

CounterPointe 2012: a new performance series presented in collaboration with Norte Maar and Brooklyn Ballet

The Actors Fund Arts Center

160 Schermerhorn Street, Brooklyn

Fri, Sept 28 at 7:30pm

Sat, Sept 29 at 7:30pm

and Sun, Sept 30 at 4pm



Do I think women choreograph better than men? No. Do I think they choreograph worse? No. I wonder what our success rate would be if we saw two world premieres, one by a man and one by woman, and then tried to decide who did what based on gender. But why there aren't more women creating. In 19 years of dancing professionally, I only danced in one ballet on a main stage by a woman, Lisa de Ribere's The Mighty Casey. That statistic is hard to accept. There are certainly many immensely talented female artists dancing, why are they not creating? Programs like this one help to galvanize that conversation, and for that I am thankful.

-Amy Seiwert

I think what you are doing is fantastic for the continuation of the exploration of choreography on pointe.

- Susan Jaffe

The Program Order:

Friday Evening, September 28

Good Night by Eve Chan

Business Chic by Marie Renee Bennett

Tracing Back by Lynn Parkerson

Uno by Susan Jaffe

Amber But Not Yellow... by Julia K Gleich

Post performance talk: Claudia Jeschke

Saturday Evening, September 29

Business Chic by Marie Renee Bennett

Amber But Not Yellow... by Julia K Gleich

The Broken Chain (excerpt) by Emily Bufferd

Mercuria by Eryn Renee Young

Tracing Back by Lynn Parkerson

Post performance talk: Claudia Jeschke

Sunday Afternoon, September 30

Business Chic by Marie Renee Bennett

Good Night by Eve Chan

Mercuria by Eryn Renee Young

Tracing Back by Lynn Parkerson

Uno by Susan Jaffe

The Broken Chain (excerpt) by Emily Bufferd

Amber But Not Yellow... by Julia K Gleich

Post performance talk: Claudia Jeschke

The Works:

Amber But Not Yellow in a Haze With No Smoke

Choreography: Julia K. Gleich

Music: Astor Piazzolla

Dancers: Kimberly Giannelli, Morgan McEwen, Izabela Szylińska
with Brooklyn Ballet Youth Ensemble

The Broken Chain (an excerpt)

Choreography: Emily Bufferd

Music: J.S. Bach

Dancers: Megan Jones, Caroline Kehoe, Leigh Schanfein

Business Chic

Choreography: Marie Renee Bennett

Music: Phil Collins

Dancer: Katie Eshbach

Good Night

Choreographer: Eve Chan

Music: Arvo Pärt

Costume design: Herin Kaputkin

Dancers: Debra Bona, Elettra Cianferoni, Sarah Ford, Jessie Frazier, Abigail Matthews, Amy Stuart, Brandon Welch

Choreographer's note: The piece is about a girl that could not go to sleep due to her depression and vexation. She is desperate for the quietness and enjoys the world that is created inside of her. After struggling between fantasy and reality, she finally shifts the attention away from her concerns and falls asleep beside her lover.

Mercuria

Choreography: Eryn Renee Young

Music: The Ahn Trio

Dancers: Jacline Henrichs, Brittany Testone

Music Editing: Meghan Rose Murphy

Tracing Back (work-in-progress)

Choreography: Lynn Parkerson

Music: Louis Couperin

Dancers: Renee Bharath, Duane Gosa, Miku Kawamura, Vincenzo Marra, Kerry Shea, Myriam Ayala (Fri, Sun), Youngsil Kim (Sat)

Pianist: Julius Abrahams

Tracing Back will premiere on February 28, 2013 here at The Actors Fund Arts Center as part of Brooklyn Ballet's 2013 Season. The movement material you see tonight is a departure point for a visual arts collaboration that will result in a digital set design and more!

Uno

Choreography: Susan Jaffe

Music: Ludovico Einaudi

Dancer: Debra Bona

The People:

Choreographers:

Marie Renee Bennett is a native of Washington DC. Ms. Bennett began her intensive ballet training at the Washington School of Ballet. She also received training from The San Francisco Conservatory of Dance and The Rock School before attending SUNY Purchase College, where she received her BFA in Dance Performance. While in college Ms. Bennett performed with the Purchase Dance Corps and also performed pieces by Merce Cunningham and Helen Pickett. She has been a guest teacher and choreographer at the City Dance Conservatory in Maryland and is currently working as a Dance Instructor at the Sidwell Friends School in Washington DC.

Julia K. Gleich is a critically acclaimed choreographer, teacher, scholar, and mathematics aficionado interested in re-contextualizing ballet: creating new environments for traditional works and illuminating the relationships between the traditional and the contemporary. Her company, Gleich Dances has performed throughout the UK and US with seasons at NYC's Joyce SoHo ('01, '03) and Centre for Performance Research ('11, '12) receiving critical notice in *The New York Times*, *Village Voice*, *The New Criterion* and *Brooklyn Rail*. Ms. Gleich is on faculty at Trinity LABAN Conservatoire of Music and Dance (London, UK) and is Head of Choreography at London Studio Centre. www.gleichdances.org

Lynn Parkerson, Founding Artistic Director of Brooklyn Ballet, began her career as a choreographer while living in Germany. Her choreography has been presented at many prominent international events and venues, including the Munich Theater Festival, Frankfurt's Theatre am Turm, the Florence International Festival of Dance, Moers New Jazz Festival, Jazz Festival Baden-Baden, 92nd St. Y among others. In New York, she presented annual dance programs—notably the popular ballet series *To the Pointe*—at Dance at Holy Trinity from 1991-2001. For her exceptional leadership in Brooklyn, Ms. Parkerson received the Paul Robeson Award in 2006 and Brooklyn's Betty Smith Arts Award in 2007.

Susan Jaffe is the Dean of Dance at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Declared by the *New York Times* as "America's Quintessential American Ballerina" Susan Jaffe danced as a principal dancer with American Ballet Theatre for 20 years, a career which began in 1980. In 2003, Ms. Jaffe co-founded the Princeton Dance & Theatre Studio in Princeton, New Jersey. As a result of owning a school, she expanded into choreography and has created contemporary works for Texas Christian University and Princeton University as well as the ABT Studio Company and ABT Gala. In 2010 she received an Honorary Doctorate from Texas Christian University.

Eve Chan performed as a ballerina with the Hong Kong Ballet for nine years. Chan's choreographic career began with the Company's choreography workshops in 2002. She was commissioned to make a new contemporary work, *Night Light*, for the company and in 2008, she created a contemporary duet, *butterfly lovers*, for two principal dancers to perform at the 2008 Gala Internacional de Estrellas in Chile. From 2010 to 2012, Chan received a full scholarship from the Hong Kong Jockey Club for her MFA studies (choreography) at Purchase College SUNY, where she teaches pointe class in the Conservatory of Dance and ballet technique classes for non-majors through the School of the Arts.

Emily Bufferd, dancer, choreographer, teacher and producer, presents The Young Choreographer's Festival, an annual event in NYC that presents the most up and coming 18-25 year old choreographers. Her company, BEings, has presented work at prestigious venues in NYC such as Joyce SoHo, City Center, and the 92nd St. Y. A guest faculty member at Peridance Capezio Center and assistant to renowned master teacher/choreographer Michele Assaf, Emily has taught at The Ailey Extension in NYC, and for private studios throughout the country. As a performer, she has danced on *The View*, the International Dance Festival, and at Carnegie Hall, Hollywood PAC, The Kravis Center, and the Variety Arts Theater. (www.BEingsdance.com)

Eryn Renee Young is co-founder, artistic director, and resident choreographer of XAOC Contemporary Ballet. Her choreographic work has been showcased at the Choreographer's Canvas at Manhattan Movement and Arts Center, Dixon Place, Dance New Amsterdam, Steps on Broadway, Moving Beauty Series, Algonquin Arts Center, Peridance, Boston Conservatory, and New York University. She began her dance training locally in New Jersey and has studied previously at the Boston Conservatory, Broadway Dance Center, and MAX Ballet Academy in Florence, Italy. She holds a degree in Contemporary Ballet Choreography and Fine Art from New York University. She began choreographing in 2007.

Post-Performance Talk:

Claudia Jeschke Dancer, reconstructor, historian. Born in Ludwigsburg, Germany, Claudia studied Laban Notation as well as various forms of dance in Munich, New York and Philadelphia. Following studies in theater and literature and a doctoral dissertation on the historical development of dance notation, she was appointed professor of dance studies at the Paris-London University in Salzburg, Austria. Ms. Jeschke is considered to be one of the pioneers in establishing dance studies as an academic discipline in the German speaking countries. Her body of publications focuses on dance historical and theoretical issues as well as on movement research and notation.

For the Actor's Fund Arts Center:

Matthew Brookshire Activities Manager / Stage Manager

Cassandra Powell Production Coordinator / Lighting Design

CounterPointe is dedicated to presenting new choreography in ballet by women dance makers working with the pointe shoe. Investigating new and old territory the series highlights new work, opening up discussion, and creating a forum for women, young or old, emerging or established, to take risks. This is the first season of CounterPointe.

Brooklyn Ballet is a professional, not-for-profit dance company dedicated to artistic excellence, education and serving Brooklyn's diverse communities. The company was founded in February 2002 by Artistic Director Lynn Parkerson, the first of its kind in Brooklyn in more than 40 years. Brooklyn Ballet brings a contemporary vision to the treasured art form of ballet, with repertory and programs that revitalize and re-imagine the classical form. Visit us at www.brooklynballet.org



Norte Maar for Collaborative Projects in the Arts is a 501(c)3 non-profit arts organization founded in 2004 by curator Jason Andrew and choreographer Julia K. Gleich with a mission to create, promote, and present collaborations in the disciplines of the visual, literary, and the performing arts: connecting artists, choreographers, composers, writers, and other originating artists with venues and each other. Visit us at www.nortemaar.org

The Actors Fund Arts Center serves as a resource for Brooklyn-based artists and arts groups to aid in the development and sharing of their work, as well as a venue for integrating the residents of The Schermerhorn with the surrounding community through the arts. AFAC is operated by The Actors Fund, a national human services organization that helps professionals in performing arts and entertainment in times of need, crisis or transition. www.actorsfund.org/afac