L.A. Dance Project

WHEN:
FRIDAY,
JANUARY 26 &
SATURDAY,
JANUARY 27
7:30 PM

VENUE:
MEMORIAL
AUDITORIUM

Murder Ballades / Photo: Laurent Philippe
**Program**

*Murder Ballades*  
Choreographer: Justin Peck

**Dancers:** David Adrian Freeland Jr. (Jan. 26), Kaitlyn Gilliland, Axel Ibot, Nathan Makolandra (Jan. 27), Francisco Mungamba, Janie Taylor, Miranda Wattier

—INTERMISSION—

*Second Quartet*  
Choreographer: Noé Soulier

**Dancers:** Aaron Carr, David Adrian Freeland Jr., Nathan Makolandra, Rachelle Rafailedes

—INTERMISSION—

*Hearts & Arrows*  
Choreographer: Benjamin Millepied

**Dancers:** Aaron Carr, David Adrian Freeland Jr., Axel Ibot, Daisy Jacobson, Nathan Makolandra, Francisco Mungamba, Rachelle Rafailedes, Miranda Wattier

On January 26, there will be a post-performance conversation with dancers Nathan Makolandra and Rachelle Rafailedes.

This program is generously supported by the National Endowment for the Arts.

---

**Notes**

*Murder Ballades*

Justin Peck’s *Murder Ballades* was commissioned and premiered by L.A. Dance Project in 2013. Set against a vivid backdrop by contemporary artist Sterling Ruby, the exuberant work for six dancers unfolds to Bryce Dessner’s “Murder Ballades” (recorded for L.A. Dance Project by the American chamber music ensemble Eighth Blackbird). Inspired by American folk songs of the 1930s and ‘40s, specifically murder ballades, Dessner synthesized melodies and concepts from these ballades into a classically-based chamber piece with complex rhythms and a strong pulse. Though the ballet contains no explicit narrative, Peck drew upon the lyrics of the original folk songs during his creative process, the dark hints of which can be gleaned from the choreography—particularly in the piece’s two duets. Athletic, playful, and slightly sinister, *Murder Ballades* is at once a celebration of life and a cautionary tale told through Peck’s buoyant choreography.

**Choreography**  
Justin Peck

**Original Score**  
Bryce Dessner, By arrangement with Chester Music Limited

**Visual Design**  
Sterling Ruby

---

**PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE.** Please be considerate of others and turn off all phones, pagers, and watch alarms. Photography and recording of any kind are not permitted. Thank you.
Lighting Design
Brandon Sterling Baker

Length: 20 Minutes
Premiere: September 17, 2013, Maison de la Danse in Lyon, France.

Second Quartet
Per choreographer Noé Soulier, the movements present in his Second Quartet are not immediately recognizable. Rather, they are motivated by concrete goals—such as avoiding, striking, throwing, pushing, and resisting—but impeded through the use of specific strategies. The targeted objects are not present, or body parts used during the movements are ill-suited for their goals. For example, a dancer may hit an imaginary object or attempt to push another dancer with his throat or rib cage. Without the spectator having to recognize the motivations behind these incomplete movements, they are intended to stimulate his or her own physical memory by appearing directed or defined by something that is invisible. This openness allows images, physical expectations, and other associations to inform the spectator’s perception of the movement itself.

Choreography
Noé Soulier

Music
Tom De Cock (Ictus Ensemble) and Noé Soulier
Recorded and mixed by Alexandre Fostier

———

Lighting Design
Victor Burel

Length: 28 Minutes
Premiere: September 2017 at The LUMA Foundation, Arles, France

L.A. Dance Project developed this work thanks to an Artistic Residency in July 2017 at The LUMA Foundation in Arles

Hearts & Arrows
Hearts & Arrows premiered in 2014 and is part of Benjamin Millepied’s “Gems” trilogy, a collaboration between L.A. Dance Project and Van Cleef & Arpels. (The two other ballets completing this trilogy are Reflections, inspired by the energy of rubies, and On the Other Side, inspired by emeralds.) Millepied has described this trilogy of ballets as “an emotional journey” with “a strong and hopeful sense of lasting love and community amidst the uncertainty in which we live.” Hearts & Arrows, with costumes by company dancer Janie Taylor, is inspired by diamonds and the idea of light. The dancers’ impressive athleticism and musicality are amplified through Millepied’s masterful choreography. The New York Times described the work as “a propulsive, kinetic stream of movement… [that] offers a glowing display of Mr. Millepied’s craftsmanship—the way he keeps his eight dancers constantly moving through asymmetrical and contrapuntal patterns… Everything is unexpected, everything feels serendipitously right.”

Choreographer
Benjamin Millepied

Music
Philip Glass String Quartet No. 3 (Mishima)
Performed by Kronos Quartet

Visual Concept
Liam Gillick

Lighting Design
Roderick Murray

Costume Design
Janie Taylor

Length: 17 Minutes
Premiere: September 25th, 2014 at the Opera Theatre of St. Etienne in Saint-Etienne, France in coproduction with Lyon Biennale de la Danse.

With Mr. Gillick’s Visual Concept: December 1st, 2014 in Miami, Florida

Commissioned by
Van Cleef & Arpels.
Benjamin Millepied, Choreographer Hearts & Arrows

Benjamin Millepied is a French dancer, choreographer, and filmmaker. Millepied was a principal with the New York City Ballet where he danced from 1995 to 2011. Mr. Millepied’s many ballets are in the repertory of major dance companies around the world such as American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, The Mariinsky Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Berlin Straatsoper, Lyon Opera Ballet, and Dutch National Ballet. Mr. Millepied also choreographed the solo Years Later for Mikhail Baryshnikov in 2008. His collaborators include composers Nico Muhly, Nicholas Britell, David Lang, Bryce Dessner, artists Christopher Wool, Barbara Kruger, Mark Bradford, Daniel Buren, Liam Gillick, United Visual Artists, designers Rodarte, Iris Van Herpen, and Alessandra Sartori.

In 2010 Mr. Millepied choreographed and starred in the award-winning film Black Swan. Two years later he founded L.A. Dance Project. In 2014 he was appointed Director of Dance at Paris Opera Ballet. For the two seasons that Mr. Millepied programmed at Paris Opera Ballet, he commissioned new works by William Forsythe, Justin Peck, Jerome Bel, Wayne McGregor, Crystal Pite, Tino Sehgal, Nico Muhly, and James Blake.

In 2016 Mr. Millepied resigned from his position in order to focus his energy on making L.A. Dance Project the organization he envisions for dance today. In addition to his work as a choreographer and artistic director, Mr. Millepied has directed numerous dance short films over the years. In 2018 he will make his directorial feature debut with the film musical Carmen. Mr. Millepied is a recipient of the Prix de Lausanne, the Mae L. Wien Award, and the U.S.A. Artists fellowship and was also named a “Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres” by the French government.

Justin Peck, Choreographer Murder Ballades

Justin Peck is the Resident Choreographer and soloist dancer with the New York City Ballet. He began choreographing in 2009 at the New York Choreographic Institute. In 2014, after the creation of his acclaimed ballet Everwhere We Go, he was appointed as Resident Choreographer of New York City Ballet. He is the second person in the institution’s history to hold this title.

Peck joined New York City Ballet as a dancer in 2006. As a performer, Peck has danced a vast repertoire of works by George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, Peter Martins, Alexei Ratmansky, Benjamin Millepied, Christopher Wheeldon, and many others. In 2013, Peck was promoted to the rank of Soloist.

In 2014, Peck was the subject of the documentary Ballet 422, which followed him for two months as he created NYCB’s 422nd original dance, Paz de la Jolla. In 2015, his ballet Rodeo: Four Dance Episodes won the Bessie Award for Outstanding Production. In 2017, Peck choreographed the feature film Red Sparrow, starring Jennifer Lawrence, directed by Francis Lawrence, and produced by 20th Century Fox Studios. In 2018, Peck will present his first choreographic foray into Broadway, with a major revival of Carousel directed by Jack O’Brien and starring Joshua Henry, Jesse Mueller, and Renée Fleming.

Noé Soulier, Choreographer Second Quartet

Born in Paris in 1987, Noé Soulier trained at...
CNSMD (Paris), the National Ballet School of Canada, and at PARTS (Brussels). He received a master degree in philosophy at La Sorbonne University (Paris IV) and took part in Palais de Tokyo's residency program, Le Pavillon. In 2010, he won the first prize of the competition Danse Élargie, organized by Le Théâtre de la Ville in Paris and Le Musée de la Danse, with Little Perceptions in which he started a reflection on ways to define movement. With the solo Movement on Movement (2013), Noé decided to focus on the shift between the gestures and the speech in order to question how they interact to create meaning. In Movement Materials (2014) and Removing (2015), he further developed the research initiated with Little Perception on the perception and interpretation of movement. In October 2016, his choreographic research, Actions, mouvements et gestes, was published by the publishing house of Centre National de la Danse. In September 2017, he creates Performing Art, a choreographed exhibition at the Centre Georges Pompidou, with selected artworks from the museum collection on stage thereby questioning the place of dance in the museum.

Bryce Dessner, Composer Murder Ballades
Bryce Dessner is one of the most sought-after composers of his generation, with a rapidly expanding catalog of works commissioned by leading ensembles. Known to many as a guitarist with The National, he is also active as a curator—a vital force in the flourishing realm of new creative music. His orchestral, chamber, and vocal compositions have been commissioned by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, Kronos Quartet, BAM Next Wave Festival, Barbican Center, Edinburgh Festival, Sydney Opera House, eighth blackbird, Sō Percussion, New York City Ballet, and many others. He has created theatrical works in collaboration with choreographers Benjamin Millepied and Justin Peck, visual artist Matthew Ritchie, the Brooklyn Youth Chorus, and composers Sufjan Stevens and Nico Muhly.

Dessner’s music—called “gorgeous, full-hearted” by NPR and “vibrant” by The New York Times—is marked by a keen sensitivity to instrumental color and texture. Propulsive rhythms often alternate with passages in which time is deftly suspended. His harmonies are expressive and flexible, ranging from the dense block chords of Aheym to the spacious modality of Music for Wood and Strings.

As a performer and producer, Dessner has collaborated with a wide variety of musicians, among them Steve Reich, Philip Glass, David Lang, Bon Iver, Antony and the Johnsons, the Bang on a Can All-Stars, composer/guitarist Jonny Greenwood, singer Shara Worden, and multi-instrumentalist Richard Reed Parry. His activities as a curator have grown as his career expanded, allowing him to bring diverse artists and communities together in an organic way.

Dessner’s music is published by Chester Novello.

Brandon Stirling Baker, Lighting Design Murder Ballades
Brandon Stirling Baker’s lighting can be seen in the repertories of New York City Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Miami City Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, Dutch National Ballet, Houston Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet and L.A. Dance Project. His work has been presented by major theatre’s internationally including Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Theatre du Chatelet, Sadler’s Wells, Havana Ballet Festival Cuba and the Guggenheim Bibao in Spain. In 2016 Baker’s lighting for dance was honored with the Lotos Foundation Prize for emerging artists. Baker studied at the California Institute of the Arts and Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow, Scotland.

Sterling Ruby, Visual Design Murder Ballades
Born in 1972, Sterling Ruby is an American artist based in Los Angeles. He has come to be known internationally for his work in a large variety of media including sculpture, ceramics, video, collage, photography, and
painting. His work is often presented in large and densely packed installations. In opposition to the minimalist artistic tradition, and influenced by the ubiquity of urban graffiti, the artist’s works often appear scratched, defaced, camouflaged, dirty, or splattered. Proclaimed as one of the most interesting artists to emerge in the twentieth century by New York Times art critic Roberta Smith, Ruby’s work examines the limits of individual expression against social constraint.

Ruby’s work is collected by numerous international collections, including the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Museum of Modern Art, New York; and Tate Modern, London.

Eighth Blackbird,
Recording Musicians Murder Ballades
Eighth Blackbird combines the finesse of a string quartet, the energy of a rock band and the audacity of a storefront theatre company. The Chicago-based, three-time Grammy-winning “super-musicians” (Los Angeles Times) entertain and provoke audiences across the country and around the world.

Eighth Blackbird holds ongoing Ensemble-in-Residence positions at the Curtis Institute of Music, University of Richmond, and University of Chicago. A decade-long relationship with Chicago’s Cedille Records has produced six acclaimed recordings.

The ensemble has won four Grammy Awards, for the recordings strange imaginary animals (2007), Lonely Motel: Music from Slide (2011), Meanwhile (2013), and Filament (2015).

Members hail from America’s Great Lakes, Keystone, Golden and Bay states, and Australia’s Sunshine State. There are four foodies, three beer snobs and one exercise junkie. The name Eighth Blackbird is derived from the eighth stanza of Wallace Stevens’s evocative, aphoristic poem, Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird (1917). Eighth Blackbird is managed by David Lieberman Artists.

Liam Gillick,
Visual Design Hearts & Arrows
Liam Gillick is an artist based in New York. Following his studies in fine art at Goldsmiths’ College, he held his first solo exhibition at Karsten Schubert Gallery in London in 1989. Gillick’s work has subsequently been included in numerous important exhibitions including Documenta and the Venice and Berlin biennales. Solo museum exhibitions have taken place at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, The Museum of Modern Art in New York and Tate in London. Gillick’s work is held in many important public collections including the Centre Pompidou in Paris, The Guggenheim Museum in New York and Bilbao and the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Over the last 25 years, Gillick has also been a prolific writer and critic of contemporary art—contributing to Artforum, October, Frieze and e-flux Journal. He is the author of a number of books including a volume of his selected critical writing. High profile public works include the British Government Home Office (Interior Ministry) building in London and the Lufthansa Headquarters in Frankfurt. Throughout this time, Gillick has extended his practice into experimental venues and collaborative projects with artists including Philippe Parreno, Lawrence Weiner and Louise Lawler.

Roderick Murray,
Lighting Design Hearts & Arrows
Roderick Murray’s lighting designs have been seen nationally and internationally since 1992. His work with Benjamin Millepied began in 2003 and since then they have collaborated on five world premieres presented variously at Sadler’s Wells, the Biennale de la Danse in Lyon, the Joyce Theater in New York and others.

Murray has collaborated with a variety of artists whose works have been presented at the Next Wave Festival at BAM including the poet Sekou Sundiata and choreographers Ralph Lemon and Wally
Cardona. He received the 2001 Bessie Award for his work for Wally Cardona's *Trance Territory* which was presented at the Joyce Theater.

Murray also designs full scenic and lighting installations for various choreographers, especially the renowned Kimberly Bartosik and Yanira Castro. He has also designed the lighting for many different dance companies and choreographers including Luca Veggetti, Andonis Fiondakis, Paradigm Dance, Dusan Tynek, Scotty Heron, Pepatian, Hot Mouth, Donna Uchizono, Ricochet Dance, Risa Jaroslow and Dancers, Bill Young and Daners, and Kriota Willburg, among many others. Prior to dedicating himself full time to design, he performed for nine years with the award winning Circus Amok.
Aaron Carr
Aaron Carr began dancing at age six in his hometown of Pensacola, Florida where he studied throughout high school as an ABT National Training Scholar and continued his education at The Juilliard School, graduating in 2009. He immediately became a member of KEIGWIN + COMPANY while simultaneously dancing with ZVIDANCE until joining LADP in 2013. In addition to international touring and dance work, he worked as repetiteur for Larry Keigwin at UNCSA and CNSMDP in Paris as well as an assistant at the Royal New Zealand Ballet. Aaron is also committed to his work in education and has taught programs with Broadway Dance Center, New York University’s summer program, Keigwin + Company’s program at Juilliard, the Edinburgh International Festival, and also back home with Ballet Pensacola.

David Adrian Freeland Jr.
David Adrian Freeland Jr. is from Jacksonville, FL. He began his dance training at LaVilla School of the Arts under the direction of Michelle Ottley-Fisher and Susan Jennings. He went on to study at the Jacksonville Centre of the Arts, where he received much of his training under the direction of Kezia Rolle. David has attended summer intensives at the Nashville Ballet and The Juilliard School under full scholarship. He later studied at the Conservatory of Dance at SUNY Purchase College. David was a member of Alvin Ailey’s second company, Ailey II, for three seasons. During that time, he performed the works of Alvin Ailey, Judith Jamison, Robert Battle, Troy Powell, Dwight Rhoden, and Jennifer Archibald. David has also performed in the 2015-2016 season at The Metropolitan Opera House. David is excited to share the stage with the amazingly talented artists of the L.A. Dance Project.

Kaitlyn Gilliland
Kaitlyn Gilliland trained at the Minnesota Dance Theatre under Loyce and Lise Houlton and at the School of American Ballet, where she received the school’s Mae L. Wien Award for outstanding promise in 2004. From 2006 to 2011, Kaitlyn danced with the New York City Ballet as a member of the corps de ballet and was named the company’s Janice Levin Dancer for 2009-2010. Since leaving the New York City Ballet, Kaitlyn has performed with several New York City-based dance companies, appearing regularly with Twyla Tharp since joining her 50th Anniversary Tour in 2015. Kaitlyn has served on the faculty of the School of American Ballet and the New York City Public School for Dance, and, in May of 2015, she graduated summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa from Columbia University with a bachelor’s degree in psychology. Kaitlyn joined L.A. Dance Project in 2017.

Axel Ibot
Axel Ibot began his dance training at age seven at a small dance school in the suburbs of Paris. In 1996, at age ten, he entered the Paris Opera Ballet School. In 2003 he joined the Paris Opera Ballet’s Corps de Ballet. He was promoted to “Coryphée” in 2007, and to “Sujet” in 2012. He has danced soloist and demi-soloist roles in many of the great classical ballets of Paris Opera Ballet’s repertory, including Giselle, Swan Lake, Paquita, The Nutcracker, Raymonda, and La Source. He has also danced in ballets by renowned 20th and 21st century choreographers, including George Balanchine, William Forsythe, Christopher Wheeldon, and Justin Peck. Axel also created roles in works new to the Paris Opera Ballet repertory, among them Romeo (Sasha Waltz), Clear Loud Bright Forward (Benjamin Millepied), L’Anatomie de la Sensation” (Wayne McGregor), Kaguyahime (Jiří Kylián), Psyché (Alexei Ratmansky), Seasons’s Canon (Crystal Pite), and Drumming (Anne Teresa de Keersmeaker). He has collaborated with the Maeght Foundation for a special performance as well as director Salvatore Calcagno in the context of the Kunsten Arts Festival. Axel joined L.A. Dance Project in 2017.
Nathan Makolandra

Nathan B. Makolandra began dancing and choreographing in Greenville, South Carolina. He is a graduate from The Juilliard School under director Lawrence Rhodes. There he performed works by Alexander Ekman, Nacho Duato, Jerome Robbins, Bronislava Nijinska, Eliot Feld, Sidra Bell, and Jose Limon. Nathan’s work appeared in Juilliard’s Choreographic Honors concert (2009-2012), and is a recipient of the Hector Zaraspe Award for choreography (2012). In 2011 he placed 1st runner up for the Capezio Award for Choreographic Excellence. He collaborated with composer Jared Miller, and choreographed Richard Walters’ music video, “American Stitches.” Nathan created “Attitude du Cage” with fellow L.A. Dance Project member, has choreography featured on So You Think You Can Dance, and is a Fresh Dance Intensive faculty member. Professionally Nathan has performed the works of Benjamin Millepied, William Forsythe, Merce Cunningham, Martha Graham, Hiroaki Umeda, Emmanuel Gat, Danielle Agami, Julia Eichten, and Justin Peck in locations such as Los Angeles’ Union Station, the 2015 Cannes Film Festival, and the Gardens at the Palace of Versailles.

Francisco Mungamba

Francisco Mungamba was born in Madrid, Spain. He received his dance training at the Royal Conservatory of Madrid and at the San Francisco Ballet School. He won 2nd place at the 2010 Prix de Lausanne. In 2011, he joined the San Francisco Ballet as a member of the corps de ballet and was promoted to soloist in 2016. Francisco has danced in works by several prominent 20th and 21st century choreographers, including William Forsythe, Alexei Ratmansky, Justin Peck, John Neumeier, George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, Christopher Wheeldon, Mark Morris, Wayne McGregor, Serge Lifar, Mikhail Fokine, Kenneth MacMillan, Ashley...

**Rachelle Rafailedes**

Rachelle Rafailedes is a native Ohioan that began her formal dance training at an early age. She has since received her BFA from The Juilliard School in 2009, under the direction of Lawrence Rhodes, where she was awarded the Martha Hill Prize for excellence in leadership and dance. In her career thus far, Rachelle has been fortunate to perform work by renowned choreographers including: Ohad Naharin, Twyla Tharp, Antony Tudor, Merce Cunningham and William Forsythe, as well as guest perform with Keigwin + Company and Lar Lubovitch Dance Company. She was a member of Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion from 2009-2012 and is a Bessie Award winning collaborator for Mr. Abraham's The Radio Show. Rachelle joined L.A. Dance Project in 2013.

**Janie Taylor**

Janie Taylor was born in Houston, TX where she began her ballet training at age 2 with Gilbert Rome. She trained at the Giacobbe Academy of Dance in New Orleans from 1993-1996. After attending two years of the summer program at the School of American Ballet, she became a full-time student in the fall of 1996. While a student at SAB she originated a featured role in Christopher Wheeldon's *Soiree Musicale* for the Spring workshop performance in June of 1998. She received the Mae L. Wien Award at the SAB Annual Workshop and was invited to become an apprentice with New York City Ballet. A month later, she became a member of NYCB's corps de ballet. She was promoted to the rank of Soloist in February 2001 and to Principal in 2005. During her career with New York City Ballet she originated roles in ballets choreographed by Peter Martins and Benjamin Millepied. She also performed featured roles in numerous ballets by George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, as well as pieces by Lynne Taylor-Corbett, Susan Stroman, Twyla Tharp, and Miriam Mahdaviani. Ms. Taylor appeared in the film *Center Stage* directed by Nicholas Hytner which was released in 2000. She retired from the New York City Ballet on March 1, 2014 and began working as a repetiteur setting ballets for Benjamin Millepied and Justin Peck on companies around the world. She also started a career in costume design. Her designs can be seen at the New York City Ballet, and L.A. Dance Project. In December of 2016, Ms. Taylor joined L.A. Dance Project as a dancer.

**Patricia Zhou**

Born in Canada and raised in the United States, Patricia Zhou started her formal ballet training at the age of 13. She received four years of training at the Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington D.C., where she graduated with the president's award—honoring excellence in both academic studies as well as artistry. Patricia competed in a few international competitions including the Prix de Lausanne, which as a prize winner led to an apprenticeship at the Royal Ballet in London and a spotlight segment on ABC's *Dancing with the Stars*. Patricia joined Staatsballett-Berlin in 2012, and has since danced many lead and solo roles in both classical and contemporary pieces, and has been hailed as one of the most interesting and versatile dancers in the company. Patricia joined L.A. Dance Project in 2017.

**APPRENTICES**

**Daisy Jacobson**

Daisy Jacobson is a French-American born in Manhattan Beach, CA and a recent graduate from The Juilliard School. She is a 2013 Youth America Grand Prix Finalist, National Young Arts Winner, and Presidential Scholar in the Arts. While attending Juilliard, Daisy performed new works by Takehiro Ueyama, Loni Landon, Zvi Gotheiner, Matthew Neenan, and Benjamin Millepied. She performed leading roles in masterworks such as Merce Cunningham's *BiPend*, Jiri Kylian's *Symphony of Psalms*, and Nacho Duato's
Por Vos Muero. Daisy attended programs with Houston Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Nederlands Dans Theater, Batsheva/gaga Barcelona, ChuThis, BodyTraffic, Ballet BC/ArtsUmbrella, and Springboard Danse Montreal. During these programs, Daisy was privileged to perform works by Alexei Ratmansky, Paul Lightfoot and Sol Leon, Ohad Naharin, Mats Ek, William Forsythe, and Aszure Barton. Her own choreographic works premiered in Juilliard Choreographic Honors 2015 and 2016. Daisy joined L.A. Dance Project as an apprentice in 2017.

Miranda Wattier
Miranda Wattier was born in Long Beach, California. At the age of nine, she began her dance training at Dance West in Los Alamitos, California. In 2014, Miranda enrolled as a student at the Coburn Dance Academy. She studied at Colburn for three years under the leadership of former New York City Ballet principal dancers Jenifer Ringer and James Fayette. During her time as a Colburn student, Miranda performed works by George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, and originated a featured role in a ballet by Benjamin Millepied. Miranda has attended summer courses at the School of American Ballet, Boston Ballet, and Pacific Northwest Ballet. She joined L.A. Dance Project in 2017 as an apprentice.

Sebastien Marcovici, Ballet Master
Born and raised in Paris, France, Sébastien Marcovici began his ballet training at age eight with local teachers, and at age 12 he enrolled at the School of the Paris Opéra Ballet. During the summer of 1993, while studying with Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux and Patricia McBride at the Chautauqua School of Dance, Mr. Marcovici was invited by Ballet Master in Chief Peter Martins to take Company class with New York City Ballet at Saratoga Springs. In November of 1993, he was invited to join New York City Ballet’s corps de ballet. Mr. Marcovici was promoted to the rank of soloist in 1998 and to principal dancer in May 2002.

Mr. Marcovici has performed featured roles in numerous ballets by George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, Peter Martins and additional works by David Parsons and Lynne Taylor-Corbett. Mr. Marcovici also originated roles in Robbins’ Brandenburg and West Side Story Suite as well as in works by Peter Martins, Mauro Bigonzetti, Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux, Robert Ladosse, Miriam Mahdaviani, Benjamin Millepied, Angelin Preljocaj, Twyla Tharp and Christopher Wheeldon.

Mr. Marcovici retired from New York City Ballet in March 2014. He worked as a ballet master with Paris Opera Ballet from 2014–2016. He currently works at L.A. Dance Project as a Ballet Master and sets ballets for Benjamin Millepied on ballet companies around the world.
L.A. Dance Project

L.A. Dance Project is a platform for the development, creation, support and presentation of world-class dance in Los Angeles. Comprised of an internationally acclaimed dance company, a brand new performance space in Los Angeles’ burgeoning Arts District and a program of media initiatives, LADP promotes dance not only as an artistic practice but as a way of being in the world. LADP seeks to foster dance-centered artistic collaborations across all disciplines, cultures and communities in Los Angeles and around the globe.

Since its founding, L.A. Dance Project’s company has toured and given master classes at international venues and festivals including the Holland Festival, the Edinburgh International Festival, La Maison de la Danse, the Saitama Arts Center, Sadler’s Wells Theatre, Shanghai and Beijing Opera House and Theatre du Chatelet. In the US, the company has performed at venues including Jacob’s Pillow, Brooklyn Academy of Music and New York City Center. In its home city of Los Angeles the company has performed at The Music Center’s Walt Disney Concert Hall, MOCA, Union Station, The Theatre at Ace Hotel, and The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts.

L.A. Dance Project

Artistic Director
Benjamin Millepied

Executive Director
Andrew Horwitz

Company
Aaron Carr, David Adrian Freeland Jr., Kaitlyn Gilliland, Axel Ibot, Nathan Makolandra, Francisco Mungamba, Rachelle Rafailedes, Janie Taylor, Patricia Zhou

Apprentices
Daisy Jacobson, Miranda Wattier

Ballet Master
Sebastien Marcovici

Director of Legal and Business Affairs
Christopher Macdougall

General Manager
Rebecca Misselwitz

Operations Manager
Chris Tynan

Communications Manager
Brian Carbine

Administrative Assistant
Ama Gyamerah

Production Manager
Nathan Shreeve-Moon

Stage Manager
Jacob Wexler

Lighting Director
Joey Guthman

Art Advisor
Matthieu Humery

Founding Producer
Charles Fabius

L.A. Dance Project is the Company in Residence for the 2017–18 season at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts.

Tour Representation
Sunny Artist Management Inc. in partnership with Joyce Theater Productions: North America. For booking information, please contact Ilter Ibrahimof at ilter@sunnyartistmanagement.com.

DLB Spectacles: Europe and Asia Pacific. For booking information, please contact Didier Lebesque at didier@dlbdance.com.