

The José Limón Dance Foundation, Inc., presents

# LIMÓN DANCE COMPANY

**Kaatsbaan Cultural Park**  
**December 19, 2020 at 7 PM**

**JOSÉ LIMÓN and DORIS HUMPHREY**

*Founders*

**DANTE PULEIO**

*Artistic Director*

**JUAN JOSÉ ESCALANTE**

*Executive Director*

**KURT DOUGLAS**

*Rehearsal Director*

## **The Company**

Joey Columbus, Terrence D. M. Diable, David Glista,  
Mariah Gravelin, Ty Graynor, Eric Parra, Nicholas Ruscica\*,  
Frances Samson, Jessica Sgambelluri, Savannah Spratt,  
Lauren Twomley, Mark Willis

*\*guest artist*

The José Limón Dance Foundation, Inc. is supported with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts; New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York Legislature; and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. Additional support is generously provided by the following institutions: DuBose and Dorothy Heyward Memorial Fund; The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuel Foundation, Inc.; Google Ad Grants; The Harkness Foundation for Dance; Henry and Lucy Moses Fund; The Howard Gilman Foundation; The Jerome Robbins Foundation; Jody and John Arnhold; Material for the Arts; Mesonix Investments Ltd; Mex-Am Cultural Council; Miriam and Arthur Diamond Charitable Trust; New York Community Trust; The O'Donnell-Green Music and Dance Foundation; The Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation; Ronald McDonald House Charities – NYTSA; Shubert Foundation; The Varnum De Rose Charitable Trust; West Harlem Development Corporation; and Withers Bergman LLP.

*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.*

# PROGRAM

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***Suite Donuts*** (2020), Chafin Seymour  
***The Moor's Pavane*** (1949), José Limón  
***There is a Time*** (1956), José Limón

## PROGRAM NOTES

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The Company's performance showcases two dances by José Limón which are considered among the 20th Century's greatest works of modern choreography presented alongside a brilliant new piece *Suite Donuts* by emerging choreographer, Chafin Seymour. The pairing of these works now seems fortuitous. Recent events which have further raised awareness of social consciousness and racial justice make this group of dances, all the more important today. --*Dante Puleio, Artistic Director*

### SUITE DONUTS

Co-commissioned by the American Dance Festival with support from the Doris Duke/SHS Foundations Award for New Work, first performance scheduled for June 26, 2020 at the American Dance Festival and cancelled due to the pandemic

<b>Choreography</b>	Chafin Seymour
<b>Music</b>	1) Morning Order - Miguel Atwood Ferguson 2) Untitled/Fantastic - Miguel Atwood Ferguson 3) Le Yachting - Erik Satie 4) Hoc N Pucky - Miguel Atwood Ferguson 5) Hoc N Pucky - Slum Village

<b>Rehearsal Assistant</b>	David Glista
<b>Costume Design</b>	Keiko Voltaire
<b>Lighting Design</b>	Brandon Stirling Baker

### Dancers

Joey Columbus, Terrence D. M. Diable  
Ty Graynor, Eric Parra, Frances Samson,  
Jessica Sgambelluri, Lauren Twomley

# THE MOOR'S PAVANE

## (Variations on the theme of Othello)

First performed August 17, 1949 at the American Dance Festival,  
Connecticut College by the José Limón Dance Company

<b>Choreography</b>	José Limón
<b>Music</b>	Henry Purcell, arrangement by Simon Sadoff
<b>Costume Design</b>	Pauline Laurence
<b>Lighting Design</b>	Brandon Stirling Baker

### Dancers

<b>The Moor</b>	Mark Willis
<b>His Friend</b>	David Glista
<b>His Friend's Wife</b>	Mariah Gravelin
<b>The Moor's Wife</b>	Savannah Spratt

*José Limón, a Mexican Immigrant was understandably drawn to this tale of the fight for dignity, the destructive power of rumor, racism, and the disconnect between private and public faces. The Moor's Pavane uncovers tensions and concerns that are central in today's world.*

# THERE IS A TIME

First performed April 20, 1956 at the Juilliard School of Music by the José Limón Dance Company

<b>Choreography</b>	José Limón
<b>Music</b>	Norman Dello Joio*
<b>Staging and Direction</b>	Dante Puleio and Kurt Douglas
<b>Reconstruction Assistant</b>	Savannah Spratt
<b>Costume Design</b>	Marion Talan de la Rosa
<b>Lighting Design</b>	Brandon Stirling Baker

*\*\*Special thank you to Raphaël Boumaila for virtually staging excerpts.*

*\*\*Special thank you to Nina Watt for coaching Time to Laugh.*

### Dancers

*"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the sun;"*  
The Company

*"A time to be born, and a time to die;"*  
Joey Columbus

*"A time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;"*  
The Company

*"A time to kill;"*

Nicholas Ruscica

*"And a time to heal;"*

Jessica Sgambelluri and Eric Parra

*"A time to break down, and a time to build up;"*

Eric Parra, Joey Columbus, Mark Willis, Terrance D. M. Diable, David Glista

*"A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;"*

Ty Graynor and Frances Samson

*"A time to mourn;...and a time to weep;"*

Lauren Twomley, Jessica Sgambelluri, Savannah Spratt

*"A time to laugh...a time to dance;"*

Mariah Gravelin with The Company

*"A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;"*

Mark Willis and Nicholas Ruscica

*"A time to hate, a time of war;"*

Savannah Spratt with the Company

*"A time to love...a time of peace;"*

Eric Parra with the Company

*The entire work is, both choreographically and musically, a theme with variations. The choreographer used as his theme a large circle, which, at the opening of the work, fills the stage and moves majestically as if to evoke the interminable passage of time. This circle is seen repeatedly in many guises, rhythms and dramatic shapes, always making allusion to the text from Chapter 3 of Ecclesiastes and its evocation of human experience.*

*\*MEDITATIONS ON ECCLESIASTES, commissioned for José Limón by the Juilliard Music Foundation and its Festival of American Music, April, 1956. This score earned the composer the Pulitzer Prize in 1957. MEDITATIONS ON ECCLESIASTES Copyright 1959 by Carl Fischer, Inc.*

# ABOUT THE LIMÓN DANCE COMPANY

The **Limón Dance Company (LDC)** 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 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. More than 40 years after

his passing, his works continue to influence the evolution of the art form with their arresting visual clarity, theatricality, and rhythmic and musical life. With a fresh approach to making the classics alive for today, with works of José Limón, Doris Humphrey, Lar Lubovitch, Doug Varone, Donald McKayle, Susanne Linke, Meredith Monk and Jiří Kylián and other luminaries, the Company moves forward with new collaborations with emerging and acclaimed choreographers.

## WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY

**JOSÉ LIMÓN** (*Founder/Choreographer, 1908-1972*) 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 came 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*) 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.

**DANTE PULEIO** (*Artistic Director*) A widely respected former member of the Limón Dance Company for more than a decade, Puleio was appointed only the sixth Artistic Director in the Company's 74-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.

**KURT DOUGLAS** (*Rehearsal Director*) is originally from Guyana, South America and received his BFA in Dance from The Boston Conservatory, and an M.F.A. from Hollins University. Kurt has danced with company's like the Limón Dance Company, Lar Lubovitch, Ballet Hispanico, and Azure Barton and Artist to name a few. Kurt received a Princess Grace award in 2002 and a Dance Magazine "25 to Watch" in 2006. He is currently an Associate Professor of Dance at the Boston conservatory at Berklee and serves as director for Berklee's Summer Dance Intensive. Kurt has been associated with Limón since 2001 and continues to represent the Foundation through workshops, masterclasses, and reconstructions.

**JOEY COLUMBUS** (*Dancer*) 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 Dance NY and Company XIV as well as at the Metropolitan Opera.

**TERRENCE DONZELL MITCHELL DIABLE** (*Dancer*), New York, graduated from Ailey/Fordham BFA program and performed works by Paul Taylor, David Parsons, Martha Graham, Robert Battle, Azure Barton, Matthew Rushing, Ohad Naharin, and Fernando Melo. He joined the Limón Dance Company in 2017.

**DAVID GLISTA** (*Dancer*) is a graduate of the Walnut Hill School, The Boston Conservatory, and a member of the Limón Company since 2015. As a dancer, actor, and educator, he had the privilege of teaching and performing nationally and internationally.

**MARIAH GRAVELIN** (*Dancer*) began her training at Eastern Connecticut Ballet and graduated from the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program in 2018. She performed works by Alvin Ailey, José Limón, George Balanchine, and Paul Taylor. This is her 3rd season with LDC.

**TY GRAYNOR** (*Dancer*) grew up in Huntington, NY and received his BFA in Dance at The Hartt School in 2018. He has performed works by José Limón, Martha Graham, Doris Humphrey, and Doug Varone. After graduating, he joined with Graham 2. This is Ty's 2nd season with the Limón Dance Company.

**ERIC PARRA** (*Dancer*) earned his Dance Performance BFA at Montclair State University. He's danced for Carolyn Dorfman Dance, Doug Elkins Choreography, etc., Diversity of Dance. 2016 Martha Hill Dance Fund Young Professional Award, 2017 Linda Roberts Outstanding Senior Dance Award recipient.

**NICHOLAS RUSCICA** (*Guest Artist*), originally from Toronto, Canada, received his Bachelor of Fine Arts from CalArts in 2020 as a four year recipient of the President's Merit Scholarship. Nicholas is humbled to be working with Limón.

**FRANCES SAMSON** (*Dancer*), originally from Toronto, Canada, attended Ryerson University's School of Performance. She is a former dancer of the CCDT and is currently an artistic collaborator in the multicultural and multidisciplinary project, *The Gravity Between* directed by Jacqueline Bulnes. She joined Limón in 2017.

**JESSICA SGAMBELLURI** (*Dancer*) is a 2014 graduate of Marymount Manhattan College. Jessica has danced for Graham 2, TED Talks Live, Caterina Rago Dance Company, The Metropolitan Opera, and Buglisi Dance Theatre. This is Jessica's second season with Limón.

**SAVANNAH SPRATT** (*Dancer*) joined the company in 2016 after earning her B.F.A. from UNCSA. Beyond Limón, she is a guest artist with Helen Simoneau Danse and works often with the Merce Cunningham Trust, most notably performing in *Night of 100 Solos*.

**LAUREN TWOMLEY** (*Dancer*), born in Brooklyn, NY, graduated from SUNY Purchase in 2018. She also attended Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School and Rotterdam Dans Academie. Lauren has been afforded many opportunities during her training and joined the Limón Dance Company in the Fall of 2018.

**MARK WILLIS** (*Dancer*), from NYC, received his B.F.A. in Dance from Montclair State University. He has worked with Douglas Dunn and Dancers, WHITE WAVE Dance, ARCOS Dance and Christina Noel among others. Other interests include choreographing, composing, singing and playing the trumpet. Mark joined LDC in 2015.

**Video Production:** Imagination + Muscle

**Broadcast:** AV Club

**Director/Producer/Editor:** Tobin Del Cuore

**Producer/Q&A Host:** Adam H. Weinert

**Camera Operators:** Jackson McCoy, Mike Doyle, Ryan Bronz

**Broadcaster:** AV Club - Michael Perysian and Tony Lewis

**Video Switching:** Seth Barkyoub

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## JOSÉ LIMÓN DANCE FOUNDATION

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### **National & International Bookings**

Edward V. Schoelwer, Red Shell Management, LLC  
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### **Press Representative**

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### Special thanks to:

The Team at Kaatsbaan: Stella, Sonja, Ash Umhey, Kai, Emma

Guest teachers: Megan Williams, Giada Matteini, Aaron Selissen, Risa Steinberg

Fashion Designer NICHOLAS K

Clare Delaney