



Jack Baran

LIMÓN DANCE COMPANY

FOUNDED BY José Limón and Doris Humphrey

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Dante Puleio

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Michelle Preston

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Logan Frances Kruger

THE COMPANY Natalie Clevenger, Joey Columbus, MJ Edwards*, Mariah Gravelin, Johnson Guo, Kieran King, Deepa Liegel, Olivia Mozie, Eric Parra, Nicholas Ruscica, Jessica Sgambelluri, Savannah Spratt, Lauren Twomley

* 2024 Princess Grace Award Recipient

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STAGE MANAGER Bill Schaffner

TECHNICAL MANAGER Corey Whittemore

WARDROBE SUPERVISOR Gabrielle Corrigan

TOURING WARDROBE SUPERVISOR Olivia Zacchia

Zellerbach Theatre

Friday, November 22 @ 8 PM

Saturday, November 23 @ 2 PM

Saturday, November 23 @ 8 PM

There will be an intermission.

PROGRAM

Two Ecstatic Themes (1931)

CHOREOGRAPHY Doris Humphrey

STAGING Gail Corbin

MUSIC *Tragoedie Fragment a-moll, Op. 7 No. 2* by Nikolai Karolovich Medtner;
Maschere Che Passano for Piano by Gian Francesco Malipiero*

PIANIST Michael Scales

ORIGINAL COSTUME DESIGN Pauline Lawrence

LIGHTING DESIGN (2024) Liz Schweitzer

DANCER Mariah Gravelin

A. Circular Descent

B. Pointed Ascent

Two Ecstatic Themes is the keynote to Doris Humphrey's mature work.

"The first part is in circular and spiral movements, soft and sinking, to convey a feeling of acquiescence. The second part, in contrast to the first, moves in pointed design to a strident climax suggestive of aggressive achievement. The whole is a counterpoint of circular and angular movement, representing the two inseparable elements of life as well as design."

- Doris Humphrey

Two Ecstatic Themes was first performed October 31, 1931, at Washington Irving High School, New York. The Dance Notation Bureau, a non-profit service organization, has provided a Labanotation score for this staging of *Two Ecstatic Themes*.

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The Traitor (1954)

CHOREOGRAPHY José Limón

MUSIC Gunther Schuller, *Symphony for Brass and Percussion**

STAGING AND DIRECTION Kurt Douglas

COSTUME DESIGN (2020) Barbara Erin Delo

ORIGINAL SCENIC DESIGN Paul Trautvetter

ORIGINAL LIGHTING DESIGN Thomas Skelton

LIGHTING EXECUTED BY Liz Schweitzer

THE LEADER MJ Edwards

THE FOLLOWERS Joey Columbus, Kieran King, Deepa Liegel, Olivia Mozie,
Savannah Spratt, Lauren Twomley

THE TRAITOR Nicholas Ruscica

The Traitor, one of modern dance's most significant works of the 1950s, was José Limón's response to the McCarthy hearings and the climate of betrayal that haunted the arts and entertainment fields during this period. Against Gunther Schuller's musical score of violence, passion and tenderness, the tragedy of Judas and the theme of betrayal are eloquently portrayed. Created for eight men, this season premieres a mixed gender cast. With wonderfully vibrant movement, lush musicality and haunting images, this presently relevant work illuminates how we can betray ourselves and our beliefs, and what that can do to each of us.

Content Advisory: Please be advised that this piece depicts the implied suicide of a character.

The Traitor was first performed by the Limón Dance Company on August 19, 1954, at the American Dance Festival.

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INTERMISSION

Scherzo (1955)

CHOREOGRAPHY José Limón
COMPOSER Hazel Johnson
PERCUSSIONIST Douglas Perkins
RECONSTRUCTION (1980) Carla Maxwell
RECONSTRUCTION (2024) Dante Puleio
ORIGINAL COSTUME DESIGN Pauline Lawrence
COSTUME REVIVAL Gabrielle Corrigan
LIGHTING Liz Schweitzer

SOLOIST/DRUMMER Kieran King
DANCERS Joey Columbus, Eric Parra, Nicholas Ruscica

This energetic, athletic dance for four dancers and a drum tossed between them is a compelling exploration of rhythm and movement. In moments when the percussion score stops, the movement—the beats the dancers create on their bodies—becomes the music.

First performed on August 19, 1955, at the American Dance Festival by Limón Dance Company.

The Quake that Held Them All (2024)

CHOREOGRAPHY Kayla Farrish
COMPOSER Alex MacKinnon
MUSIC
DRUMS, PERCUSSION, BASS, GUITAR, SYNTHESIZER Alex MacKinnon
TRUMPET Jonathan Saraga
TENOR SAXOPHONE Zach Koeber
BASS John Feliciano
COSTUME DESIGN Márion Talán de la Rosa
LIGHTING DESIGN Katie Whitemore

DANCERS Natalie Clevenger, Joey Columbus, Mariah Gravelin, Kieran King, Deepa Liegel, Olivia Mozie, Eric Parra, Nicholas Ruscica, Savannah Spratt, Jessica Sgambelluri, Lauren Twomley

This work has been inspired by the lost work Limón created in 1951 while in residency in Mexico City and revisited, renamed and re-choreographed in 1952: *Redes* (Nets; 195); the representation of collective work and unity and *El Grito* (The Scream; 1952); the awakening of consciousness, creative force and freedom.

"This work peers into and honors traditions, rituals and stories of lineage among communities of radical care and expression. Dreaming of the migrants' stories, the 'migrant hero' journey transposed into the carriage of the guitar and the drum. This reflected the pulse, transforming into the blues and the 'corridos' singing their narratives across landscapes to one another. I pull from imagining these communities who have held onto one another, taking care of another, and pushed for transformation and revolution together. What is the breath and space where we can release, feel and create change? This work honors avant-garde jazz, Mexican Muralism and fully felt humanity in us all."

- Kayla Farrish

The Quake that Held Them All has co-commissioning support from American Dance Festival and early residency support was provided by Vanderbilt University Blair School of Music and Kaatsbaan Cultural Park. Additional support is provided by New York State Council on the Arts.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The **Limón Dance Company** has been at the vanguard of dance since its inception in 1946. The first dance group to tour internationally under the auspices of the State Department and the first modern dance company to perform at Lincoln Center in New York, it has performed twice at The White House. The José Limón Dance Foundation, with Company and Institute, is the recipient of a 2008 National Medal of the Arts. José Limón has a special place in American culture for a social awareness that transcended distinct groups to address how we all search for commonality. It is with this ethos that the company continues to commission works by critically acclaimed and emerging international voices 50 years after Limón's passing. His works continue to influence the evolution of the art form with their arresting visual clarity, theatricality and rhythmic and musical life. limon.nyc

José Limón (Founder/Choreographer, 1908-1972)

Limón electrified the world with his dynamic masculine dancing and dramatic choreography. One of the 20th century's most important and influential dance makers, he spent his career pioneering a new art form and fighting for its recognition. Born in Culiacán, Mexico in 1908, he moved to California in 1915 and in 1928, he went to New York where he saw his first dance program. Limón enrolled in Doris Humphrey and Charles Weidman's dance school and performed in several of their works from 1930 to 1940. In 1946, with Doris Humphrey as Artistic Director, Limón formed his own company. Over the next 25 years, he established himself and his company as a major force of 20th century dance. Limón created a total of 74 works, including *The Moor's Pavane*, *Concerto Grosso* and *Missa Brevis*.

Doris Humphrey (Founder/Choreographer, 1895-1958)

Humphrey is recognized as a founder of American modern dance. She developed a distinctive movement approach based on the body's relationship to gravity and the use of weight. The company she formed with Charles Weidman produced great dances as well as outstanding performers, José Limón among them. When physical disability ended her career as a dancer, she became the Artistic Director for José Limón and his company, creating new works for him and for The Juilliard School.

Dante Puleio (Artistic Director, He/Him)

A widely respected former member of the Limón Dance Company for more than a decade, Puleio was appointed the sixth artistic director in the company's 78-year history, a position that originated with Doris Humphrey. After a diverse performing career with the Limón Dance Company, touring national and international musical theatre productions, television and film, he received his MFA from University of California, Irvine. His research focuses on contextualizing mid-20th century dance for the contemporary artist and audience. He is committed to implementing that research by celebrating José Limón's historical legacy and reimagining his intention and vision to reflect the rapidly shifting 21st century landscape.

Logan Frances Kruger (Associate Artistic Director, She/Her)

Kruger, an Atlanta, Georgia native, received her early training from Annette Lewis and Pamala Jones-Malavé and went on to receive a BFA from The Juilliard School. Her extensive performing career has included work with renowned artists such as Shen Wei, Jonah Bokaer and Adam H Weinert. Kruger was a principal dancer with the Limón Dance Company for nine years and was the company's rehearsal director for four years before being appointed associate artistic director in 2021. Kruger has taught master classes and workshops across the globe and is a reconstructor of Limón's repertory.

Kayla Farrish (Guest Choreographer, She/Her)

Farrish is a Black American director merging dance-theatre, filmmaking, narrative and sound score. She captures ranging identity, the mythical dualities of history and present survival, and powerful dreaming leading to liberation. She is currently a NEFA National Dance Project grantee for her project *Put Away the Fire, dear*, currently on tour, and the recipient of the Ellis Beauregard Contemporary Dance Award. She has been commissioned by Limón Dance Company, ODC Theater, Louis Armstrong House Museum, Blacklight Summit, Harlem Satage and beyond. She creates live works, films, site-specific/immersive and collaborations with musicians and other artists. Presenting spaces include Lincoln Center, Park Avenue Armory, Symphony Space and National Sawdust, with support received from Watermill Center for the Arts, Armstrong Now, Brooklyn Filmmakers Collective, Baryshnikov Arts Center, La Mama Theater and others. She is excited to create more and continue to be a part of radical movements of freedom and humanity.

Natalie Clevenger (Dancer, She/They)

Clevenger is from Mooresville, IN and received their BFA in dance from the University of Arizona in 2018. Upon graduation, Clevenger joined Dance Kaleidoscope in Indianapolis and danced with the company for three seasons. Clevenger joined Limón Dance Company in 2022.

Joey Columbus (Dancer, He/Him)

Columbus began his dance training in the Chicagoland area before obtaining his BFA in dance from the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program. He has performed with companies such as RIOULT and Company XIV as well as at the Metropolitan Opera.

MJ Edwards (Dancer, They/Them)

Edwards is from Middletown, NY and studied at LaGuardia High School, MOVE|NYC|, San Francisco Ballet School and The Juilliard School. They worked with choreographers Ohad Naharin, Aszure Barton and Kayla Farrish. They received the SFBS 2018-2019 Choreographic Fellowship and are a 2019 YoungArts winner. In 2021, Edwards joined the Limón Dance Company.

Mariah Gravelin (Dancer, She/Her)

Gravelin joined the Limón Dance Company in 2019 where she has performed and taught nationwide. She holds a BFA from Alvin Ailey/Fordham University (2018). Gravelin is on faculty for the Limón Institute and can be found with her camera in hand photographing when not dancing.

Johnson Guo (Dancer, He/Him)

Guo began his dance training at NYC's Ballet Tech Program. He continued his learnings at the Conservatory of Dance at SUNY Purchase. Before graduating with a BFA degree in dance performance, Guo joined the esteemed Limón Dance Company in 2021.

Kieran King (Dancer, He/Him)

King grew up in Dallas, Texas. A University of Oklahoma alumnus, he performed as a Dance Kaleidoscope company member from 2019 to 2023, under David Hochoy's direction. King joined the Limón Dance Company in 2023. Instagram: @sliceofkie

Deepa Liegel (Dancer, She/Her)

Liegel joined Limón Dance Company in 2021. Originally from Seattle, Liegel earned a BFA from Southern Methodist University. She has professionally worked with Mark Morris Dance Group, the Metropolitan Opera, Dance Lab NY and others. Liegel has been a certified classical Pilates instructor since 2020. Instagram: @deepaleaps.

Olivia Mozie (Dancer, She/Her)

Born in Greenville, SC, Mozie began dancing at the age of four and continued her studies at The South Carolina Governor's School, graduating in 2020. In 2024, she graduated from Boston Conservatory at Berklee with a BFA in contemporary dance performance. Mozie joined the Limón Dance Company in January 2024.

Eric Parra (Dancer, He/Him)

Parra is a first-generation Colombian-American artist from Union City, NJ. He graduated from Montclair State University with a BFA in dance performance in 2017. Current credits include Limón Dance Company, Camille A. Brown & Dancers and Metropolitan Opera Ballet.

Nicholas Ruscica (Dancer, He/Him)

Ruscica is a New York-based dance artist originally from Toronto, Canada. He is a President's Merit Scholar (Calarts, BFA) and a trained actor combatant. He has collaborated with artists such as Aszure Barton, VIMVIGOR and Kayla Farrish. Ruscica has been with Limón Dance Company since 2020.

Jessica Sgambelluri (Dancer, She/Her)

Sgambelluri is a 2014 graduate of Marymount Manhattan College. She has danced for Graham 2, TED Talks Live, Caterina Rago Dance Company, the Metropolitan Opera and Buglisi Dance Theatre. Sgambelluri joined the company in 2019.

Savannah Spratt (Dancer, She/Her)

Spratt joined the company in 2016. Hailing from Rochester, PA, she holds a BFA from UNCSCA (recipient of the Sarah Graham Keenan Scholarship). Beyond Limón, she has collaborated with Madeline Hollander, Hélène Simoneau and the Merce Cunningham Trust and enjoys knitting.

Lauren Twomley (Dancer, She/Her)

From Brooklyn, NY, Twomley is a performing and teaching artist who has been with the Limón Dance Company since 2019. She is a dancer and operations manager for Peter Stathas Dance and values connection, diversity and play in her artistic endeavors.

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The Limón Dance Company is a member of Dance/USA, Dance/NYC, Association of Performing Arts Presenters, Western Arts Alliance, National Association of Schools of Dance, the Arts & Business Council and the United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce.

UPCOMING DANCE

Le Patin Libre
Murmuration
DEC 13-14

Agora de la danse
Koros - VR Experience
JAN 24-26

RUBBERBAND
Reckless Underdog
FEB 14-15

Rennie Harris Puremovement
American Street Dancer
MAR 14-15



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