

## Fall Preview

# DANCE

**F**rom Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers' grotesque comedy of need, obsession, and addiction to the fantasy sci-fi of Miller Rothlein, from the bijoux of the Pennsylvania Ballet and BalletX to the deconstructed hip-hop of Raphael Xavier, and from the dark, dazzling work of Koresh Dance Company to the heat and sensuality of Philadanco, this dance season has something for everyone — and those are just a few of our local talents. There's a lot more going on in small studios such as Mascher Space and fidget, and there are sure to be added performances at venues such as Old City's Christ Church Neighborhood House and Community Education Center.

So far, I tally at least 22 dance concerts between now and New Year's, with stellar imports from New York and the West Coast in Dance Celebration's series at the Annenberg. (And for Broadway-style dance lovers, there's *Flashdance, the Musical* at the Academy of Music in November.)

You'll find what intrigues me most here. But don't let this list confine you — explore the many other dance gems around the city.

— Merilyn Jackson reviews dance for *The Inquirer*

**'The Secret History of Love.'** (Painted Bride, Oct. 11-12, 215-925-9914, [www.paintedbride.org](http://www.paintedbride.org)) If you don't mind being moved from tears to laughter and back again, this work by Sean Dorsey — one of Dance Magazine's Top 25 to Watch — portrays how LGBT peo-

ple have struggled to love each other in secret over the last century. If emotional content that crosses all love's permutations isn't enough, go for the lush choreography and sensuous dancing.

**'Jewels.'** (Pennsylvania Ballet, Oct. 17-27, 215-893-1999 [www.paballet.org](http://www.paballet.org)) Since 1986 Pennsylvania Ballet has often performed the middle section — "Rubies" — of this 1967 Balanchine masterpiece. Now, for the gala opening of its 50th-anniversary season, it presents the full-length abstract ballet — the first of its kind — in its Philadelphia premiere. Balanchine may have said, "The ballet had nothing to do with jewels," but this is the Fabergé of ballets.

**Paul Taylor Dance Company** (Oct 24-26, Annenberg Center, 215-898-3900, [www.annenbergcenter.org](http://www.annenbergcenter.org)) In its 31st season, Dance Celebration brings back a subscriber favorite, with Paul Taylor's fast-paced classic *Mercuric Tidings* (1982) and two Philadelphia premieres, *A Field of Grass* (1993), to six songs by Harry Nilsson, and *Gossamer Gallants* (2011). The latter title is taken from Herman Melville's commentary on the seductions of fireflies and uses music by Smetana to underscore the hilarious antics of the male heroes and the burlesque wiles of the females, who sometimes look more June Taylor than Paul — but

that's the fun of it. **Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers.** (Nov. 7-9 Painted Bride, 267-687-3739, [kunyainglin.org](http://kunyainglin.org)) To celebrate the company's fifth year in Philadelphia, artistic director Lin has prepared a retrospective of its 20-year repertory that will include Philadelphia premieres of the solo *Butterfly*, set to haunting Puccini music, and the ritualistic solemnity of *Love Song*. Riveting Rhonda Moore, a founding member of Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Co., will be a special guest artist, performing in the group piece, *Shall We ...?*

**'The Unofficial Guide to Audience Watching.'** (Nov. 13-14, Painted Bride, 215-925-9914, [www.paintedbride.org](http://www.paintedbride.org)) Break-dance artist extraordinaire Raphael Xavier, a 2013 PEW fellow, co-presents this spoken word/dance performance. See **DANCE** on H19 with the 12th Annual First Person Arts Festival. Poetry, rap lyrics, and deconstructed hip-hop moves amplify Xavier's conversational monologue.

**'Through the Skin.'** Koresh Dance Company (Nov. 14-17, Suzanne Roberts Theatre, 215-985-0420, [www.koreshdance.org](http://www.koreshdance.org)) After losing their lease, the brothers Koresh spent months scrambling for new digs and finally opened them at 2002 Rittenhouse Square in August. Thus, this fall will see a repeat of the 16-part 2011 work *Through the Skin*. But



that's alright. If there's room for improvement, artistic director and choreographer Roni Koresh never leaves a stone unturned. There will, no doubt, be some new twists among his turns.

**'Forbidden Creature Virgin Whore.'** Miller Rothlein (Nov. 14-17, Crane Arts Old School, [www.millerrothlein.org](http://www.millerrothlein.org)) The world premiere of dancer/choreographer Amanda Miller's new piece, a collaboration with fantasy/science fiction illustrator Kristin Kest, replays female mythologies of classical dance through a contemporary feminist lens. Alternately humorous and sobering, she "irreverently unveils the virgin whores, domestic goddesses, and forbidden creatures that litter our collective contemporary psyche."

**BalletX.** (Nov. 20-24, Wilma Theater, 215-546-7824, <http://balletx.org>) With respect for its ballet parentage but always looking ahead to offspring, this contemporary company is maturing from a Philadelphia treasure into a nationally recognized paragon. The fall

series offers three world premieres, one by BalletX artistic director and prolific choreographer Matthew Neenan, the other two by Adam Baruch and Gabrielle Lamb, both award-winning and in-demand choreographer/dancers. Lamb is also a filmmaker, so film is likely to be featured in her new work for BalletX.

**Keigwin + Company.** (Nov. 21-23, Annenberg Center, 215-898-3900, [www.annenberg-center.org](http://www.annenberg-center.org)) Larry Keigwin's relatively young — 10 years old — troupe has gathered a wide following at home in New York City and on tour. Its appearance here in 2011, with Keigwin's full-length comedic work *Elements*, wowed Dance Celebration audiences. For this run, he brings *Love Songs*, *Triptych*, *Matress Suite*, and his 2013 romp, *Girls*.

**Philadanco.** Dec. 5-8, the Kimmel Center, 215-893-1999, [www.philadanco.org](http://www.philadanco.org)) For the company's 44th year, Joan Myers Brown, recent recipient of a National Medal of Arts, says they're doing a full evening of Christopher Huggins work that will include *Blue*, his classic *Enemy Behind the Gate*, excerpts from his recent hit *The Big Bang*, and the company premiere of a new work. Look for "Danco on Danco" at the Painted Bride too, on Oct. 5.

**BodyVox.** (Dec. 12-14,

Annenberg Center, 215-898-3900, [www.annenbergcenter.org](http://www.annenbergcenter.org)) With BodyVox's repeat engagements at Dance Celebration, this gifted Portland, Ore., company has developed many fans here. In this year's appearance, they'll frolic through filmland in 2012's *The Cutting Room*. A Philadelphia premiere, the evening-length work carries us through some of Hollywood's most memorable movie moments.



**Pennsylvania Ballet presents** the Philadelphia premiere of George Balanchine's full-length "Jewels" Oct. 17, opening its 50th-anniversary season. ALEXANDER IZILIAEV



**Break-dance maestro Raphael Xavier** brings the world premiere of "The Unofficial Guide to Audience Watching" to the Painted Bride Nov. 13-14.



**Keigwin + Company** will perform "Love Songs," "Triptych," "Mattress Suite," and "Girls" Nov. 21-23 at the Annenberg Center. MATTHEW MURPHY