

PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY

MICHAEL NOVAK — ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



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PRESS KIT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Founding Artistic Director: Paul Taylor	<u>1-4</u>
Artistic Director: Michael Novak	<u>5-6</u>
About Us	<u>7-8</u>
Resident Choreographer: Lauren Lovette	<u>9</u>
Rehearsal Directors	<u>10</u>
Dancers	<u>11-16</u>
Great Moments In History	<u>17-19</u>
What Reviewers Say	<u>20</u>



PAUL TAYLOR

Founding Artistic Director

PAUL TAYLOR (1930-2018), one of the most accomplished artists this nation has ever produced, helped shape and define America's homegrown art of modern dance from the earliest days of his career as a choreographer in 1954 until his death in 2018. Having performed with Martha Graham's company for several years, Mr. Taylor uniquely bridged the legendary founders of modern dance - Isadora Duncan, Ruth St. Denis, Ted Shawn, Doris Humphrey and Ms. Graham - and the creative voices of the 20th and 21st centuries with whom he later worked.



Photo by Jack Mitchell for Getty Images.

Through his initiative at Lincoln Center begun in 2015 – Paul Taylor American Modern Dance – he presented great modern works of the past and outstanding works by today's leading choreographers alongside his own vast repertoire. He also commissioned a new generation of dance makers to work with his renowned Company, thereby helping to ensure the future of the art form.

Mr. Taylor continued to win public and critical acclaim for the vibrancy, relevance, and power of his dances into his eighties, offering cogent observations on life's complexities while tackling some of society's thorniest issues. While he often propelled his dancers through space for the sheer beauty of it, he more frequently used them to comment on such profound issues as war, piety, spirituality, sexuality, morality and mortality. If, as George Balanchine said, there are no mothers-in-law in ballet, there certainly are dysfunctional families, disillusioned idealists, imperfect religious leaders, angels and insects in Mr. Taylor's dances. His repertoire of 147 works covers a breathtaking range of topics, but recurring themes include the natural world and man's place within it; love and sexuality in all gender combinations; and iconic moments in American history. His poignant looks at soldiers, those who send them into battle and those they leave behind prompted *The New York Times* to hail him as "among the great war poets" – high praise indeed for an artist in a wordless medium. While some of his dances have been termed "dark" and others "light," the majority of his works are dualistic, mixing elements of both extremes. And while some of his work was iconoclastic, he also made some of the most purely romantic, astonishingly athletic, and downright funniest dances ever put on stage.

PAUL TAYLOR

Founding Artistic Director

Paul Taylor was born on July 29, 1930 – exactly nine months after the stock market crash that ushered in the Great Depression – and grew up in and around Washington, DC. He attended Syracuse University to study painting and wound up getting a swimming scholarship in the late 1940s until he discovered dance through books at the University library. He then transferred to The Juilliard School and began his career in New York City. In 1954 he assembled a small company of dancers and began to choreograph. A commanding performer despite his late start in dance, he joined the Martha Graham Dance Company in 1955 for the first of seven seasons while continuing to choreograph on his own troupe. In 1959 George Balanchine created the "Episodes" solo for him, and he was invited to be a guest artist with New York City Ballet. He respectfully declined, citing an interest to focus on his own work.

Mr. Taylor first gained notoriety as a dance maker in 1957 with *Seven New Dances*; its study in non-movement famously earned it a newspaper review made up of 3 inches of black dance space. In 1962 with his first major success – the sunny *Aureole* – he set his trailblazing modern movement not to contemporary music but to baroque works composed two centuries earlier, and then went to the opposite extreme a year later with a view of purgatory in *Scudorama*, using a commissioned, modern score. He inflamed the establishment in 1965 by lampooning some of America's most treasured icons in *From Sea To Shining Sea*, and created more controversy in 1970 by putting incest and spousal abuse center stage in *Big Bertha*.

After retiring as a performer in 1974, Mr. Taylor turned exclusively to choreography, resulting in a flood of masterful creativity. The exuberant *Esplanade* (1975), one of several Taylor dances set to music by Bach, was dubbed an instant classic, and has come to be regarded as among the greatest dances ever made. In *Cloven Kingdom* (1976), Mr. Taylor examined the primitive nature that lurks just below man's veneer of sophistication and gentility. With *Arden Court* (1981), he depicted relationships both platonic and romantic. He looked at intimacy among men at war in *Sunset* (1983); pictured Armageddon in *Last Look* (1985); and peered unflinchingly at religious hypocrisy and marital rape in *Speaking In Tongues* (1988). In *Company B* (1991) he used popular songs of the 1940s to reveal the propaganda of the war effort to keep optimism of our nation while Americans were sacrificing their lives overseas. In *Eventide* (1997) he portrayed the budding and fading of romance. In *The Word* (1998) he railed against religious zealotry and blind conformity to authority. In the first decade of the new millennium he reminded us of humanity's ability to overcome destruction in *Promethean Fire* (2002); condemned American imperialism in *Banquet of Vultures* (2008); and stared death square in the face in the Walt Whitman...

PAUL TAYLOR

Founding Artistic Director

...inspired *Beloved Renegade* (2008). *Brief Encounters* (2009) examined the inability of many people in contemporary society to form meaningful and lasting relationships. In this decade he turned a frightening short story into a searing drama in *To Make Crops Grow* (2012) and compared the mating rituals of the insect world to that of humans in the comedic *Gossamer Gallants* (2011). Mr. Taylor's final work, *Concertiana*, made when he was 87, premiered at Lincoln Center in 2018.

Hailed for uncommon musicality and catholic taste, Mr. Taylor set movement to music so memorably that for many people it is impossible to hear certain orchestral works and popular songs and not think of his dances. He set works to an eclectic mix that includes Medieval masses, Renaissance dances, baroque concertos, classical warhorses, and scores by Debussy, Cage, Feldman, Ligeti and Pärt; Ragtime, Tango, Tin Pan Alley and Barbershop Quartets; Harry Nilsson, The Mamas and The Papas, and Burl Ives; telephone time announcements, loon calls and laughter. Mr. Taylor influenced dozens of dancers who have gone on to choreograph – many on their own troupes – while others have gone on to become important teachers at colleges and universities. And he worked closely with such outstanding artists as James F. Ingalls, Jasper Johns, Alex Katz, Ellsworth Kelly, William Ivey Long, Santo Loquasto, Gene Moore, Tharon Musser, Robert Rauschenberg, John Rawlings, Thomas Skelton, Rouben Ter Arutunian, and Jennifer Tipton. Mr. Taylor's dances are performed by the Paul Taylor Dance Company and companies throughout the world including the Royal Danish Ballet, Rambert Dance Company, American Ballet Theatre, San Francisco Ballet, Miami City Ballet, and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

As the subject of the documentary films *Dancemaker* and *Creative Domain*, and author of the autobiography *Private Domain* and *The Wall Street Journal* essay "Why I Make Dances," Mr. Taylor shed light on the mysteries of the creative process as few artists have. *Dancemaker*, which received an Oscar nomination in 1999, was hailed by *Time Magazine* as "perhaps the best dance documentary ever," while *Private Domain*, originally published by Alfred A. Knopf, was nominated by the National Book Critics Circle as the most distinguished biography of 1987. A collection of Mr. Taylor's essays, "Facts and Fancies," was published by Delphinium Press in 2013.

Mr. Taylor received nearly every important honor given to artists in the United States. In 1992 he was a recipient of the Kennedy Center Honors and received an Emmy Award for *Speaking in Tongues*, produced by WNET/New York the previous year. He was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Clinton in 1993. In 1995 he received the Algur H. Meadows Award for Excellence in the Arts and was named one of 50 prominent...

PAUL TAYLOR

Founding Artistic Director

...Americans honored in recognition of their outstanding achievement by the Library of Congress's Office of Scholarly Programs. He is the recipient of three Guggenheim Fellowships, and honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degrees from California Institute of the Arts, Connecticut College, Duke University, The Juilliard School, Skidmore College, the State University of New York at Purchase, Syracuse University and Adelphi University. Awards for lifetime achievement include a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship – often called the “genius award” – and the Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award. Other awards include the New York State Governor's Arts Award and the New York City Mayor's Award of Honor for Art and Culture. In 1989 Mr. Taylor was elected one of ten honorary members of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. Having been elected to knighthood by the French government as Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 1969 and elevated to Officier in 1984 and Commandeur in 1990, Mr. Taylor was awarded France's highest honor, the Légion d'Honneur, in 2000 for exceptional contributions to French culture.

Mr. Taylor died in Manhattan on August 29, 2018, leaving an extraordinary legacy of creativity and vision not only to American modern dance but to the entire world.



Photo by Jack Mitchell.

MICHAEL NOVAK

Artistic Director

MICHAEL NOVAK became the second Artistic Director in the history of the Paul Taylor Dance Foundation in September 2018, having been selected by Mr. Taylor months earlier to succeed him upon his death. A critically acclaimed dancer of the Company from 2010 to 2019, Novak was nominated for the Clive Barnes Foundation Dance Award for his debut Season. During his career with the Company, he performed fifty-six roles in fifty Taylor dances, thirteen of which were made on him, and new roles in several works by other leading choreographers.



Photo by Bill Wadman.

Under Novak's direction, the Paul Taylor Dance Company continues to be one of the world's premier dance companies, with robust domestic and international touring; an ever-expanding repertory that includes the Taylor canon, historical masterpieces, and works he commissions; and an annual engagement at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. *The New York Times* hailed his inaugural season as Artistic Director as "groundbreaking and inspirational." In 2019, he partnered with Orchestra of St. Luke's Bach Festival, curating the first presentation in a single engagement of all six of Paul Taylor's iconic dances set to music by the Baroque composer. In memory of Mr. Taylor, he launched "The Celebration Tour," a multi-year international touring retrospective of the Taylor repertory. He co-directed the Company's first virtual live-streamed benefit, *Modern is Now: Stories of our Future*, hailed by many as the high bar for digital dance benefits. And during the height of the Covid pandemic, he brought the Taylor Company to sixteen venues in eleven American cities for a total of fifty-one performances, earning the designation "Best of Dance 2021" from *The Washington Post*. His 2021 selection of Taylor alumna and dance educator Carolyn Adams to head the Taylor School underscored his commitment to preparing and cultivating the next generation of professional dancers and dance advocates and broadening the Foundation's impact in arts education. In 2022 Novak selected former New York City Ballet dancer Lauren Lovette to be the Taylor Company's first Resident Choreographer.

Raised in Rolling Meadows, Illinois, Novak began studying dance at age ten and by age seventeen was offered a Presidential Scholarship to attend The University of the Arts in Philadelphia to pursue training in jazz and ballet. The following year he undertook an apprenticeship at the ...

MICHAEL NOVAK

Artistic Director

... Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet Society. In 2005 Novak was admitted to Columbia University's School of General Studies, where he was awarded scholarships for academic excellence. He became a member of the Columbia Ballet Collaborative, the University's critically acclaimed resident company, and was named Artistic Associate responsible for advising on the curation of resident choreographers and directing the group's branding and promotion. At Columbia, Novak became immersed in the study of dance history, which ignited a passion for modern dance. He developed a keen interest in the work of François Delsarte, the 19th Century French movement theorist who codified the system linking emotion and gesture that would inspire the first generation of American modern dancers. At Columbia he performed Mr. Taylor's solo in *Aureole*, which led him to embrace the Taylor repertoire. In a 2009 program celebrating Diaghilev at Columbia's Miller Theatre, Novak embodied Vaslav Nijinsky's role in *L'Après-midi d'un faune* with an authenticity that brought him to the attention of dance critics and scholars. Upon graduation, he received his BA in Dance *magna cum laude* with Departmental Honors, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. As a distinguished alumnus, he was the Keynote Speaker for the Class of 2020.



Photo by Paul B. Goode.

ABOUT US

The genesis of the **PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY** occurred on May 30, 1954 in Manhattan, when dancemaker Paul Taylor first presented his choreography with five other dancers on the Lower East Side. That performance marked the beginning of 64 years of unrivaled creativity, and in the decades that followed, Mr. Taylor became a cultural icon and one of American history's most celebrated artists, and was part of the pantheon that created American modern dance. Leading the Company that bears his name until his death in 2018, Mr. Taylor molded it into one of the preeminent performing ensembles in the world. Under the artistic direction of Taylor alumnus Michael Novak, the Company continues to bring "America's most communicative and wildly theatrical modern dance" to audiences and students around the world, with a yearly residency at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.



Photo of Jake Vincent, Kristen Draucker & Company in *Esplanade* by Steven Pisano.

The Company currently resides in the Lower East Side of Manhattan but sustains a global presence through its robust touring programs. Since its first European tour in 1960, the Company has performed in more than 600 cities in 66 countries, representing the United States at arts festivals in more than 40 countries and touring extensively under the aegis of the U.S. Department of State. Dedicated to sharing modern dance with the broadest possible audience, the Company tours annually, both domestically and internationally, with performances and a variety of educational programs and engagement offerings. Recent tours have brought the Company to Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Ecuador, Germany, Italy, Oman, Peru, Switzerland, Taiwan, and Turkey, as well as scores of cities within the United States.

The hallmark of the Company is its ever-expanding repertory. Over 170 dances exist within the Foundation's canon, 147 of which were choreographed by Mr. Taylor. The body of Mr. Taylor's work is titled the "Taylor Collection," and is home to dances that cover a breathtaking range of topics, and moods. These dances speak to the natural world and our place within it; contemplate iconic moments in American history; and reveal the spectrum of life's beauties, complexities, and society's thorniest issues.

ABOUT US

While some of these dances are termed “dark” and other “light,” the majority are dualistic, mixing elements of both extremes.

In addition to the Collection, the Company also commissions dance works from established and emerging choreographers. In 2022, Lauren Lovette was appointed the Company's first Resident Choreographer, ushering in a new era and demonstrating the Company's deepened commitment to support dance creation in the 21st century.



Photo of the Taylor Company in Amy Hall Garner's *Somewhere in the Middle* by Whitney Browne.

LAUREN LOVETTE

Resident Choreographer

LAUREN LOVETTE is the first Resident Choreographer in the history of the Paul Taylor Dance Company, and personifies the intertwining of dance and choreography, moving seamlessly from one to the other. Her work has been commissioned and performed by leading dance companies and festivals, including the Paul Taylor Dance Company, New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, the Vail International Dance Festival, American Ballet Theatre Studio Company, Nevada Ballet Theatre, as well as a self-produced evening entirely of her own work in which she also danced, *Why It Matters*.



Photo by Abbey Drucker.

Born in Thousand Oaks, CA, Ms. Lovette began studying ballet at the age of 11 at the Cary Ballet Conservatory in Cary, North Carolina and enrolled at the School of American Ballet (SAB) as a full-time student in 2006. While at SAB she created ballets for their 2007 and 2008 choreographic workshops, eventually being selected to create a work for the 2009 New York Choreographic Institute. In October 2009 Ms. Lovette became an apprentice with New York City Ballet (NYCB) and joined as a member of the corps de ballet in September 2010. She received the Clive Barnes Award for dance in December 2012 and was the 2012-2013 recipient of the Janice Levin Award. She was promoted to soloist at NYCB in February 2013, and principal dancer in June 2015.

In 2016 Ms. Lovette, then a relatively new principal dancer, was asked to choreograph her first dance, which premiered at the New York City Ballet Fall Fashion Gala. In 2017 she choreographed for the Vail International Dance Festival, the NYCB Fall Season Gala, and the American Ballet Theatre Studio Company. She was awarded the Virginia B. Toulmin Fellowship at the Center for Ballet and the Arts at New York University in fall of 2018, and a year later created a work for the 2019 Fall Fashion Gala at NYCB. Her work at NYCB is noteworthy, forging a path for other female choreographers in an area of dance that has notably been predominantly male. In 2021 Ms. Lovette stepped down from her position at NYCB to embark on a career devoted to dance and choreography in more equal measure. She was appointed Resident Choreographer of the Paul Taylor Dance Company in Spring 2022.

REHEARSAL DIRECTORS



BETTIE DE JONG

Bettie de Jong was born in Sumatra, Indonesia, and in 1946 moved to Holland, where she continued her early training in dance and mime. Her first professional engagement was with the Netherlands Pantomime Company. After coming to New York City to study at the Martha Graham School, she performed with the Graham Company, the Pearl Lang Company, John Butler and Lucas Hoving, and was seen on CBS-TV with Rudolf Nureyev in a duet choreographed by Paul Taylor. Ms. de Jong joined the Taylor Company in 1962. Noted for her strong stage presence and long line, she was Mr. Taylor's favorite dancing partner and, as Rehearsal Director, continued to be his surrogate in the studio and on tour for more than 40 years. In 2019, she received the 2019 Balasaraswati/Joy Anne Dewey Beinecke Endowed Chair for Distinguished Teaching Award from American Dance Festival for her substantial contributions to the sustainment of the Taylor legacy.



CATHY MCCANN

Cathy McCann was a member of the Paul Taylor Dance Company for 13 years. Among the 18 dances Mr. Taylor made on her were *Mercuric Tidings*, *Brandenburgs*, *Musical Offering* and *Sunset*. She was featured in five Taylor television specials, including the 1991 Emmy Award-winning *Speaking in Tongues*. In 1991, Mikhail Baryshnikov invited her to join the White Oak Dance Project, where she performed works by Mark Morris and Lar Lubovitch. Ms. McCann has staged Taylor dances for American Ballet Theatre, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, San Francisco Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet and Houston Ballet, among others, and her own choreography has been presented at New York City Center. She has been a faculty member of Adelphi University, Barnard College and Hofstra University, and has taught at the American Dance Festival and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. She was Director of Taylor 2 from 2019 - 2020, and was appointed Rehearsal Director in Summer 2020.

DANCERS



ERAN BUGGE

Eran Bugge is from Oviedo, Florida, where she began her dance training at the Orlando Ballet School, and went on to study at the Hartt School at the University of Hartford under the direction of Peggy Lyman, graduating Summa Cum Laude with a B.F.A. in Ballet Pedagogy in 2005. She attended the Taylor School and the 2004 and 2005 Taylor Summer Intensives. Ms. Bugge has performed in works by Amy Marshall, Katie Stevinson-Nollet, and Jean Grand-Maitre. She was also a member of Full Force Dance Theatre and the Adam Miller Dance Project. In 2012, Ms. Bugge was the recipient of the Hartt Alumni Award. In 2018, she danced in the feature film *The Chaperone* choreographed by John Carrafa. She joined the Paul Taylor Dance Company in Fall 2005.



CHRISTINA LYNCH MARKHAM

Christina Lynch Markham grew up in Westbury, New York and began dancing with Lori Shaw, and continued at Holy Trinity High School under the direction of Catherine Murphy. She attended Hofstra University on scholarship and performed works by Cathy McCann, Karla Wolfangle, Rachel List, Robin Becker, and Lance Westergard. During college she also trained at the Taylor School, and attended the School's Summer Intensive Program. After graduating Summa Cum Laude in 2004, she danced with the Amy Marshall Dance Company, Stacie Nelson, and The Dance Theater Company. She joined Taylor 2 in Summer 2008, and made her debut with the Paul Taylor Dance Company in Summer 2013.



MADELYN HO, M.D.

Madelyn Ho, M.D. is from Sugar Land, Texas where she began dancing at Kinard Dance School with Shirley McMillan and later trained with BalletForte under the artistic direction of Michael Banigan. She graduated from Harvard College with a B.A. in Chemical and Physical Biology. While there, she was awarded the Artist Development Fellowship and attended the Taylor School Winter Intensive. She was a member of Taylor 2 from 2008 to 2012 and left to attend Harvard Medical School, during which time she was a guest artist for Alison Cook Beatty Dance and performed with Urbanity Dance. She joined the Paul Taylor Dance Company in Spring 2015 and completed her Doctorate of Medicine in May 2018.

DANCERS



KRISTIN DRAUCKER

Kristin Draucker was born in Washington D.C. and grew up in York, Pennsylvania. She began her training at the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet under Marcia Dale Weary. In 2005, she was awarded a fellowship to study Horton and Graham at The Ailey School. Since moving to New York City she has danced with Michael Mao Dance, ArmitageGone!Dance, New Chamber Ballet, and at Bard's Summerscape in Les Huguenots. In 2009, she joined the 50th Anniversary International Tour of West Side Story and, in 2010, performed in Tino Sehgal's KISS at The Guggenheim Museum. Ms. Draucker began creating dances in 2014 and has shown her work in New York, Philadelphia and as part of the LaMAMA Umbria Festival in Spoleto, Italy. She joined the Paul Taylor Dance Company in Winter 2017.



LEE DUVENECK

Lee Duvenceck grew up in Arlington, Texas, where he trained with Anne Oswald and Gwen Price. In 2010, he earned his B.F.A. in Dance Performance from Southern Methodist University, where he studied with Taylor alumna Ruth Andrien and jazz dance icon Danny Buraczeski. While in New York, he has danced for Annmaria Mazzini, Mari Meade and Jessica Gaynor. Mr. Duvenceck joined Taylor 2 in 2012, and joined the Paul Taylor Dance Company in Summer 2017.



ALEX CLAYTON

Alex Clayton grew up in Louisville, Kentucky, and he received his B.F.A. in Dance with a Minor in Visual Arts from Stephens College in 2013. He was a Graham 2 company member from 2014 to 2015. He also performed with companies including 10 Hairy Legs, Abarukas Project, Curet Performance Project and Performa15. He served as Rehearsal Assistant for Paul Taylor American Modern Dance "Taylor Company Commissions" choreographer Lila York when she created Continuum in 2016. He joined the Paul Taylor Dance Company in Summer 2017.

DANCERS



DEVON LOUIS

Devon Louis hails from Washington, D.C., and is a graduate of Duke Ellington School of the Arts. He attended the Ailey School as a recipient of the Oprah Winfrey Scholarship, and furthered his dance education at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival under the direction of Milton Myers. Mr. Louis has performed works by Alvin Ailey, Matthew Rushing, Christopher Huggins, Nathan Trice, Ronald K. Brown and Annabelle Lopez Ochoa. He has also performed as a member of Ballet Hispanico's junior company, BHdos, The Metropolitan Opera, and Nimbus Dance Works. Mr. Louis joined the Paul Taylor Dance Company in Summer 2018.



JOHN HARNAGE

John Harnage is a native of Miami, Florida, and studied dance at the Miami City Ballet School and New World School of the Arts. He was a Modern Dance Finalist in the 2010 National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts Young Arts competition. In 2014, he graduated from The Juilliard School, where he performed works by Pina Bausch, Alexander Ekman, Jose Limón, and Lar Lubovitch, among others. He then began working with Jessica Lang Dance, and joined the company in 2015, performing and teaching around the world. He also performed as a principal dancer in Washington National Opera's 2017 production of Aida at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Mr. Harnage joined the Paul Taylor Dance Company in Fall 2018.



MARIA AMBROSE

Maria Ambrose grew up in Meredith, New Hampshire and began her dance training at age four under the direction of Sally Downs. She furthered her training with Edra Toth and performed with the Boston Dance Company. She attended George Mason University on an academic scholarship and graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BFA in Dance Performance in 2011. While at Mason, she was awarded the Harriet Mattusch Special Recognition in Dance. She has performed with Elisa Monte Dance, The Classical Theatre of Harlem, LEVYdance, AThomasProject, and Earl Mosley's Diversity of Dance. In 2018, she traveled to China as an ambassador for Parsons Dance to teach dance to young musicians, and then to Japan as part of the Dance International Program. She began studying at The Taylor School in 2012, and joined the Paul Taylor Dance Company in Spring 2019.

DANCERS



LISA BORRES

Lisa Borres, a native of Staten Island, New York, is a graduate of LaGuardia High School of Music and Art and Performing Arts. At the Hartt School of the University of Hartford, from which she graduated in 2011, she studied with Stephen Pick and Katie Stevenson-Nollet and danced in works by Martha Graham and Pascal Rioult. She participated in Summer Intensives at the Joffrey Ballet School, Martha Graham Dance Company, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and Parsons Dance. Since 2012, Lisa has been part of the selection process for Ballet Tech, Eliot Feld's tuition-free school that draws its students from the NYC public school system, whose diversity reflects the full American spectrum. She has performed with Amy Marshall Dance Company, Elisa Monte Dance, DAMAGEdance, and Lydia Johnson Dance. She joined the Paul Taylor Dance Company in Spring 2019.



JADA PEARMAN

Jada Pearman began dancing at the Motion School of Dance in Hamilton, Bermuda where she trained extensively in all styles of dance. In 2013, Jada attended The Grier School in Pennsylvania, as a pre-professional dancer under the direction of Jocelyn Hrzic. Whilst at The Grier School, she worked with choreographers such as Jon Lehrer, Melissa Rector, Kiki Lucas, Phil Orsano and many more. As a member of Grier Dance, she performed at the Palm Springs Choreography Festival, Steps on Broadway Choreography Festival and Koresh Artists Showcase. She attended summer intensives including Alvin Ailey, Point Park, University of North Carolina School of the Arts and Hubbard Street. She earned her BFA from the University of Arizona in Spring of 2019 where she performed works by Martha Graham, Larry Keigwin and others. She joined the Paul Taylor Dance Company in Summer 2019.



SHAWN LESNIAK

Shawn Lesniak, from New Haven, Connecticut, began dancing at the age of seven. For most of his youth, Shawn trained in various dance techniques such as ballet, jazz, modern and tap, and he danced competitively for more than a decade. He continued his training at The Ailey School and Point Park University. He has toured both internationally and domestically as a member of Parsons Dance, and has worked with choreographers such as Trey McIntyre, Matthew Neenan, Matthew Powell and Emery LeCrone. Mr. Lesniak joined the Paul Taylor Dance Company in Winter 2019.

DANCERS



JAKE VINCENT

Jake Vincent was born in Atlantic City and grew up in Flemington, New Jersey. He attended the Taylor School Summer Intensive in 2012 while studying for his B.F.A. in Dance and Dance Education from Montclair State University. After graduating in 2014, he continued his training on scholarship at Perry-Mansfield under the direction of Linda Kent and Earl Mosley's Institute of the Arts. Following the program, he performed both internationally and domestically with companies including: Rioult Dance NY, Von Howard Project, 10 Hairy Legs, Douglas Dunn and Dancers and Earl Mosley's Diversity of Dance. Jake joined Taylor 2 in 2017, and joined the Paul Taylor Dance Company in Summer 2020.



JESSICA FERRETTI

Jessica Ferretti is originally from Port Chester, New York, and started her dance training at Westchester Dance Academy. She graduated magna cum laude in 2019 from Marymount Manhattan College, where she performed works by Larry Keigwin, Jessica Lang, Michael Thomas, Loni Landon, Nancy Lushington, Pedro Ruiz, Chase Brock and Tito Del Saz. She attended the Paul Taylor Summer Intensives in 2016 and 2018 and the Martha Graham Intensive in 2017. She joined Taylor 2 in Fall 2019, and the Paul Taylor Dance Company in Summer 2021.

DANCERS



AUSTIN KELLY

Austin Kelly is from Overland Park, Kansas where he began dancing at Jody Phillips Dance Company and later studied at the University of Hartford's The Hartt School where he graduated Summa Cum Laude earning a B.A. in Performing Arts Management with minors in Dance Performance and Business Management in 2021. He has performed works by Paul Taylor, José Limón, August Bournonville, Lar Lubovitch, and Stephen Pier. While earning his degree, he simultaneously studied Paul Taylor's style through The Taylor School's winter intensives, summer intensives, and virtual classes held during the Covid-19 pandemic. Austin joined Alison Cook Beatty Dance after graduating and joined the Paul Taylor Dance Company in Fall 2021.



KENNY CORRIGAN

Kenny Corrigan is originally from Southwick, Massachusetts, and received his BFA from Point Park University. He has performed in *Carmen* (Houston Grand Opera), *Carnival Boy* in *Carousel* (Riverside Theatre), *An American in Paris* (First International), *Queen of The Night* (NYC), *Rock the Ballet* - SweetbirdProductions, and Rasta Thomas' *Romeo and Juliet* (International). He has also been seen on *America's Got Talent* (Season 9 Semi-finals), *Bad Boys of Ballet*, at MACYS Thanksgiving Day Parade as Jimmy Fallon's body double, *Saturday Night Live* (Harry Styles) and a Swarovski commercial (Karlie Kloss). Kenny joined the Paul Taylor Dance Company in Spring 2022.

MOMENTS IN HISTORY

- 1954** Paul Taylor presents his first professional work and his first collaboration with artist Robert Rauschenberg: *Jack and the Beanstalk*.
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- 1961** The Company has its first performance at the American Dance Festival, Connecticut College, New London and premieres *Insects and Heroes*, with sets and costumes by Rouben Ter-Arutunian. Mr. Taylor choreographs *Junction*, the first work in a long-term collaboration with designer Alex Katz, and the first time Mr. Taylor uses a Baroque score, a rarity in modern dance.
-
- 1962** The Company performs in Paris as part of the Festival of Nations. Although most of the 23 participating countries are represented by larger and essentially classical companies, Mr. Taylor wins an award for Best Choreographer. Sold-out performances and an invitation to be involved in a TV performance in Turin in four weeks' time leads to Mr. Taylor extending his Paris performances into a season at the Théâtre des Artes.
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- 1963** The Company marks its first Broadway season, at the Little Theater, produced by Richard Barr, Edward Albee and Clinton Wilder. The Company would subsequently have eight seasons housed in traditional Broadway theaters.
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- 1965** A tour of South America is the first of 11 tours as goodwill ambassadors under the auspices of the Department of State. The Company begins to be presented on a larger scale, and performs more often and in larger theaters, often with live music.
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- 1966** The Paul Taylor Dance Foundation is established.
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- 1974** After the New York premiere of *American Genesis* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music on March 14, Mr. Taylor retires from dancing.
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- 1975** *Esplanade* premieres and is immediately acknowledged by many critics and dance professionals as one of the greatest dance works ever created.
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- 1978** The Company appears for the first time on PBS Television's *Dance in America* series ("Paul Taylor Dance Company – *Esplanade* and *Runes*"). The Company would subsequently appear ten times on this program.

MOMENTS IN HISTORY

1985 *Roses* and *Last Look* are made in the same year, confirming Taylor's position as the choreographic "Master of the Light and the Dark."

Mr. Taylor receives a MacArthur "Genius" Award.

1987 Mr. Taylor's autobiography, *Private Domain*, is published and is nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award in Biography, and is now in its third edition.

1990 Mr. Taylor is elected Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in France.

1992 Mr. Taylor receives an Emmy Award for *Speaking in Tongues*, produced by WNET/13, and also receives Kennedy Center Honors "for enhancing the lives of people around the world and enriching the culture of our nation."

1993 Mr. Taylor is awarded a National Medal of Arts by President Clinton at the White House.

1999 *Dancemaker* is nominated for an Academy Award for best documentary feature film of 1998

2000 Mr. Taylor is inducted as Chevalier in France's Légion d'Honneur for exceptional contributions to French culture.

Dancemaker appears on the PBS series, "American Masters."

2002 Mr. Taylor choreographs *Promethean Fire*, and *The New York Times* says it may be his greatest work yet.

2005 Mr. Taylor is presented with the Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP) Award of Merit for Achievement in the Performing Arts, and the Americans for the Arts Lifetime Achievement Award. In its "Best of the Best 2004" article, *Vanity Fair* magazine hails him as "the greatest choreographer in the world."

The Company celebrates its 50th Anniversary with a three-week season at City Center that draws more than 25,000 people. Following the season's final performance, more than 70 Taylor dancers from past and present join Mr. Taylor for a bow on stage.

MOMENTS IN HISTORY

2012 Mr. Taylor moves his Company's New York performances to Lincoln Center, where it triumphs in a three-week engagement that shatters its previous box office record. The season celebrates the 50th Anniversary of *Aureole* bringing the original cast onstage to share the bow with the current cast.

2014 Mr. Taylor announces the creation of Paul Taylor American Modern Dance (PTAMD), which will curate and present great modern dances of the past and present alongside Mr. Taylor's own works at Lincoln Center and commission a new generation of choreographers so modern dance flourishes long into the future.

2018 In August, Mr. Taylor dies at age 88, his obituary is printed on the front page of *The New York Times*.

In September, Novak is named Artistic Director by the Board of the Paul Taylor Dance and becomes the second Artistic Director in the history of the Company.

2020 COVID-19 causes the Foundation to suspended all in-person activities, but the Foundation innovates, launching PTDF Digital - sharing and generating unique digital content for audiences and patrons around the world. The Company's first-ever virtual live-streamed benefit, *Modern is Now: Stories of our Future* is hailed by many as the new high bar for digital dance benefits.

2021 The pandemic continues, but the Company makes a triumphant return to theaters country-wide with 51 performances in 16 venues in 11 cities and is labeled as "Best of Dance 2021" by *The Washington Post*.

2022 Lauren Lovette is appointed the first Resident Choreographer of the Paul Taylor Dance Company. The Company invests in an expanded New York City presence, performing at City Center, 92Y, The Joyce, Guggenheim Museum, and Lincoln Center - all in one year. The Company also reconstructs Kurt Jooss' *The Green Table* in honor of its 90th Anniversary.

2023 The Company embarks on its most extensive tour post-pandemic to 18 cities throughout Spring and Summer. The Company premieres new works by Taylor Commissioned Choreographers Larry Keigwin and Omar Román De Jesús, and two by Resident Choreographer Lauren Lovette.

WHAT CRITICS SAY

Quotes about Paul Taylor Dance Company

<i>The New York Times</i>	"One of the most exciting, innovative, and delightful dance companies in the entire world."
<i>San Francisco Chronicle</i>	"The American spirit soars whenever Taylor's dancers dance."
<i>New York Magazine</i>	"One of the most intelligent, stylish and physically magnificent dance troupes we have."
<i>Village Voice</i>	"Go see them. This mélange is, for the most part, modern dance at its best; even jaded audiences may find their faith in the medium renewed."
<i>Time Out New York</i>	"A sure slice of heaven."
<i>TheaterScene.com</i>	"The Paul Taylor dancers are at the top of their form, particularly when dancing his repertory which demands speed, strength and style."
<i>DanceViewTimes.com</i>	"The dancers were uniformly terrific, fluid, musical, and strong."
<i>CriticalDance.com</i>	"If visitors from another solar system wanted an example of the best of modern dance, I'd take them to see <i>Esplanade</i> ."
<i>AboutLastNight withTerryTeachout.com</i>	"Dance on Broadway can be and often is wonderful in its own way, but it rarely aspires to the richness and subtlety that are constantly on display whenever you spend an evening looking at the Paul Taylor Dance Company, and it's been far too long since I challenged my eye and elevated my spirits by doing just that."
<i>Bradenton Herald</i>	"The dancers in Taylor's company are remarkably versatile, performing an impressive stylistic variety and dancing with tenderness, emotion and force, often at the same time."
<i>Oberon'sGrove.com</i>	"In fact, the entire Taylor company's looking pretty extraordinary these days."
<i>Ephemeralist.com</i>	"The dancers are heroic—obviously in a physical sense, performing 20 dances—but mentally, keeping all that repertory fresh and at the ready."

PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY

MICHAEL NOVAK — ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

