an ever-expanding audience. The 2014-15 season—recently awarded six LA STAGE Alliance Ovation awards including “Best Season” and “Best Musical Production” for *Spring Awakening*, which transferred to Broadway and continues its run through January at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre—saw audiences at The Wallis grow to over 44,000 attendees with another 50,000 anticipated for the 2015-16 Season which officially began in September with a sold-out and live-streamed conversation with two-time Academy Award winning actor Denzel Washington followed by four sold-out performances of the Twyla Tharp 50th Anniversary Tour.

Located in the heart of Beverly Hills, California, The Wallis brings audiences world-class theater, dance and music, performed by many of the world’s most talented and sought-after artists. With eclectic programming that mirrors the diverse landscape of Los Angeles, and its notability as the entertainment capital of the world, The Wallis offers original and revered works from across the U.S. and around the globe.

Nominated for 26 Ovation Awards, four L.A. Drama Critic’s Circle Awards and the recipient of five architectural awards since opening in 2013, The Wallis is a breathtaking 70,000-square-foot venue that celebrates the classic and the modern and was designed by Zoltan E. Pali, FAIA of Studio Pali Fekete architects. The building features the restored, original 1933 Beverly Hills Post Office (on the National Register of Historic Places) that serves as the theater’s dramatic yet welcoming lobby, and houses the 150-seat Lovelace Studio Theater, GRoW at The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education (a gift of Gregory Annenberg Weingarten and Family and the Annenberg Foundation) and the contemporary 500-seat, state-of-the-art Bram Goldsmith Theater. Together, these structures embrace the city’s history and its future, creating a

performing arts destination for L.A.-area visitors and residents alike. For more information, visit www.thewallis.org.

TICKET INFORMATION:

What: *Dance @ The Wallis*
Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
Bram Goldsmith Theater
9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA 90210

When: Jan. 24 – Feb 6, 2016

Tickets: Suzanne Farrell Master Class
Prices: \$25-\$35 for single tickets
L.A. Dance Project
Prices: \$39 - \$99 for single tickets, and \$117+ for subscription series
Freeze Frame
Prices: \$39 - \$99 for single tickets, and \$117+ for subscription series
Judith Jamison Master Class
Prices: \$25-\$35 for single tickets
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Online – www.TheWallis.org
By Phone – 310.746.4000
Box Office – Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Press Contacts: Sarah Jarvis, Communications Manager
310.246.3800 | sjarvis@thewallis.org
Gary W. Murphy, The Wallis Public Relations Consultant
310.914.0178 | gmurphypr@gmail.com