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DANCE CELEBRATION 2008-09 Season Winter Program

LAR LUBOVITCH DANCE COMPANY

Sponsored by Cozen O'Connor, a member of the Dance Affiliates Business Friends of Dance.
Concerto Six Twenty-Two was made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts' American Masterpieces: Dance Initiative, administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts.



New England
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for the Arts

BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY

Funded in part by the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, with lead funding from Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Additional funding provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Ford Foundation and MetLife Foundation.



New England
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The Consulate General of Israel in Philadelphia is gratefully acknowledged for its support of this engagement.

BJM DANSE LES BALLETS JAZZ DE MONTRÉAL

Consulate du Canada, Philadelphia and Délégation générale du Québec are gratefully acknowledged for their support of this engagement.

DANCE CELEBRATION

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Artistic Director

PENN PRESENTS

Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
Dr. Michael Rose
Managing Director

LAR LUBOVITCH DANCE COMPANY

Lar Lubovitch Artistic Director
Richard J. Caples Executive Director

THE COMPANY

Jonathan E. Alsberry **Mucuy Bolles** **Attila Joey Csiki**
Kurt Douglas **Jay Franke** **Susana García** **Charlaine Mei Katsuyoshi**
Brian McGinnis **Scott Rink** **Kevin Scarpin** **Katarzyna**

Company Manager **Leticia D. Baratta**
Lighting Director **Jack Mehler**
Production Stage Manager **Maxine Glorsky**
Stage Manager **Tricia Tolliver**
Light Supervisor **Nicole Pearce**
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LAR LUBOVITCH DANCE COMPANY

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January 8-10, 2009



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CONCERTO SIX TWENTY-TWO (1986)

Choreography Lar Lubovitch
Music W. A. Mozart, *Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra*, K. #622
Lighting Craig Miller

ALLEGRO

Charlaine Mei Katsuyoshi **Katarzyna Skarpetowska**
Jonathan E. Alsberry **Christopher Vo**
Mucuy Bolles **Katherine Wells**
Attila Joey Csiki **Brian McGinnis**

ADAGIO

Jay Franke **George Smallwood**

RONDO (ALLEGRO)

Trio: **Scott Rink** **Kevin Scarpin** **Katherine Wells**
Soloists: **Jonathan E. Alsberry** **Charlaine Mei Katsuyoshi** **Katarzyna Skarpetowska**
Attila Joey Csiki **Mucuy Bolles** **Jay Franke** **Susana García**
Brian McGinnis **George Smallwood** **Christopher Vo**

Choreography copyright © Lar Lubovitch 1986

- INTERMISSION -

LITTLE RHAPSODIES (2007)

Choreography Lar Lubovitch
Music Robert Schumann, *Symphonic Etudes*, Opus 13
Lighting Jack Mehler
Costumes Ann Hould-Ward

Jay Franke **Attila Joey Csiki** **Jonathan E. Alsberry**

Initial support for *Little Rhapsodies* was provided by Irwin Kroot & Anthony Catanzaro,
and by Peter Schamel and the Lisa & Steve Cundall Family Charitable Trust,
in honor of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

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- INTERMISSION -

DVOŘÁK SERENADE (2007)

Choreography: Lar Lubovitch
Music Antonín Dvořák, *Serenade in E Major*, Opus 22;
Movements 1, 2, 4 & 5
Lighting Jack Mehler
Costumes Wendy Winters

Mucuy Bolles Scott Rink
 Charlaine Mei Katsuyoshi Jay Franke
 Katarzyna Skarpetowska Christopher Vo
 Jonathan E. Alsberry Attila Joey Csiki Susana García

Brian McGinnis Kevin Scarpin Katherine Wells

MODERATO

Mucuy Bolles Scott Rink & Ensemble

VALSE

Charlaine Mei Katsuyoshi Jay Franke
 Katarzyna Skarpetowska Christopher Vo & Ensemble

LARGHETTO

Mucuy Bolles Scott Rink

ALLEGRO

Ensemble

Choreography Copyright © Lar Lubovitch 2007

The Lar Lubovitch Dance Company is supported, in part, by public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and by major support from the Irene Diamond Fund. The company also acknowledges the generous support of the Harkness Foundation for Dance, McMullan Family Fund, Brooke Garber & Daniel Neidich Foundation, Rudolph Nureyev Foundation for Dance, Jerome Robbins Foundation, and the A. Woodner Fund.

The company's 2008-09 tour performances are funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts' "American Masterpieces: Dance" initiative, administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts, with lead funding from Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Additional funding has been provided by the Ford Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, JP Morgan Chase Foundation and MetLife Foundation.

ABOUT LAR LUBOVITCH DANCE COMPANY

The Lar Lubovitch Dance Company was founded in 1968. Over the past 40 years it has gained an international reputation as one of the world's best dance companies. Celebrated for both its choreographic excellence and its unsurpassed dancing, the company has created more than 100 new dances and performed before millions throughout the United States and in more than 30 foreign countries.

LAR LUBOVITCH is one of America's most versatile, popular and widely seen choreographers. Based in New York City, his company has performed throughout the world. Lar Lubovitch's dances have also been performed by many other major companies. His dances on film include *Othello* (broadcast throughout the U.S. on PBS's *Great Performances* and nominated for an Emmy Award), *Fandango* (winner of an International Emmy Award) and *My Funny Valentine* for the Robert Altman film *The Company* (for which Lubovitch was nominated for an American Choreography Award).

Mr. Lubovitch has also made a notable contribution to choreography in the field of ice-dancing, having created dances for Olympic skaters John Curry, Dorothy Hamill, Peggy Fleming, Brian Orser, Jo-Jo Starbuck and Paul Wylie, as well as two one-hour ice-dances for television: *The Sleeping Beauty* (PBS) and *The Planets* (A&E) (nominated for an International Emmy Award, a Cable Ace Award and a Grammy Award). His work on Broadway includes *Into the Woods* (Tony Award nomination), *The Red Shoes* (Astaire Award) and the Tony Award-winning revival of *The King and I*. In 2007 Chicago-born Lubovitch (together with Chicago-based dancer Jay Franke) founded the Chicago Dancing Festival (CDF). CDF was launched in cooperation with Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) and the City of Chicago. The premiere of the festival was a free one-night-only dance concert at the Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park attended by 8,000, featuring works by seven American companies. For his vision in establishing the Festival, Lubovitch was named 2007 Chicagoan of the Year by the *Chicago Tribune*.

JONATHAN E. ALSBERRY is a graduate of Chicago Academy for the Arts and The Juilliard School under Lawrence Rhodes. After graduation, he began touring with Baryshnikov's Hell's Kitchen Dance as well as Aszure & Artists. He has preformed with the Met Opera Ballet as a solo dancer, Nilas Martins Dance Company and has appeared on MTV dancing alongside Madonna. During his professional career he's worked with many choreographers, including Randy Duncan, Stephen Pier and Christopher Wheeldon.

MUCUY BOLLES joined the company this year. She was born in Komchen, Mexico. She is an alumna of Walnut Hill and upon graduation placed first in the modern division of the NCAA ARTS competition. During her career she has danced for Feld Ballet, Elisa Monte Dance, Zvi Dance, Buglisi/Foreman Dance, Complexions and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. On Broadway she has performed in *The Red Shoes*, *The King and I*, *The Lion King* and the national tour of *The Lion King-Gazelle Tour*.

ATTILA JOEY CSIKI was born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, of Hungarian parents. He began his training with the National Ballet of Canada academy. Upon relocating to New York City, Csiki received a scholarship to the School of American Ballet. By the age of 19, Csiki moved to Tokyo, Japan where he performed works by prominent choreographers such as Jiri Kylian, Sir Peter Wright, William Forsythe, Nacho Duato, Mauro Bigonzetti, Anthony Tudor, Kenneth McMillan, Jerome Robbins, and George Balanchine. He was a soloist with the Du Capital Ballet of Toulouse, France. Returning to the USA, Csiki danced as guest artist with Ballet Concierto de Puerto Rico, Peoria Ballet Illinois, Roger Jeffery, Dance Form Productions, Thomas/Ortiz Dance, Rasta Thomas' Bad Boys of Dance, and the National Ballet of Guatemala.

KURT DOUGLAS received his BFA in Dance from the Boston Conservatory under the direction of Yasuko Tokunaga, where he was the recipient of the Ruth Solomon Ambrose Scholarship Award. He performed with the Boston Dance Theatre and the Boston Conservatory Dance Theatre in works by José Limón, Paul Taylor, Sean Curran, Martha Graham, and Lar Lubovitch. Douglas danced with the Limón Dance Company from 2001-2008 where he was the first African-American dancer to perform "Iago" in *The Moor's Pavane*. Douglas received a 2002 Princess Grace Award and performed for His Serene Highness Crown Prince Albert of Monaco and the Royal Family. Douglas was named one of the "Top 25 to Watch" in DanceMagazine's January 2006 issue. He has also danced with the Thang Dao Dance Company, Ballet Hispanico, Sean Curran Dance Company, and the Radio City Rockettes during their NYC Holiday Christmas Spectacular in NYC.

BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY

Ohad Naharin Artistic Director
Sharon Eyal House Choreographer

COMPANY

Yaniv Abraham Danielle Agami Nir Benita
Caroline Boussard Matan David Iyar Elezra
Ariel Freedman Shani Garfinkel Douglas Letheren
Andrea Martini Bosmat Nossan Rachael Osborne
Guy Shomroni Bobbi Smith Tom Weinberger
Adi Zlatin Erez Zohar

Executive Director, Co-Artistic Director Naomi Bloch Fortis
Batsheva Company Manager & Stage Manager Yaniv Nagar
Rehearsal Director Luc Jacobs
Assistants to Rehearsal Director Danielle Agami Rachael Osborne
Technical Director Roni Cohen
Chief Electrician Yitzhak Assulin
Sound Oren Cohen
Technicians Daniel Feinshten
Wardrobe Omer Yefman

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Managing Director

DECA DANCE

Excerpts from works by Ohad Naharin* a full-evening presentation

B/olero (2008)

Max (2007)

Telophaza (2006)

Three (2005)

Naharin's Virus (2001)

Zachacha (1998)

Anaphaza (1993)

Mabul (1992)

*not in order of appearance

- INTERMISSION WILL BE ANNOUNCED -

Original Music composed and performed by Maxim Waratt

Additional Music Maurice Ravel (performed by Isao Tomita) Kaho Naa... Pyar Hai
J.S. Bach Goldberg Variations (played by Glenn Gould) Brian Eno Seefel
The Beach Boys Habib Alla Jamal Shama Khader Ohad Naharin
Cha-Cha De Amor (sung by Dean Martin and Rolley Polley) Avi Belleli
Dan Makov Ohad Naharin

Costume Design for original works Rakefet Levy

Costume Design for B/olero Alla Eisenberg

Lighting Design for original works

Avi Yona Bueno (Bambi) Ohad Naharin

Sound Design for original works Frankie Lievaart

"*Deca Dance* is not a new work. It is more about reconstruction. I like to take pieces or sections of existing works and rework it, reorganize it and create the possibility to look at it from a new angle. It always teaches me something new about my work and composition. In *Deca Dance*, I took sections from different works. It was like I was telling only either the beginning, middle or ending of many stories but when I organized it the result became as coherent as the original if not more."

Ohad Naharin,
Batsheva Dance Company

ABOUT BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY

Batsheva's artistic integrity and innovation have earned the company its reputation as one of the most inspirational and sought after companies – a true champion on the global map of performing arts.

Batsheva operates throughout the year with its two companies (Batsheva Dance Company and the junior Batsheva Ensemble) and 40 dancers. With 250 annual performances in Israel and around the world, the company is considered Israel's leading cultural ambassador.

Batsheva is applauded worldwide in the most prestigious theaters and festivals, including Lincoln Center, BAM's Next Wave Festival, Montpellier Danse and Berlin Festival and more.

The company includes dancers from Israel and abroad who are encouraged to affirm their distinct creative gifts either in the rehearsal process or in the creation of their own works during the ongoing *Batsheva Dancers Create* series.

Many of Batsheva's dancers developed their skills during an extensive training period while in the junior company. The Ensemble serves as a greenhouse for the next generation of dancers and choreographers and dedicates the majority of its time to company's comprehensive outreach and education program.

Led by Artistic Director Ohad Naharin, together with House Choreographer Sharon Eyal, the company's 65 members - dancers, technical crew and administration - are driven by a common vision - to excel in art and to strengthen common human values through the power of creativity.

Batsheva Dance Company was founded in 1964 by Martha Graham and Baroness Batsheva De Rothschild. To learn more about Batsheva please visit www.batsheva.org.

Pages to Pirouettes



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WHO'S WHO

OHAD NAHARIN

Choreographer, Artistic Director of Batsheva Dance Company

Naharin began his training as a dancer with the Batsheva Dance Company. He came to New York one year later at the invitation of Martha Graham to join her company, as well as to make use of a scholarship to the School of American Ballet. After a year with the company, he continued his studies at The Juilliard School of Music, as well as with Maggie Black and David Howard. He then joined the Maurice Bejart Company in Brussels for one season and made his choreographic debut in 1980 in the Kazuko Hirabayashi studio in New York.

From 1980 to 1990 he performed and worked in New York, where he lived with his wife, the dancer Mari Kajiura, who died of cancer in 2001. In 1990 he was appointed Artistic Director of the Batsheva Dance Company.

Naharin has been the recipient of many awards and honors, including the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government in 1998, two New York Dance and Performance (Bessie) Awards (for *Naharin's Virus* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in 2002 and for *Anaphaza* at the Lincoln Center Festival in 2003), a Doctor of Philosophy *honoris causa* by the Weizmann Institute of Science in 2004, and the prestigious Israel Prize for dance in 2005.

Naharin's works are performed by many companies throughout the world, including Nederlands Dans Theater, Frankfurt Ballet, Lyon Opera Ballet, Ballet Nacional d'Espana (Madrid), Cullberg Ballet (Sweden), and the Opera National de Paris.

Batsheva Dance Company wishes to thank the generosity of the American Friends of Batsheva, 220 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1301, New York, NY 10001 T: 212-545-7182 Email afo@batsheva.co.il.

Batsheva Dance Company celebrates with the America Israel Cultural Foundation (AICF) its 70th anniversary. We wish to congratulate AICF on its remarkable impact on Israeli culture throughout the years and to acknowledge AICF's significant contribution to Batsheva's development and growth.

International Tour Production: Iris Bovshover

International Tour Management: Dina Aldor, Aladdin Ltd.

North American Tour Producer: David Eden, David Eden Productions, Ltd.

General Manager: Erica Charpentier

Company Manager: Pat Kirby

Visa Coordinators: Stonie Darling and Elise-Ann Kostantin

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Batsheva Dance Company North American
Tour 2009 is supported by the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



LES BALLETS JAZZ
DE MONTRÉAL
DIRECTION ARTISTIQUE LOUIS ROBITAILLE
BJMDANSE.CA

Louis Robitaille **Artistic Director**
Rodrigo Pederneiras **Guest Choreographer**
Mauro Bigonzetti **Guest Choreographer**

THE COMPANY

Christina Bodie Katherine Cowie Nicholas Daum
Youri de Wilde Sophie-Estel Fernandez Eira Glover
James Gregg Sara Harton Robert Knowles
Andrew Murdock Shamel Pitts Audrey Van Herck

Founder Emeritus	Geneviève Salbaing
Cofounders	Eva Von Gencsy and Eddy Toussaint
President of the Board	Pierre Salbaing
General Manager	Pascale Correia
Production Manager	Daniel Ranger
Ballet Masters	Jacques JF Emile Taina Morales Nunez
Rehearsal Masters	Susan Gaudreau Youri de Wilde
	James Gregg Taina Morales
	Jacques JF Emile
Stage Manager	Oswald Foisy

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ANNENBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
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Artistic Director

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Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
Dr. Michael Rose
Managing Director

MAPA (2005)

A choreography with a rich, colourful and dense vocabulary, MAPA navigates the impulsive and passionate meanderings of movement, and pays tribute to the artistic maturity and choreographic virtuosity of Rodrigo Pederneiras and his internationally-celebrated company, Grupo Corpo.

Rethinking, revisiting and reorienting old choreographic experiences are a true form of atavism for Rodrigo Pederneiras. He creates in new, always playful ways, drawing from a powerful cultural heritage, a Brazilian dance rooted in popular traditions, often emerging in the streets. Based on rigorous classical technique, this "fusion" dance form, exemplified by *MAPA*, is resolutely modern, surprising, and deeply moving.

Choreography	Rodrigo Pederneiras
Music	Marco Antonio Pena Araújo (Uakti)
Stage Design	Fernando Velloso
Costume Design	Anne-Marie Veevaete
Costume Production	François DeSerre
Lighting Design	Daniel Ranger and Pedro Pederneiras
Premiere	January 2005, Englewood NJ, U.S.A

Cast to be announced

- INTERMISSION -

ROSSINI CARDS (2005)

This sumptuous choreography is married to the music of Gioacchino Rossini, an emblematic figure of Italian opera. The spectator is invited to a feast, a celebration prepared by two maestros: Mauro Bigonzetti and Rossini. Rossini (1792-1868) is considered one of the great innovators of 19th century opera. A brilliant epicurian, Rossini loved to project an air of mystery, notably by creating a false image of himself as an idler and a sensualist. Among his greatest works are *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *L'italiana in Algeri* and *Guillaume Tell*.

Choreography	Mauro Bigonzetti
Assistant to choreographer	Sveva Berti
Music	Gioacchino Rossini
Costume Design	Helena de Medeiros
Lighting Design	Carlo Cerri
North American Premiere	February 2009, Philadelphia PA, U.S.A

Cast to be announced

ABOUT LES BALLETS JAZZ DE MONTRÉAL

Established in 1972, BJM DANSE was born from the inspiration of a grande dame of the cultural scene (member of the Order of Canada since 1987, the Founder Emeritus of Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal): Geneviève Salbaing with the support of her cofounders Eva Von Gencsy and Eddie Toussaint. After the departure her two cofounders, Madame Geneviève Salbaing assumed the task of the artistic direction of Les Ballets Jazz on her own, experiencing both the successes of the company and the challenges of a constantly changing social and cultural context. Under her direction Les Ballet Jazz was renewed and transformed and evolved with a remarkable vitality and constant openness to the world at large. The naming of Louis Robitaille as Artistic Director of BJM DANSE in 1998 crystallized the ambitions of a company which boldly entered the new millennium. Having developed a strong identity, BJM DANSE is now known and appreciated around the world, and continues to engage in an unbroken dialogue with our era, passionately promoting the interaction of the creators with their public.

ARTISTIC MISSION

Louis Robitaille's core mission is to showcase the interpreters' talents while encouraging a new generation of choreographers. In this perspective, he has called on choreographers in residence such as Crystal Pite in 2001 and Aszure Barton, who is concluding her three-year residency this year. Collaborators with BJM DANSE include Patrick Delcroix, Dominique Dumais, Nicolo Fonte, Shawn Hounsell, Trey McIntyre, Mia Michaels and Rodrigo Pederneiras.

"More than simple entertainment, artistic choices can carry an alternative message. By allowing the best in us to bloom, we have the power to change. Transform the way we see ourselves and others... A profound desire for harmony linked to the strong conviction that happiness is indeed at arm's reach, as well as a thirst for the exotic and openness to the cultures of others, these are the ingredients that have guided my steps in the elaboration of the great adventure that is dance.

Let us pay tribute to the art of movement and to the great potential of the human body and soul. Let us abandon for the time of one dance, the toils of everyday life. Let us celebrate together the beauty that is in each and every one of us, in all human beings."

LOUIS ROBITAILLE, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

An internationally-recognized and appreciated interpreter, named Officer of the Order of Canada and of the Ordre du Québec, Louis Robitaille has inspired a generation of choreographers and danced on the world's greatest stages.

The native born Montréaler knew by the age of 15 that dance would be the passion of his life. Maurice Béjart's *Messe pour un temps présent* had a catalytic impact on the young Robitaille and launched his brilliant career. A scholarship student at Les Ballet Jazz de Montréal school in 1973, he also studied jazz and classical dance with well-known teachers from Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, the School of American Ballet, and the American Ballet Theatre. After graduation, he joined the Eddy Toussaint Dance Company, and was promoted Danseur Noble in 1974. His flawless technique, keen sensitivity, power and musicality led to invitations from choreographers and dance companies around the world.

In 1989, Louis Robitaille joined Les Grands Ballets Canadiens and danced a repertoire of both great classics as well as major works by such contemporary creators as William Forsythe, Jiri Kylian, Hans van Manen, Nacho Duato, Eduard Lock and James Kudelka. An outstanding soloist, he distinguished himself in several works such as *Carmina Burana* by Fernand Nault, *Massine's Tricorne* and *Nijinski's L'après-midi d'un faune* (from an adaptation by Ann Hutchinson). Bold, open-minded and passionate, Louis Robitaille also became involved in parallel creative projects. Following his participation in the Grands Ballets Canadiens choreography workshops with Anik Bissonnette and Gioconda Barbuto, he founded *Bande à part*, a company dedicated to the expression of young choreographers such as Gioconda Barbuto, Myriam Naisy and Nicolo Fonte. He then went on to direct *Le Jeune Ballet du Québec* and founded *Danse-Théâtre de Montréal* in 1996. With this company he produced *Soleil Noir*, a show choreographed by Myriam Naisy, inspired by Jean Paul Sartre's *Huis-Clos*. Always seeking new challenges, he joined *Carbone 14*, a company directed by Gilles Maheu in 1997. This was just previous to his being invited by BJM DANSE in the summer of 1998 to assume the artistic directorship of the company

WHO'S WHO

where, 25 years before, he made his first dance step.

RODRIGO PEDERNEIRAS, CHOREOGRAPHER MAPA

"It wasn't until 1988, when I worked with the group Uakti, that I began to sense what might be called a dance more interior to the body."

This quote from Rodrigo Pederneiras, the Choreographer for Grupo Corpo since 1978, describes a moment that was crucial both for him and his famous Brazilian company. This notion of a "dance more interior to the body" is at the heart of the choreographer's widely-diverse approach to his art. Focusing on Xaxado, Samba, Capoeira and Ballroom dances, Rodrigo Pederneiras translates figures into language. He creates a truly modern vocabulary in often intimate transpositions. Humor, joy and denunciation of a certain violence and ambiguity of the body mark the work of a choreographer who learned to dance in the streets. Guided and inspired by the music, Rodrigo Pederneiras reconstructs the classics in an intensely Brazilian way, without straying into exoticism or stereotypes.

Rodrigo Pederneiras' work has received international praise. In Brazil, he created several choreographies for the Ballet do Teatro Municipal do Rio de Janeiro, the Ballet do Teatro Guaíra, the Ballet da Cidade de São Paulo and the Companhia de Dança de Minas Gerais. He has also worked for the Deutsche Oper Berlin Company (Germany), for the Gulbenkian (Portugal), for the Stadttheater of Saint Gallen (Switzerland), for the Opéra du Rhin (France), and he created *MAPA* for BJM DANSE during a five-week residence in Montréal in October 2004.

MAURO BIGONZETTI, CHOREOGRAPHER ROSSINI CARDS

Mauro Bigonzetti is the director and choreographer of L'Atterballetto, one of Italy's most important ballet companies. *ROSSINI CARDS* exemplifies his baroque, larger-than-life, style, in which classical technique serves as a basis for a decidedly-modern work of art.

Born in Rome, he graduated from the Opera School and joined the city's company. After ten seasons, he joined Alterballetto under the artistic direction of Amedeo Amodio. In 1997, he became the artistic director and principal choreographer. He has collaborated throughout the world most notably with:

WHO'S WHO

English National Ballet, Ballet National Marseille, Stuttgarter Ballett, Ballet Teatro Argentino, Bale da Cidade de Sao Paulo, Ballet Gulbenkian Lisbon, New York City Ballet, State Ballet Ankara, Royal Swedish Ballet, Ballet du Capitole Toulouse, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens and Pennsylvania Ballet. He also created ballets for many Italian companies including the Ballet of Teatro alla Scala Milan, Opera Rome, Arena Verona and Teatro San Carlo Naples.

His most important works are *Songs*, *Persephassa*, *Furia Corporis*, *Comœdia Canti*, *Sogno*, *Cantata*, *Rossini Cards*, *Vespro*, *Les Noces*, *Piappha*, *Orma* and *WAM*.

DANCERS

Originally from Edmonton, Alberta, **CHRISTINA BODIE** studied in the professional division of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. She later went on to study at The Juilliard School, from which she graduated in 2005. Before joining BJM DANSE in 2007, Christina danced for the Koresh Dance Company in Philadelphia, where she had the opportunity to work with choreographers such as Robert Battle, Donald Byrd and Ronen Koresh.

KATHERINE COWIE was born and raised in Vancouver. After several years as a competitive gymnast, she began her dance training at Arts Umbrella, under the direction of Artemis Gordon. She later went on to study at The Juilliard School in New York, under the direction of Lawrence Rhodes, where she had the privilege of working with Robert Battle, Nacho Duato, and William Forsythe. Katherine Cowie joined BJM DANSE in 2005.

Originally from Wilmington, Delaware, **NICHOLAS DAUM** has been dancing since the age of six. He is a graduate of the Alley/Fordham. As an official dancer for the Alley, Nicholas had the opportunity of performing works by many reputed choreographers such as Alvin Alley, Robert Battle, Hans van Manen and David Parsons. This is Nicholas's first year with BJM DANSE.

Québec native **YURI DE WILDE** began his training as a classical ballet dancer at the age of nine at the École supérieure de danse de Québec. In 1993, he joined Le Jeune Ballet du Québec and the following season, Les Grands

Ballets Canadiens. He was invited by DancEast, in New Brunswick, to perform in its production of *The Nutcracker* and has danced in several Opéra de Montréal productions, as well as in a creation by Benjamin Hatcher presented at Tangente before joining BJM DANSE in 1998.

A graduate of L'École supérieure de ballet contemporain de Montréal, **SOPHIE-ESTEL FERNANDEZ** has studied ballet, modern dance, folk dance, jazz dance, contact dance and the pas de deux. As a member of Le Jeune Ballet du Québec from 2001 to 2005, she worked with prominent choreographers such as Hélène Blackburn, Thierry Malandin, Brian McDonald, Carlos Ovaes and Dominique Porte. She also performed in a number of works by guest choreographers such as Yvan Alexandre, Gigi Caciuleanu, Christophe Garcia, Mario Radacovsky and Frédéric Tavernini. Sophie-Estel won the NSCB Prix d'excellence in 1998 and the Andrea Boardman bursary in 2003, and has choreographed two works for Le Jeune Ballet du Québec: *Suffocation* (2004) and *Toca Orilla* (2005).

Originally from Prince George, British Columbia, **EIRA GLOVER** trained at the Rotterdam Dance Academy in the Netherlands. She began her professional career touring Holland with the company De Dutch Don't Dance Division. She also performed in South America, Africa and the Mediterranean as a performer aboard a Silver Sea Luxury Liner. She performed in the Franco Dragone creation of Celine Dion's *A New Day* and joined the Cirque du Soleil's *Delirium* on its North American tour. Eira joined BJM DANSE in 2007.

JAMES GREGG was raised in Oklahoma and started dancing at the age of 9 with Ballet Oklahoma. He continued his training with Ceke Farha, Houston Ballet and the Bolshoi Academy. He danced with River North Chicago Dance Company, where he had the opportunity to work with many prestigious choreographers such as Frank Chaves, Danny Ezralow and Harrison Macelowny. James joined BJM DANSE in June 2005.

Born in Québec City, **SARA HARTON** graduated from L'École supérieure de ballet contemporain de Montréal. A recipient of the Québec Lieutenant Governor's Award, she distinguished herself in several Jeune Ballet du Québec productions and at the 9th

International Ballet Festival of Miami. She has performed in several original creations by choreographers Iréni Stamou, Yvann Alexandre, Christophe Garcia, Mario Radacovsky and Shawn Hounsell. Sara joined the BJM DANSE in 2006.

Raised in Paoli, Pennsylvania, **ROBERT KNOWLES** started dancing at the age of twelve with the Pioneer Dance Company in Berwyn, PA. He studied at the Betsy Daily School of Performing Arts and continued his training at Point Park College in Pittsburgh, PA where he had the opportunity to perform works by David Parsons, Daniel Ezralow and Robert Battle. Before joining BJM DANSE in 2003, Robert danced for Hubbard Street II in Chicago.

ANDREW MURDOCK grew up and began dancing in St. Albert, Alberta. Thanks to many great teachers, he learned ballet, jazz, Ukrainian folk dance, tap, modern, hip-hop, musical theatre and other styles of dance. He continued his training at The Juilliard School where he graduated in 2007. This is his first year with BJM DANSE.

SHAMEL PITTS began his dance training at LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts under the direction of Michelle Mathesius and the mentorship of Penny Frank and Elisa King. He continued his training at The Ailey School and The Juilliard School, from which he graduated in 2007. A recipient of several prizes such as the Level I ARTS prize and the Martha Hill Prize, he performed in the works of many choreographers such as: Azsure Barton, Susan Marshall, Paul Taylor, José Limón, Jiri Kylian, and Ohad Naharin. In 2007, Shamel joined BJM DANSE.

Born in Montréal, **AUDREY VAN HERCK'S** began studying dance at 15. She trained for two years at École secondaire Pierre-Laporte and then took part in the prestigious International Ballet Competition in Varna, Bulgaria in 2000. She completed her dance training in Lausanne at the Rudra Béjart Studio-School in 2001. After a number of European tours with Béjart Ballet Lausanne, she returned to Quebec to dance with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens and Pigeon International. She joined BJM DANSE in June 2005.

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The Dance Celebration program is the Greater Philadelphia region's major contemporary dance series and a recognized national leader in its field. Founded in 1983 by artistic director Randy Swartz, Dance Celebration is a collaboration of Dance Affiliates and Penn Presents that engages a broad range of world class and emerging dance companies each season at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

Supporting Dance Celebration's primary mission of presenting and commissioning is a commitment to the presentation of diverse styles and choreography, cultures and nationalities; the cultivation of broadly-based adult and children's audiences; the enrichment of the school curriculum through quality children's matinees, arts education, and outreach; collaborations with performing arts partners in the field; and service to the local dance community through workshops, master classes, seminars and symposia.

Dance Celebration invigorates cultural life at the University of Pennsylvania, enhances the quality of life in West Philadelphia, and represents a major cultural asset to the city and region.

Become a Volunteer! Join the Dance Affiliates Volunteer Guild and enjoy the benefits of seeing world-class dance presentations for free, meeting people who appreciate dance, culture and live performance and knowing that you're providing a valuable service. Call Siobhan Hagan at 215-636-9000, ext. 109 for more information.

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