

L.A. DANCE PROJECT PRESENTS

# BE HERE NOW

A NEW DANCE BY  
BENJAMIN MILLEPIED

Inspired by composer Andy Akiho's recently released "Seven Pillars," Millepied presents an abstract piece showcasing the company's excellent artists in a display of dancing that is both intimate and virtuosic.

## CREDITS

**Choreography** | Benjamin Millepied

**Music** | Entr'acte by Caroline Shaw

Seven Pillars by Andy Akiho:

Pillar I, Amethyst, Pillar II, III, V, VI, IV

**Lighting Design** | Michael Rathbun

**Length** | 60 minutes

10 Dancers

## DANCERS

Doug Baum

Marissa Brown

Lorin Brubaker

Courtney Conovan

Oliver Greene Cramer

Daphne Fernberger

David Adrian Freeland Jr.

Mario Gonzalez

Sierra Herrera

Daisy Jacobson

Payton Johnson

Shu Kinouchi

Peter Mazurowski

Vinicius Silva

Nayomi Van Brunt



## CHOREOGRAPHER BENJAMIN MILLEPIED

**Benjamin Millepied** is a choreographer, filmmaker, and former Principal Dancer with New York City Ballet.

Born in Bordeaux, France, he performed with NYCB from 1995 to 2011, where he originated roles by choreographers including Christopher Wheeldon, Jerome Robbins, and Peter Martins. As a choreographer, Millepied's own works are part of major dance companies' repertoires around the world, such as American Ballet Theatre, The Mariinsky Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Berlin Staatsoper, Lyon Opera Ballet, and Dutch National Ballet.

Millepied acted as the choreographer-in-residence at the Baryshnikov Arts Center in 2006, where he choreographed the solo "Years Later" for Mikhail Baryshnikov. His many collaborators include composers Nico Muhly, Nicholas Britell, David Lang, and Bryce Dessner; artists Christopher Wool, Barbara Kruger, Mark Bradford, Daniel Buren, Liam Gillick, and United Visual Artists; and designers Rodarte, Iris Van Herpen, and Alessandro Sartori.

In 2010, Millepied choreographed and starred in the award-winning film "Black Swan." In 2012, Millepied co-founded L.A. Dance Project, and he was appointed Director of Dance at Paris Opera in 2014, where he commissioned new works by William Forsythe, Justin Peck, Jerome Bel, Wayne McGregor, Crystal Pite, Tino Seghal, Nico Muhly, and James Blake. In addition, he created the Paris Opera's first dance medicine program and launched a digital stage. Directors Thierry Demaizière and Alban Teurlari chronicled Millepied's tenure at Paris Opera in their critically-acclaimed documentary "Reset." In 2016, Millepied resigned from his position in order to focus on his own choreography and filmmaking. In 2022, he will make his directorial feature debut with the film musical "Carmen."

Millepied is a recipient of the Mae L. Wien Award for Outstanding Promise, a recipient of the Bourse Lavoisier Scholarship, a winner of the Prix de Lausanne, a United States Artists Wynn Fellow in Dance, and a recipient of the Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters by the French Ministry of Culture.



## MUSIC

### ANDY AKIHO

**Andy Akiho** is a “trailblazing” (Los Angeles Times) GRAMMY nominated composer whose bold works unravel intricate and unexpected patterns while surpassing preconceived boundaries of classical music. Known as “an increasingly in-demand composer” (The New York Times), Akiho has earned international acclaim for his large-scale works that emphasize the natural theatricality of live performance.

The 2021-2022 season features the NYC premiere of Akiho’s double GRAMMY nominated work *Seven Pillars* for Sandbox Percussion and the world-premiere of a new commission for *Imani Winds*. Equally at home writing chamber music and symphonies, Akiho is the Oregon Symphony Orchestra’s 2022-2023 composer-in-residence. Recent engagements include commissioned premieres by the New York Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai Symphony, China Philharmonic, Guangzhou Symphony, Oregon Symphony Orchestra, American Composers Orchestra Music@Menlo, LA Dance Project and The Industry.

Akiho has been recognized with many prestigious awards and organizations including the Rome Prize, Lili Boulanger Memorial Prize, Harvard University Fromm Commission, Barlow Endowment, New Music USA, and Chamber Music America. His compositions have been featured by organizations such as Bang on a Can, American Composers Forum, The Intimacy of Creativity in Hong Kong, and the Heidelberg Festival.

An active steel pannist, Akiho has performed his works with the LA Philharmonic’s Green Umbrella Series, the Berlin Philharmonic’s Scharoun Ensemble, the International Drum Festival in Taiwan, and more. Akiho’s recordings *No One To Know One* and *The War Below* features brilliantly crafted compositions inspired by his primary instrument, the steel pan.

The physicality of playing that Akiho experiences as a steel pannist is an embedded aspect of his musical practice and naturally extends itself into his compositional output. Music making is inextricably linked to shared human experience for Akiho from inception to performance. Akiho’s compositional trajectory has been an untraditional one, he spent most of his 20s playing steel pan by ear in Trinidad and began composing at 28, and these social roots laid the foundation for his current practice. He can frequently be found composing into the wee hours of the morning at coffee shops, nightclubs, bars and restaurants, taking breaks to get to know those around him. Similarly, Akiho develops relationships with his collaborators as he writes for people, not instruments.

Akiho was born in 1979 in Columbia, SC, and is currently based in Portland, OR and New York City.



## MUSIC

### CAROLINE SHAW

**Caroline Shaw** is a musician who moves among roles, genres, and mediums, trying to imagine a world of sound that has never been heard before but has always existed. She is the youngest recipient of the Pulitzer Prize in Music for *Partita for 8 Voices* (*Roomful of Teeth*), and she works often in collaboration with others, as producer, composer, violinist, and vocalist.

2022 will see the release of work with Rosalía (on upcoming album *MOTOMAMI*), the score to Josephine Decker's film *The Sky Is Everywhere* (A24/Apple), the premiere of Justin Peck's *Partita* with NY City Ballet, the premiere of the new stage work *LIFE* with Gandini Juggling and the Merce Cunningham Trust, a premiere for NY Philharmonic and *Roomful of Teeth*, the premiere Wu Tsang's silent film *Moby Dick* with live score for Zurich Chamber Orchestra co-composed with Andrew Yee, a second album with Attacca Quartet called *The Evergreen* (Nonesuch), the premiere of Helen Simoneau's *Delicate Power*, tours of *Graveyards & Gardens* (immersive dance theater work co-created with Vanessa Goodman), and tours with *So Percussion* featuring songs from *Let The Soil Play Its Simple Part* (Nonesuch), amid occasional chamber music appearances (Chamber Music Society of Minnesota, Caramoor Festival, La Jolla Music Society).

Caroline has written over 100 works in the last decade, for Anne Sofie von Otter, Davóne Tines, Yo Yo Ma, Renée Fleming, Dawn Upshaw, LA Phil, Philharmonia Baroque, Seattle Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony, Aizuri Quartet, *The Crossing*, Dover Quartet, Calidore Quartet, Brooklyn Rider, Miro Quartet, *I Giardini*, Ars Nova Copenhagen, Ariadne Greif, Brooklyn Youth Chorus, Britt Festival, Vail Dance Festival, and many others. She has produced for Kanye West, Rosalía, Woodkid, and Nas.

Her work as vocalist or composer has appeared in several films, tv series, and podcasts including *The Humans*, *Bombshell*, *Yellowjackets*, *Maid*, *Dark*, Beyoncé's *Homecoming*, *jeen-yuhs: a Kanye Trilogy*, Dolly Parton's *America*, and *More Perfect*.







## DOUG BAUM

Doug Baum began his dance training in Maryland at Mid-Atlantic Center for the Performing Arts before graduating from the Baltimore School for the Arts in 2006. In 2010, Doug received his BFA from Fordham University in collaboration with The Ailey School, where he apprenticed with Ailey II for two years. Since graduating, he has worked with Bad Boys of Dance, Compagnie Flak, Les Ballets Jazz and most recently Complexions Contemporary Ballet. Doug has completed three seasons with Zhukov Dance Theater in addition to guesting with Peridance, Ezdanza, Thang Dao, and Company XIV.



## MARISSA BROWN

Marissa Brown has her BFA in performance and choreography from University of California Irvine and MFA from California Institute of the Arts. Brown performed in Ivo Van Hove's rendition of West Side Story Broadway. She has had the pleasure to work with choreographers and companies such as Donald Mckayle, Benjamin Levy, Brice Mousset, Randy James, Sharp & Fine, The Park Avenue Armory, and Phantom Limb Company. She creates her own dance and film work under the name Lone King Projects.



## LORRIN BRUBAKER

Lorrin Brubaker began dancing at age 10 in his hometown of Apopka, Florida. In 2012 he was admitted into The Juilliard School, where Lorrin performed works by Jose Limon, Lar Lubovitch, Jerome Robbins, Mark Morris, Camille A. Brown, Brian Brooks, Zvi Gotheiner, Matthew Neenan, and Peter Chu. Since graduating from Juilliard in 2017, Lorrin has danced full time with BODYTRAFFIC and Jacob Jonas The Company in Los Angeles, CA. Lorrin also had the honor of performing for the Merce Cunningham Trust in the Night Of 100 Solos: A Centennial Event. He also made a guest appearance at The Hollywood Bowl for Romeo and Juliet, a collaboration between the LA Philharmonic and LA Dance Project.





## COURTNEY CONOVAN

Courtney 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.



## OLIVER GREENE CRAMER

Oliver Greene-Cramer was raised in southern Vermont receiving his early training at the Brattleboro School of Dance and Burklyn Ballet Theatre. After obtaining his BFA from SUNY Purchase in 2013 he joined the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company with whom he performed until 2016. Oliver was a member of Ballet Austin from 2014-2021. He has also had the privilege of performing in the Galas of the Jacob's Pillow and Danza in Arte a Pietrasanta festivals.



## DAPHNE FERNBERGER

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 the Night Of 100 Solos: A Centennial Event, Eran Monday, 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 Rentravage, the dance film Environment as Self, and The River Within. On her path she discovered the potent power of transformation through dance. Believing it needs to be shared now more than ever, she hosts livestream movement meditations weekly.





## DAVID ADRIAN FREELAND JR.

David Adrian Freeland, Jr. from Jacksonville, Florida, received his early dance training at LaVilla School of the Arts and at Jacksonville Centre of the Arts. In 2012, David was invited to join Ailey II, the second company of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, where he danced for three years. During this time, he performed seminal works by Alvin Ailey, Judith Jamison, and Robert Battle. In 2016, David joined L.A. Dance Project where he has both created roles and danced in important stage and film works by Benjamin Millepied, Kyle Abraham, Justin Peck, and Ohad Naharin. David is the proud recipient of a 2018 Princess Grace Award in Dance.



## MARIO GONZALEZ

Mario Gonzalez started dancing at the Marya Kennett School of Dance in Goshen, NY. He received his pre-professional training at Walnut Hill School for the Arts under direction of Michael Owen and went on to attain his BFA from the Conservatory of Dance at SUNY Purchase College. While on scholarship Mario has attended summer intensives with the San Francisco Ballet, The Juilliard School, Nederlands Dans Theater, M.I.P., The Cunningham Fellowship Workshop and Springboard Danse Montreal. Prior to joining LADP Mario danced with Visceral Dance Chicago and American Repertory Ballet. During his career he has danced in works by Danielle Agami, George Balanchine, Nicolo Fonte, Mark Godden, Madboots Dance, Stephan Laks, Paul Lightfoot & Sol Leon, Jose Limon, Matthew Neenan, Kevin O'Day, Kirk Peterson, Erica Sobol, Doug Varone and Yin Yue.



## SIERRA HERRERA

Sierra Herrera, originally from Long Beach, CA, has trained at various studios across the Southern California region. She studied at the Orange County School of Arts, graduating with the Director's Achievement Award in 2013. Following her graduation from the Conservatory of Dance at SUNY Purchase in 2017, she then joined DanceWorks Chicago under the directorship of Julie Nakagawa in 2018. From 2019 through 2020, Sierra joined Madonna's Madame X World Tour as a dancer and assistant choreographer. Sierra has also studied at the Korea National University of Arts in Seoul, Korea. Sierra's additional training includes the American Ballet Theatre, Alonzo King LINES Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, and BODYTRAFFIC LA.





## DAISY JACOBSON

Daisy Jacobson is from Manhattan Beach, CA. She earned her BFA from The Juilliard School in 2017 and joined LA Dance Project soon after. She has performed in new works and repertoire by Benjamin Millepied, Justin Peck, Kyle Abraham, Ohad Naharin, Shannon Gillen, Bobbi Jene Smith and more. Daisy has been featured in Dance Magazine's "On the Rise" as well as Honolulu Magazine's "Breaking the Ballet Mold". Daisy is a National YoungArts Winner and a Presidential Scholar.



## PAYTON JOHNSON

Born and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Payton began her formal dance training at Jean Leigh Academy of Dance. She made her professional performance debut at the age of 8 as a ballet student in the major motion picture, "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" and followed that in the role of "Clara" in the Radio City Christmas Spectacular at 11. Payton graduated with a BFA in Dance from The Juilliard School in 2021 where she performed works by Bryan Arias, Nelly Van Bommel, Andrea Miller, Matthew Neenan, Bret Easterling and Ohad Naharin as well as repertoire from Martha Graham and Jose Limon. Since graduating, Payton has had the good fortune to work with Kyle Abraham on creating his newest work for The Royal Ballet and the opportunity to perform in Dubai for the 2020 World Expo. She is excited to join LADP, and looking forward to performing with this exceptional group.



## SHU KINOUCHI

Shu Kinouchi was born in Yokohama, Japan. He began his training in his early age under his mother, at Mayumi Kinouchi Ballet Studio. He received a scholarship to go to Hamburg Ballet School von John Neumeier at Youth America Grand Prix at age 14 and studied for few years. In 2008 he entered Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School at American Ballet Theatre and proceeds to American Ballet Theatre Studio Company. He joined Jessica Lang Dance for the performances at Jacob's Pillow as an apprentice before joining Tulsa Ballet and danced for 3 years where he got promoted to a rank of Demi-soloist. And then he danced with Houston Ballet for 4 years. In his career he has performed works and ballet from Jessica Lang, Marcello Angelini, Stanton Welch, William Forsythe, Aszure Barton, Ma Cong, Nicolo Fonte, Matthew Neenan, Jodie Gates, Ronald Hynd, Christopher Wheeldon, Ben Stevenson, Connor Walsh, Oliver Halkowich, Kazuyuki Futami, Melody Walsh and many others.





## PETER MAZUROWSKI

Peter began dancing at age 6 at New Hampshire School of Ballet. At age 13, he made his Broadway debut as Billy in *Billy Elliot: the Musical*. He played the role for a year and a half, and was part of the closing cast. Peter later attended the trainee program at Boston Ballet School, and danced for Urbanity Dance as a junior apprentice. He joined Charlotte Ballet in 2016, where he danced for five seasons.



## VINICIUS SILVA

Vinicius Silva was born in Brazil. He began his dance education at Teatro Escola Basileu França in 2006. Following the Youth America Grand Prix 2011, he trained on full scholarship at The Harid Conservatory in Florida and The Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington DC. After winning third prize at the Argentina Pre-Selection, he attended Prix de Lausanne in 2014, where he performed as a finalist. He was invited to study at the State Ballet Academy John Cranko Schule in Stuttgart, Germany, where he had the chance to dance in productions of the Stuttgart Ballet and State Opera. Upon his graduation in 2016 he joined the Tulsa Ballet, where he worked for two seasons, dancing leading roles in both classical and contemporary pieces.



## NAYOMI VAN BRUNT

Nayomi Van Brunt began her formal training at age 9 with Atlanta Festival Ballet under Nicolas Pacana and Gregory Aaron. In high school, Nayomi started training at Atlanta Ballet's Centre for Dance Education under Sharon Story. After high school she began dancing with Atlanta Ballet under John McFall. Since her time with Atlanta Ballet, Nayomi has danced with New York Theatre Ballet and Wonderbound. She has had the pleasure of performing in works by Christopher Wheeldon, Val Caniparoli, Victor Quijada, Janie Taylor, Charm La Donna, Pam Tanowitz, Gemma Bond, Madeline Hollander, and Benjamin Millepied. Nayomi has had the privilege to perform at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and the Vail International Dance festival. Nayomi has walked in Hermes women's FW21 runway show, danced in Richard Mille's WITHIN, modeled for Rodarte's FW21, danced for singer Remi Wolf on Jimmy Fallon's Tonight Show and modeled for Everlane's "Releather" campaign. Nayomi joined L.A. Dance project in 2019, and would like to thank her friends and family for their continued love and support.



## LADP TEAM

### Leadership

Artistic Director, Benjamin Millepied  
Executive Director, Lucinda Lent

Associate Artistic Director, Sebastien Marcovici  
Rehearsal Director, Janie Taylor  
Rehearsal Director, Charlie Hodges  
Executive Assistant to the Artistic Director, Kate Stephanus

### Legal and Business Affairs

Director of Legal and Business Affairs, Christopher Macdougall

### Development

Director of Development, Cassandra Krause  
Grants Manager, Rachelle Rafeiledes Mucha

### Communications

Director of Communications, Alice Mathis

### Operations

Director of Operations & Technology, Chris Tynan

### Productions

Director of Production, Nathan Shreeve-Moon  
Production & Tour Manager, Alisa Wyman  
Director of Artist Residency Program, Rachelle Rafeiledes Mucha

### Advisors

International Development Advisor, Christophe Danzin  
Art Advisor, Matthieu Humery  
Founding Producer, Charles Fabius

## PRODUCTION + CREW

Stage Manager, Teresa Hartmann  
Front of House Manager, Moj Mehr-Assa  
Assistant Lighting Designer, Miriam Henerson  
Light Board Operator, Brian Foreman  
Sound Technician, Duncan Woodbury  
Bartender, Janelle Ketcher + Eva Galmel  
Production Assistant, Abe Lent  
Parking / Security, Chris Rogel + Russel Herrarte + Jerrel Milan



## ABOUT LADP

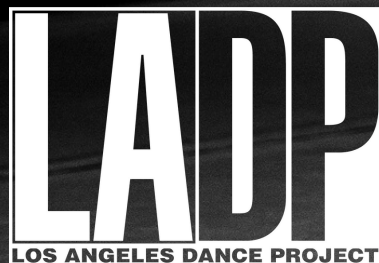
Co-founded by choreographer Benjamin Millepied in 2012, L.A. Dance Project (LADP) has become an incubator for possibility. The company has found a true home in downtown Los Angeles with the opening of the 2245 performance space in 2017, for audiences and artists alike.

LADP engages a public that comes from 62% of LA County zip codes, measured by the collection of ticket sales demographics. The community is diverse in age, race, gender, and economic status.

Expanding its size since 2012, LADP is now composed of eighteen full-time dancers, ten staff including Executive and Artistic Directors, and thirteen members of the Board of Directors. LADP programming includes daring new commissions with an emphasis on cross-genre collaborations, revivals of choreographic masterpieces, new works from local emerging artists, and educating young dancers from LA's most economically under-resourced communities.

LADP is committed to reaching a broad audience and making dance accessible to the communities it serves. LADP keeps ticket prices low, offers student discounts, and hosts free-of-charge dress rehearsals with the goal of ensuring members of the public are not excluded due to their economic status.

Throughout the year, LADP provides free behind-the-scenes access to its rehearsal process through open rehearsals and question-and-answer sessions with the artists. These initiatives, plus the company's core programming, help LADP fulfill its mission to inspire, create, educate, and change perspectives through the transformative power of dance in Los Angeles and around the world.



## SUPPORT LADP

**We move to move you.**

But not without the support of foundational and individual level donors like you!

As a non-profit, philanthropic contributions account for a significant portion of our annual operating budget, and donations help us to:

- offer artist residencies
- commission new work
- build community programming + partnerships
- strengthen the downtown arts community, and
- keep ticket prices at our DTLA performance space affordable and accessible.

Your gift, in any amount (every dollar really does make a difference!), offsets expenses associated with everything from dancer wellness to rehearsals, community engagement to costume construction, and exciting new collaborations with choreographers, visual artists, composers, and musicians each season.

We are committed to building a vibrant and innovative dance culture right here in Los Angeles, and we're so grateful for your support.

Please join our exceptional community of dance loving supporters by making a tax-deductible donation today!

For more information please visit our website [landanceproject.org](http://landanceproject.org), or email our Director of Development, Cassandra Krause, directly at [cassandra@ladanceproject.org](mailto:cassandra@ladanceproject.org)

NOTE: L.A. Dance Project (Dance Downtown LA, Inc.) is a US nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and as such your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please consult your tax advisor.