

## CounterPointe 2013:

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

### The Actors Fund Arts Center

160 Schermerhorn Street, Brooklyn

Fri, Nov 1 at 7:30pm

Sat, Nov 2 at 7:30pm

and Sun, Nov 3 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 2012

*I think what you are doing is fantastic for the continuation of the exploration  
of choreography on pointe. – Susan Jaffe 2012*

## The Program:

### 2 of 1 for 3

Choreography: Nikki Hefko

Music: Bela Bartok, First Rhapsody: Seconda Parte (Friss)

Dancers: Mara Discoll, Richard Glover, Molly Miller

### Seasons of White

Choreography: Sheena Annalise - Arch Contemporary Ballet

Music: Original Composition by Larrie Reece Fisher

Dancers: Sheena Annalise, Samantha Greymont, Sabrina Imamura, Kaitlyn Salisbury

Choreographer's Note: Annalise's repertory is choreographed in silence and is completely set before bringing in a composer to study the work. In collaboration with high caliber composers, original compositions are then created to Annalise's finished pieces. For "Seasons of White," Larrie Reece Fisher was commissioned by patrons of ACB.

### Jeu de Temps

Choreography: Morgan Claire McEwen, MorDance

Music: Kenshas World Drums, Congo: Polyphonies Pygmees, Steve Reich, Masters Of Percussion Egypt

Dancers: Brian Gephart, Izabela Szylińska, Nicolas de la Vega, Morgan McEwen

**Snow (work-in-progress)**

Choreography: Lynn Parkerson

Music: P.I Tchaikovsky, The Nutcracker

Costumes: YMX by Yellowman

Dancers: Miku Kawamura and Andre Teixara

with (Sunday only): Penelope Birnbaum, Rebecca Bobb, Sofia Caracciolo, Alexia Chan, Katty Cruz, Jhanique Fontenelle, M'Shiari Gonzales, Minerva Macarrulla, Zoreika Ollivierre, Naya Cambry-Perry, Lucy Reiss, Chantel St. Fleur

alternates: Baladey Castro, Caroline Seymour

**Intermission** (10 minutes)**The Solitude**

Choreography: Julia K. Gleich with dancers

Music: Composed and performed by Malcolm Parson

Dancers: Abbey Roesner, Izabela Szylińska with Mary Balzer, Shoko Fujita, Clay York

This work was made possible in part by a Dance at Socrates residency through Norte Maar and Socrates Sculpture Park.

**The Sculpture Garden Variations**

Choreography: Alexa Valentine

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, Piano Sonata No. 12 in A-Flat, Op. 22

Dancers: Yiran Li, Bo Pang, Hyung Ji Yu.

**Redux Pas De Deux (work-in-progress) & Redux**

Choreography: Eryn Renee Young (XAOC Contemporary Ballet)

Music: "Nostalic" & "So Fresh" by Les Tambours du Bronx

Music Editing: Meghan Rose Murphy

Dancers: Pas De Deux: Jacline Henrichs (Fri), Debra Bona (Sat/Sun), Sentell McDonald;

Redux: Jacline Henrichs, Debra Bona, Katie Eshbach, Danielle Rutherford, Rebecca Greenbaum, Lauren Olofsson (Fri/Sat), Alanna Newkirk (Sun)

XAOC Contemporary Ballet would like to express its heartfelt gratitude to Linda Greenbaum for her generous donation in support of the Company. XAOC Contemporary Ballet is a sponsored project of Fractured Atlas, a non-profit arts service organization.

### **The Choreographers:**

**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.

**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. Her work, *Speak Easy Secrets* was awarded a major Arts Council England Grant in 2013. She has produced 2 *CounterPointes* in NYC in 2012 and 2013 and has also produced *CounterPointe* in London in 2013. Gleich champions the work of women in ballet and promotes ballet as a current contemporary art form. [www.gleichdances.org](http://www.gleichdances.org).

**Sheena Annalise**, artistic director of Arch Contemporary Ballet, is praised for her ground-breaking process for creating new work. Annalise's repertory is choreographed in silence and is completely set before bringing in a composer to study her work. In collaboration with high caliber composers, original compositions are then created to Annalise's finished piece. Her exploration of classical ballet with expressive, innovative, and challenging lines of the body is the cornerstone for this rising contemporary ballet company. The grace, power, and artistry Annalise's repertory exudes is brought to life by the extraordinary dancers of ACB. In past years ACB has presented at the Paramount Theatre in Boston, Marlene Boll Theatre in Detroit, Cowell Theatre in San Francisco alongside Lines Ballet Training, San Jose State University's Theatre in San Jose, CA, Secret Theatre, John Ryan Theatre, Alvin Ailey Citi Group Theatre in New York, and more. Arch Contemporary Ballet has been presented across the US and continues to bring exhilarating ballets to the world. For more information on Annalise's repertory visit our website at [ArchBallet.com](http://ArchBallet.com).

**Nikki Hefko** was a company member with the Dance Theatre of Harlem, under the direction of Arthur Mitchell. As a choreographer, Nikki's works have been performed at Louisiana Dance Festival, Ailey Citigroup Theatre, Riverside Church, Aaron Davis Hall, Harlem Stage, and The Secret Theatre. In 2012, she was an "Emerging Choreographer" for Harlem Stage E-Moves 13. In 2013, she choreographed for Dance Theatre of Harlem company members in the *Music in Motion* collaboration series, created by Grammy nominated composer, Tania Leon.

**Morgan McEwen**, ballerina turned artistic director, launched MorDance in January of 2013. This young company with dancers from various backgrounds - including the American Ballet Theatre, The Metropolitan Opera, Polish National Ballet, and Armitage Gone! Dance has playfully leapt to the edge of the classical ballet realm. MorDance explores the use of athleticism in its aim to modernize and innovate while honoring the grace and beauty of ballet. McEwen's aesthetic is one that celebrates dance for its own sake, portrayed by an ensemble with varying backgrounds and strengths to bring to life a realm that is robust and uninhibited. MorDance premiered at Manhattan Movement and Arts Center on May 3rd, 2013 and recently had the opportunity to perform at Socrates Sculpture Park as part of Dance at Socrates produced by Norte Maar.

**Eryn Renee Young** is artistic director of XAOC Contemporary Ballet, a New York City-based neoclassical ballet company founded in 2010. Her choreography has been shown at The Ailey Citigroup Theater, the Young Choreographer's Festival at Symphony Space, Boston Contemporary Dance Festival at the Paramount Theater, the White Wave Dumbo Dance Festival, the CounterPointe Series, Manhattan Movement and Arts Center, NYC10: an initiative for NYC Dance Week at Dixon Place, Dance New Amsterdam, Triskelion Arts Center, Steps on Broadway, Peridance Capezio Center, the Boston Conservatory, and New York University. She is honored to have been selected as a mentee for the 2013 Dance/USA Institute for Leadership Training and the 2013 Women in Dance Series. She has provided choreographic consulting on projects including the 2012 MashRome Festival's production of *Medea*

under the direction of Jimmy Ferguson. She acts as production coordinator for Buglisi Dance Theatre's Table of Silence Project 9/11 and as assistant coordinator for Peridance Capezio Center's Certificate Program, Teen Summer Intensive, and Blueprint Intensive. Ms. Young has studied at the Boston Conservatory, Peridance Capezio Center, Broadway Dance Center, and MAX Ballet Academy in Florence, Italy. She holds a baccalaureate degree in Contemporary Ballet Choreography and Fine Art from New York University. She draws inspiration from Balanchine-Stravinsky works, classical sculpture, Greek myth, Christopher Wheeldon, and William Forsythe.

**Alexa Valentine** began her dance training outside of Philadelphia at The Brandywine Center for the Performing Arts, under the direction of Donna Muzio and Nancy Page. She has also studied at the School of American Ballet under full scholarship. Dancing professionally with the Brandywine Ballet, she worked with choreographers such as Matthew Neenan, Meredith Rainey, and Eddy Toussaint, among others. Alexa performed featured roles in many pieces including *Carmina Burana*, *Requiem*, Balanchine's *Concerto Barocco* and *Serenade*, as well as various classical roles from *Paquita*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and *The Nutcracker*. Alexa is currently an MFA candidate at NYU/Tisch School of the Arts. While at Tisch, she performed works by Charlotte Boye-Christensen, Everett Johnson, Melissa Padham, and Hye Jeong Yun. She is exploring her own choreographic voice that is centered around ballet vocabulary with a contemporary influence. The piece performed as part of the Counterpointe program was developed as a homage to years of studying classical ballet and includes aspects of neoclassical inspirations. Currently, Valentine is in the process of filming a more experimental dance film based on the concept of memory.

**Malcolm Parson** (Musician), a native of New Orleans, was born into a musical family and began studying the violin at the age of 8 before moving to the cello the same year. He received his first personal violin as a recipient of the Louis Armstrong Foundation Inc "Golden Horn Award" that recognized and awarded talented aspiring young musicians. Upon relocating to Atlanta, Ga, he was selected to participate in the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra "Talent Development Program," which allowed him to study with ASO's Karen Freer. Through this opportunity, he was awarded his first personal cello from The National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (NARAS), won the Atlanta Community Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition, and was a featured soloist at the National Black Arts Festival "Classics From The Next Generation" and Andre Watts' "50th Birthday Celebration". In 2007, he received a Presidential Scholarship to attend Berklee College of Music as well as a scholarship award from the Atlanta Federation of Musicians, Local 148-462. Recently, Malcolm Parson has performed at Jazz at Lincoln Center as apart of Paquito D'Rivera's "Bird With Strings" as well as a featured artist at Blue Note Jazz Club's "Late Night Groove Series". Also, he's had the honor to share the stage with legends such as Ron Carter, Dave Liebman, Christian Howes, Burt Bacharach, Terri Lynn Carrington, Eugene Friesen, and Patrice Rushen to name a few.



**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](http://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](http://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](http://www.actorsfund.org/afac)

