



Lois Greenfield

# Parsons Dance

**David Parsons**, Artistic Director  
**John Krasno**, Executive Director

**Elizabeth Koeppen**, Associate Artistic Director  
**Howell Binkley**, Resident Lighting Designer

Dancers: **Abby Silva Gavezzoli, Eric Bourne, Sarah Braverman, Steven Vaughn, Melissa Ullom, Christina Ilisije, Jason Macdonald, Ian Spring, Elena D’Amario, Lauren Garson**

Apprentice Performers: **Christopher Bloom, Leeann Ramsey**

**Rebecca Josue**, Company & Stage Manager

**Christopher Chambers**, Technical Director & Lighting Supervisor

## **PROGRAM**

*Round My World*

*Hand Dance*

*A Stray’s Lullabye*

**-Intermission-**

*Caught*

*In The End*

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Wednesday, February 27 at 7:30 PM

Friday, March 1 at 8 PM

Saturday, March 2 at 2 PM & 8 PM

# PROGRAM

## **Round My World (2012)**

Choreography: David Parsons

Lighting Design: Howell Binkley

Music: Zoe Keating, "Arrival," "Walking Man," "We Insist," "Legions (Reverie)"

Costume Design: Emily DeAngelis

Eric Bourne, Steven Vaughn, Melissa Ullom, Christina Illisiie, Ian Spring, Elena D'Amario

## **Hand Dance (2003)**

Choreography: David Parsons

Lighting Design: Howell Binkley

Musical Arrangement: Kenji Bunch

Costume Design: David Parsons

Five Company Members

## **A Stray's Lullaby (2012)**

Choreography: Katarzyna Skarpetowska

Lighting Design: Christopher Chambers

Music Arranged and Performed: Kenji Bunch

Costume Design: Reid Batelme

Christina Illisije, Jason MacDonald, Ian Spring, Elena D'Amario

*A Stray's Lullaby* was commissioned by The Joyce Theater Foundation in New York City with the support of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

## **-Intermission-**

## **Caught (1982)**

Choreography: David Parsons

Lighting Concept: David Parsons

Lighting Design: Christopher Chambers

Music: Howell Binkley

Costume Design: Judy Wirkula

Eric Bourne, or Steven Vaughn, or Ian Spring

## **Please be advised that strobe lights will be used during this piece.**

*Caught* is maintained in the active repertory of Parsons Dance through generous support from the Jim and Linda Ellis Foundation.

## **In The End (2005)**

Choreography: David Parsons

Lighting Design: Howell Binkley

Music: Dave Matthews Band

Costume Design: Mia McSain

Eric Bourne, Steven Vaughn, Melissa Ullom, Christina Illisije, Jason MacDonald, Ian Spring, Elena D'Amario, Lauren Garson

*In the End* was commissioned by The Ferguson Center for the Arts at Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA. Additional support was provided by the Jim and Linda Ellis Foundation, in memory of Jim Ellis.

*This program is subject to change.*

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Parsons Dance** is an internationally renowned contemporary dance company under the artistic direction of choreographer/director David Parsons. Parsons Dance is committed to creating and performing American dance works of extraordinary artistry that are engaging and uplifting to audiences throughout the world. Parsons Dance tours nationally and internationally, including an annual season in its home community of New York City. The Company includes nine full-time dancers. David Parsons has choreographed a repertory of more than 80 works for Parsons Dance. Since 1985, Parsons Dance has toured an average of 32 weeks per year to a total of more than 250 cities, 35 countries, and five continents. Many more have seen Parsons Dance on PBS, Bravo, A&E Network and the Discovery Channel. In addition to choreography and performance, Parsons Dance is committed to audience development and arts education for participants of all ages and all levels of artistic experience. Parsons Dance regularly offers outreach opportunities, including post-show discussions, master classes, open rehearsals and studio showcases. In partnership with Marymount Manhattan College and Broadway Dance Center, Parsons Dance offers year-round training opportunities in New York for professional and pre-professional dancers from around the world.

### **David Parsons** (Artistic Director/Co-Founder)

Parsons has enjoyed a remarkable career as a performer, choreographer, teacher, director and producer of dance. Mr. Parsons was born in Chicago and raised in Kansas City. He was a leading dancer with the Paul Taylor Dance Company, where Mr. Taylor created many roles for him in works such as *Arden Court*, *Last Look* and *Roses*. He received the Dance Masters of America's 2011 Annual Award and the 2000 *Dance Magazine* Award, as well as the 2001 American Choreography Award for his work with *AEROS*, a production featuring the Romanian Gymnastic Federation broadcast on the Bravo Channel. Mr. Parsons has created more than 80 works for Parsons Dance. He has received commissions over the years from the American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, the American Dance Festival, Jacob's Pillow, the Spoleto Festival and Het Muziektheater in Amsterdam. His work has been performed by Paris Opera Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, Nederlands Danse Theatre, National Ballet of Canada, Hubbard Street Dance and Batsheva Dance Company of Israel, among many others. In the July 27, 2007 edition of *The New York Times*, Jennifer Dunning called David Parsons "one of the great movers of modern dance."

### **Elizabeth Koeppen** (Associate Artistic Director)

Koeppen was born and raised in Virginia Beach, Virginia, where she began her training with Judith Hatcher and Darlene Kelly. She continued her education at SUNY Purchase where she received her BFA under the instruction of Gayle Young, Larry Clarke, Kevin Wynn, Rosanna Seravalli and Betti-Jane Sills. Teaching credits for Parsons Dance include SUNY Purchase, The Juilliard School, NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, The 92nd Street Y, the New Arts Festival, Baltimore School of the Arts, Peridance and Dancespace. Koeppen has staged works by Mr. Parsons on numerous companies, including the Milwaukee Ballet, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Repertory Dance Theatre, New York City Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal, Louisville Ballet and Roland Petit's Ballet National de Marseille. Koeppen joined Parsons Dance in 1989.

### **Abby Silva Gavezzoli** (Dancer)

Gavezzoli grew up in New Orleans, LA. She studied with Rhonda Edmundson, Charleen Locasio and Gayle Tabary. After graduating from the New Orleans Center

for Creative Arts in 1998, she moved to New York to attend Marymount Manhattan College, under the direction of Katie Langan, Merle Holloman and Anthony Ferro. In the Spring of 2002, Gavezzoli completed her BFA. She has been featured in *Dance Magazine* and *Dance Spirit*. Gavezzoli joined Parsons Dance in 2002.

**Eric Bourne** (Dancer)

Bourne grew up in Midland, MI. He began his training at 16, under the direction of Sandra Black. His formal training started while attending Ryerson University, studying under Nadia Potts, Karen Duplisea and Vicki St. Denys. He spent his summers in Colorado studying with Linda Kent, Stephen Pier, Nicolas Villeneuve and Kristopher Storey at Perry-Mansfield. Moving to New York City in January 2007, he danced the role of James in the North American Tour of Twyla Tharp's *Movin' Out*. Bourne joined Parsons Dance in August 2008.

**Sarah Braverman** (Dancer)

Braverman is Chicago born and California raised. She trained extensively in the Royal Academy of Dance, under the direction of JoAnna Jarvis and Bernadette Hill, completing all examinations up to advanced II with distinction. In 2006, she became a founding member of NYC based modern company, AM Dance Project. Braverman graduated cum laude from Marymount Manhattan College in 2008 under the direction of Katie Langan and had the honor of performing works by David Marquez, Robert Battle, David Parsons, Graham Lustig, Stephen Petronio and Joao Carvalho. Braverman joined Parsons Dance in 2008.

**Steven Vaughn** (Dancer)

Vaughn was born in Iowa City, IA and grew up dancing all over the Midwest. Vaughn graduated in May 2009 from the University of the Arts with a BFA in Modern Dance. While attending the University of the Arts in Philadelphia he was given the opportunity to perform works by Silvana Cardell, Martha Graham and Twyla Tharp, while allowing him to present his own choreography. His college career also afforded him the privilege of working professionally with Diane Sharp-Nachsin's SHARP Dance Company, Scott Jovovich in Brandywine Ballet Theatre, Zane Booker and his Smoke, Lillies, Jade Arts Initiative, and Brian Sanders' JUNK. Vaughn joined Parsons Dance in June 2008 as an apprentice and became an official company member in August 2009.

**Melissa Ullom** (Dancer)

Ullom is from Santa Barbara, CA, where she trained under Michele Anderson and Denise Rinaldi. Upon graduation from high school, Ullom trained full-time with the Houston Ballet Academy and later the Lou Conte Dance Center/Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. She has worked professionally with Houston Ballet, Smuin Ballet, Company C Contemporary Ballet, State St. Ballet and Santa Barbara Dance Theatre. Ullom graduated with high honors from the University of California, Santa Barbara with a BA in Art History and a minor in Exercise and Health Science. She holds her comprehensive Pilates Certification from Body Arts and Science International. Ullom joined Parsons Dance in 2009.

**Christina Ilisije** (Dancer)

Ilisije graduated summa cum laude from Marymount Manhattan College in 2007 with a BFA in Dance. Her choreographic work, *Naked Branches*, was bestowed the Alpha Chi award. Upon graduation, she became a company member with Buglisi Dance Theatre where she performed and instructed company outreach. She also danced with Maxine Steinman & Dancers and as a guest artist with Take Dance and Shen Wei Dance Arts. Her choreographic work has been presented at St. Mark's Church and The

Hatch. She writes about her passions on her blog Living Dance ([living-dance.com](http://living-dance.com).) Ilijse joined Parsons Dance in 2010.

**Jason MacDonald** (Dancer)

MacDonald, an Orlando native, began his dance training with Melissa Stokes and later with Alberto Alonso, Sonia Calero and Alora Haynes at Santa Fe College. He has performed with the New York City Opera and Alabama Ballet Company under Artistic Director Wes Chapman. His repertoire includes *Cinderella*, *Don Quixote*, *Firebird* and George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker* and *Serenade*. He recently graduated with a BFA in Dance and a BS in Finance from The Florida State University. MacDonald joined Parsons Dance in August 2010.

**Ian Spring** (Dancer)

Spring is originally from Middletown, OH where he began his training under the direction of Phyllis DeWeese-Morgan. After graduating from high school, he attended Point Park University in Pittsburgh, PA. While at Point Park, he had the honor of performing pieces by Robert Battle, Martha Graham and Kate Skarpetowska. Spring graduated summa cum laude with his BA in Dance. He has worked with Dayton Contemporary Dance Company 2. He joined Parsons Dance in August 2010.

**Elena D'Amario** (Dancer)

D'Amario was born in Pescara, Italy. She studied modern, ballet, contemporary and tap at various schools throughout Italy, most prominently at New Step Art Studio. Over the years, she has won multiple festivals and competitions including the Pescara Dance Festival, the International Expression Dance Competition in 2008 and the International TipTap show in 2007 and 2009 in Rome. D'Amario has appeared on multiple TV shows including *Oscar TV*, *The Best Years* and *Il ballo delle debuttanti*. She auditioned for the popular Italian talent show *Amici di Maria De Filippi*, which led her to winning the opportunity to apprentice with Parsons Dance for the 2010-2011 season. She joined Parsons Dance in August 2011.

**Lauren Garson** (Dancer)

Garson is originally from Pittsburgh, PA, receiving her BFA in Dance from Point Park University. Upon graduating, she was a four-year member of the Houston Metropolitan Dance Company, working with noted choreographers and touring throughout the United States. Now living in New York, Garson has performed with Stefanie Nelson, Johannes Wieland, Davis Freeman, Ben Munisteri Dance Projects and the Limón Institute. She is STOTT PILATES® certified on all equipment, teaching private and group classes. She was assistant director of the Houston Met Too Youth Company and has choreographed for Endicott College. Garson joined Parsons Dance in 2012.

**Christopher Bloom** (Apprentice Performer)

Bloom is from Middletown, VA, where he started training at the Vostrikov's Academy of Ballet at the age of 15. He trained as a scholarship student at the Ballet and Contemporary Dance Programs in the School at Jacob's Pillow under Anna-Marie Holmes and Milton Myers. He will soon graduate from the Ailey/Fordham BFA Dance Program, where he had the opportunity to perform works by Sidra Bell, Francesca Harper, Camille A. Brown, Jennifer Muller, Paul Taylor and Alvin Ailey. He has performed professionally with 360° Dance Company and with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre. Bloom joined Parsons Dance in 2011.

**Leeann Ramsey** (Apprentice Performer)

Ramsey was born and raised in West Palm Beach, Florida. She began dancing at a young age and trained extensively at Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts. She

graduated cum laude with a BFA in Dance from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. While at George Mason, she had the honor to perform in works by David Parsons, Jacquelyn Buglisi, Lar Lubovitch, Ohad Naharin and Robert Battle. She is currently working with DAMAGEDANCE in New York City. Ramsey joined Parsons Dance in 2012.

### **Howell Binkley** (Resident Lighting Designer/Co-Founder)

Binkley is the proud co-founder of Parsons Dance where, alongside his dearest friend David Parsons, he has designed more than 70 pieces for the company. Broadway works include: *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *How To Succeed...* starring Daniel Radcliffe (2011 Tony® nomination,) *Lombardi*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, *All About Me*, *Memphis*, *West Side Story* (2009 Tony® nomination), *Guys and Dolls*, *Gypsy* starring Patti LuPone, *In The Heights* (2008 Tony® nomination), *Crybaby*, *Xanadu*, *LoveMusik*, *The Farnsworth Invention*, *Bridge & Tunnel*, *Jersey Boys* (Tony® Award Winner), *Steel Magnolias*, *Dracula*, *Avenue Q*, *Golda's Balcony*, *Hollywood Arms*, *The Look of Love*, Gore Vidal's *The Best Man*, *Minnelli on Minnelli*, *The Full Monty*, *Parade*, *Kiss Of The Spider Woman* (1993 Tony® nomination), *Sacrilege*, *Taking Sides*, *How To Succeed...* with Matthew Broderick, *High Society* and *Grease*. Off-Broadway works include: *The Kid* at The New Group, *Tin Pan Alley Rag*, *Never The Sinner*, *Landscape of The Body* at The Signature Theatre, *Sinatra* at Radio City Music Hall, *Radiant Baby* at The Public Theatre and *Batboy The Musical*. Extensive regional and dance works include: *Whistle Down The Wind* at The Kennedy Center, *Kander and Ebb's Over and Over*, *The Joffrey Ballet's Billboards*, six musicals in repertory for The Kennedy Center's Sondheim Celebration and the lighting design for pieces at Alvin Ailey, MOMIX, Peter Pucci Plus, Hubbard Street Dance, American Ballet Theatre, The LaJolla Playhouse, The Alley Theatre, The Goodman Theatre, The Guthrie, The McCarter Theatre, The Hartford Stage, The Old Globe and The Shakespeare Theatre in Washington D.C. Binkley is a five -time Helen Hayes Award recipient and was awarded the 1993 Sir Laurence Olivier Award and Canadian Dora Award for *Kiss of The Spider Woman*. He is also the recipient of the 2006 Henry Hewes Design Award, Outer Critics Circle Award and Tony® Award winner for *Jersey Boys*. Binkley teaches master classes in Lighting Design in multiple undergraduate and graduate arts programs and has created a yearly scholarship and internship opportunity at his alma mater, East Carolina University, for an outstanding student in his beloved field of lighting design.

### **John Krasno** (Executive Director)

Krasno is a seasoned arts administrator with extensive business experience. Krasno joins Parsons Dance after a three-year tenure with the Oklahoma City Ballet as Executive Director. He has spent his career primarily in the arts, with special expertise in improving the financial well-being of creative companies. He was Chief Operating Officer of the Drama Department, a New York-based theatre company, rescuing them from imminent bankruptcy and paving the way for their subsequent dynamic growth, including the Tribeca Theatre Festival, produced with Robert DeNiro's Tribeca Institute. Krasno was also President and Chief Operating Officer of Stick Figure Productions, a forward-looking documentary and television production company that produced highly regarded films shown at festivals including Sundance, Tribeca and Edinburgh, as well as on HBO and PBS. For more than a decade, Krasno was a Vice President and General Manager at Panavision, the leading manufacturer and distributor of camera equipment and lenses for the motion picture industry. During his tenure, he took the company's unsuccessful CinePro Division and turned it into Panavision Hollywood, an internationally well-regarded multimillion-dollar business unit. He also provided strategic leadership to both domestic and international business units, mentored directors, producers and cinematographers and helped to make hundreds of independent films. Krasno holds a BA in English from UCLA.