Winter/Spring

Manual Cinema
*Mementos Mori*
Jan 15–18, 2015

Stan’s Cafe
*The Cardinals*
Jan 22–24, 2015

Sònia Sánchez
*Le Ça (The Id)*
Feb 13–15, 2015

Mariano Pensotti
*Cineastas (Filmmakers)*
Feb 26–Mar 1, 2015

Joffrey Academy of Dance
*Winning Works: Choreographers of Color*
Mar 7–8, 2015

The Seldoms
*Power Goes*
Mar 20–29, 2015

Ragamala Dance and Rudresh Mahanthappa
*Song of the Jasmine*
Apr 10–12, 2015

International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE): Anna Thorvaldsdottir
*In the Light of Air*
Apr 26, 2015

Creative Music Summit:
Nicole Mitchell
May 2, 2015
Renée Baker
May 3, 2015

Third Coast Percussion with Glenn Kotche
*Wild Sound*
May 21–22, 2015
Joffrey Academy of Dance
Winning Works: Choreographers of Color
Mar 7–8, 2015
Presented in association with the MCA Stage


Generous support for MCA Dance is provided by David Herro and Jay Franke.

Joffrey Academy of Dance, Official School of The Joffrey Ballet, is the only training program owned, operated or endorsed by The Joffrey Ballet. The Joffrey Ballet is not affiliated with any other dance training or school program, including the Joffrey Ballet School in New York. The Joffrey Academy, located in the Exelon Education Center at Joffrey Tower in Chicago, Illinois is the only school that follows the organizational mission, training syllabi, and artistic vision of The Joffrey Ballet. No other program, including those holding the Joffrey name, is sanctioned by The Joffrey Ballet. For more information, please contact Academy Reception at 312.784.4600.

Joffrey Academy of Dance
Joffrey Tower
10 E. Randolph St.
Chicago, IL 60601 312.784.4600
joffrey.org/joffreyacademy

The Joffrey Ballet
Ashley Wheater, Artistic Director
Greg Cameron, Executive Director

Joffrey Studio Company
Camila Ferrera
James Floyd
Saaya Kita
Paulo Rodrigues
Shotaro Shimazaki
Promise Smith
Nat Wilson
Saori Yamashita
Yossi Zarfati

Joffrey Academy Trainees
Katelyn Conrad
Erin Dooley
Danielle Dorsch
Olivia Duryea
Sara Falstad
Kiona Ford
Haruna Furukawa
Israel Garcia Chenge
Jiayi Guo
Akilah Harris
Chloe Hossin
Yuka Iwai
Mai Iwaki
Quinby Kasch
Akari Morimatsu
Tomo Muranaka
Shun Nakajima
Natasha Nunamaker
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Mayu Sakai
Isabel Shimanski
Yuki Shimaoka
Rachel Skipor
Mizuki Tajima
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Megumi Tsuda
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Katherine Turner

Christine Watson
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Zoe White
Reagan Wise

Joffrey Academy of Dance
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Anna Reznik, Artistic Director
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Joffrey Academy Trainee Graduate Photo: Herbert Migdoll
transition to the reality of her existing state, which turns into a nightmare and brings her to the inevitability of life’s existence. This work is inspired by and dedicated to Those Mothers, That Mother. . . My Mother.

Pause

Non è Normale
Stephanie Martinez, Choreography
Aaron Smith, Choreographic Assistant
Suzanne Lopez, Rehearsal Assistant
Alva Noto, Music
Ridillo, Music
Ezio Bosso, Music
Black Strobe, Music
Jason Brown, Lighting Design
Gabriel B. Hanson, Costume Design
Paul Christiano, Sound Design

Cast
Erin Dooley, Israel Garcia Chenge, Mai Iwaki, Nat Wilson, Reed Sanger, Yuki Shimaoka, Shotaro Shimazaki, Ludvina Theodor, Nat Wilson, Reagan Wise

Running time is approximately 65–75 minutes with no intermission.

Pause

A Year From Now Ago*
It is said that in the end, one sees their life flash before their eyes. . .

First Section: B.C.
Second Section: M.D.
Third Section: T.O.

Abdul Latif, Choreography and Video Direction
Aleea Hill, Nik Owens, Artistic Associates
Ronn Stewart, Wade Schoaf, Rehearsal Assistant
Abdul Latif, Music
J. Astman, Music
Steve Reich, Music
Lois V. Vierk, Music
Jason Brown, Lighting Design
Gabriel B. Hanson, Costume Design
Ayman El-Sayed, Production Assistant and Video Design

Cast
Katelyn Conrad, Erin Dooley, Olivia Duryea, Sara Falstad, Camila Ferrera, James Floyd, Haruna Furukawa, Israel Garcia Chenge, Akilah Harris, Mai Iwaki, Quinby Kasch, Natasha Nunamaker, Shotaro Shimazaki, Ludvina Theodor, Nat Wilson, Reagen Wise, Yossi Zarfati

The piece is about a woman’s fantasy-filled look back on her life and its transition to the reality of her existing state, which turns into a nightmare and brings her to the inevitability of life’s existence. This work is inspired by and dedicated to Those Mothers, That Mother. . . My Mother.

Pause

Our North
Jennifer Archibald, Choreography
Zoe Keating, Music
Greg Haines, Music
Odesza, Music
Suzanne Lopez, Wade Schoaf, Rehearsal Assistant
Jason Brown, Lighting Design
Gabriel B. Hanson, Costume Design

*With the generous aid and support of Eduardo Vilaro and Ballet Hispanico, Ben Rodriguez-Cobena and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Schulich Family Foundation, and Lincoln Center Education. Ms. Judith R. Hobson, and Bill T. Jones.
In *Power Goes*, choreographer Carrie Hanson and The Seldoms Dance Ensemble collaborate with a stellar team of writers and designers to ask how power is wielded to make or stop social change. Turning to the legacy of President Lyndon Baines Johnson and the tumultuous era of the 1960s, The Seldoms bring their explosive physicality and keen wit to this total-environment inquiry into the forces that cause—or block—progress toward a better world.

**MCA Stage 2014–15**

**The Seldoms**

*Photo: William Frederking*

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**Theater**

**Dance**

**Music**

at the **Edlis Neeson Theater**

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**About The Joffrey Ballet Staff**

**Ashley Wheater**

*The Joffrey Ballet Artistic Director*

Born in Scotland and raised in England, Ashley Wheater was trained at the Royal Ballet School. Mr. Wheater began his professional career with the Royal Ballet, and danced at the London Festival Ballet, The Australian Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet, and San Francisco Ballet. In 1997, he became Ballet Master at San Francisco Ballet, and, in 2002, Assistant to the Artistic Director.

In 2007, Mr. Wheater was appointed Artistic Director of The Joffrey Ballet. New work is the lifeblood of a company, and he has introduced numerous premieres to the repertoire. In 2008, the Boeing Corporation recognized his commitment to community outreach and diversity in the world of dance, presenting him the “Game Changer” award. In 2010, Mr. Wheater, representing The Joffrey Ballet, was named Lincoln Academy Laureate, the highest honor presented by the State of Illinois. The Chicago Tribune selected Mr. Wheater as the 2013 “Chicagoan of the Year” for his contributions to dance. In 2014, Mr. Wheater accepted the Chicago Spirit of Innovation Award for The Joffrey Ballet.

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**Greg Cameron**

*Executive Director*

Greg Cameron leads The Joffrey Ballet as Executive Director. He has extensive strategic leadership, community partnership, and development experience at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs. Highlights of his three decades-long career include working at the Department of Cultural Affairs and at the MCA, where he become Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations. He then joined the Art Institute of Chicago as the Director of Foundation and Corporate Relations before returning to the MCA to serve in various roles, including Deputy Director and Chief Development Officer. Most recently, he served as Chief Operating Officer at WTTW/WFMT, where he started as Executive Vice President and Chief Development Officer in 2008.

Cameron has served as an Adjunct Professor in Arts Administration of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and as an Adjunct Professor in Museum Practices at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He currently serves as a member on the board of numerous cultural and community institutions, including Donors Forum of Chicago, Arts Alliance Illinois, 3Arts, University of Chicago Children’s Hospital Friends against Aids, and
The Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago. He also serves on multiple committees throughout the years, including the School of the Art Institute Fashion Committee, the UIC Visiting Committee-College of Architecture and the Arts, Chicago Community Trust LGBT Committee, Links Hall, Choose Chicago, and the Obama Presidential Library/Museum at UIC Committee. Greg is a State Street Commissioner.

Alexei Kremnev
Academy Artistic Director

As the founding Artistic Director of the Joffrey Academy of Dance, Alexei Kremnev has brought a worldwide reputation to the Academy as one of the most innovative and fast-growing dance organizations. He began his career in Moscow at the Bolshoi Ballet Academy, Russian Academy of Theatrical Art (GITIS), and Moscow State Academy of Choreography. Either as a principal artist, choreographer, or teacher, Mr. Kremnev has worked internationally with the Moscow Festival Ballet (Russian National Ballet), England’s Northern Ballet Theatre, Cincinnati Ballet, Bolshoi Ballet, BalletMet, Tulsa Ballet Theatre, and Russian and European Stars of the Ballet.

Mr. Kremnev has been praised for his extraordinary ability to work with a young generation of dancers, as well as for his original and creative choreography. From 2004 to 2006, Mr. Kremnev’s choreography was presented at the legendary Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. He received the Outstanding Choreographer Award at Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) in 2006, 2007, and 2009. His works have been successfully performed in collaborations with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Cleveland Orchestra. Mr. Kremnev’s artistic vision has been essential in the creation and success of the Gala of the International Ballet Stars in Cincinnati, Children’s Ballet Theatre Series, and Winning Works at The Joffrey Ballet. In 2013, Mr. Kremnev received the Achievement Award in Culture from the Chicago Sister Cities International (CSCI). He has created fifteen original new works at the Joffrey.

Anna Reznik
Academy Artistic Director

Anna Reznik is the founding Artistic Director of the Joffrey Academy of Dance, and in a very short time she has brought a worldwide reputation to the Academy as one of the most innovative and fast-growing dance organizations. She began her career in Moscow at the world famous Bolshoi Ballet Academy and the Bolshoi Institute of Choreography. Ms. Reznik toured throughout the world as a Principal Artist with the Moscow Festival Ballet (later the Russian National Ballet), England’s Northern Ballet Theatre, Cincinnati Ballet, Bolshoi Ballet, BalletMet, Tulsa Ballet Theatre, and Russian and European Stars of the Ballet.

Ms. Reznik has won numerous awards, including a Special Diaghilev Prize, Silver Medal at the 1996 Lifar International Ballet Competition as well as the top prizes at the 1996 Nureyev International Ballet Competition and the 1996 Maya International Ballet Competition. Ms. Reznik was featured nationwide in the PBS Holiday Specials Love is Here to Stay and A Family Thanksgiving. In 2002, she was recognized as one of the most influential people in the arts in Cincinnati.

Ms. Reznik has been praised for her extraordinary ability to work with today’s young generation of dancers. Her thorough knowledge of the most current teaching methods and styles has produced many dancers who have been accepted into some of the most prestigious dance companies worldwide including the American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, Dresden Semperoper, Staatsoper Berlin, The Joffrey Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, and many others. In 2007, Ms. Reznik received the Outstanding Teacher Award at Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP). As Artistic Director, Ms. Reznik led the Joffrey Academy to become the Outstanding School at YAGP in 2010, 2012, and 2015. In 2013, Ms. Reznik received the Achievement Award in Culture from the Chicago Sister Cities International (CSCI).

Jason Brown
Stage Manager/Lighting Designer

Jason Brown’s recent designs include The Beyond the Score production of A Pierre Dream with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Parting Shadows by Victor Alexander with Hubbard Street 2. He currently serves as the Director of Production with Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and is a member of the Adjunct Faculty of The Theatre School at DePaul University.
Jennifer Archibald is the founder and Artistic Director of the Arch Dance Company and Archcore40 Summer Program. She is a graduate of The Ailey School and the Ailey School and the University's Barnard College Dance 2013 New Directions Choreography Lab. Jennifer is one of four choreographers selected as a choreographic Fellow for Ailey's New Directions Choreography Lab under the direction of Robert Battle. She is also the choreographer for Seven, a biographical work of Olympic athlete Jackie Joyner Kersee, commissioned by St. Louis based MADCO dance company. She has staged various off-Broadway shows and choreographed for the musicals Carousel, Pippin, The Music Man, and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, for professional theater companies. Currently, she is a faculty member at Steps on Broadway, Broadway Dance Center, Gibney Dance, CAP21 America’s Musical Theatre Conservatory, and a resident artist and lecturer at various institutions across the U.S. Ms. Archibald is a lecturer for Hip Hop Dance and culture for Columbia University’s Barnard College Dance Department in NYC. Internationally she has taught in China, Ecuador, Brazil, Sweden, Russia, Slovenia, and Canada. This year Rhode Island College, Howard University, Fordham University, and Balettokademien will present Ms. Archibald’s work for their artist-in-residence programs.

Abdul Latif is a graduate of Wesleyan University and has an MFA from New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts. He is a scholarship recipient of the Alvin Ailey and Joffrey Ballet School and a directing fellow at the T. Schreiber Acting Studio. He has worked with Donald Byrd’s Contemporary Ballet Company/The Group and was a member of Jennifer Muller’s Contemporary Modern Company/ The Works. He has performed in the Tony Award winning productions of The Lion King, directed by Julie Taymor and choreographed by Garth Fagan, and Hairspray, directed by Jack O’Brien and choreographed by Jerry Mitchell. Mr. Latif is winner of the National ACT-So Arts Competition, and was special guest speaker for The Archdioceses of New York’s-Waldorf Astoria Banquet, by invitation of Cardinal O’Connor and Cardinal Egan. He was guest performer at the Cologne, Germany Youth Summit for Pope Benedict XVI. He was a fellowship grant nominee for The Architect of The Future Award. He has been guest teacher of Steps-NYC, The Fendafar Festival in Brazil, Renaissance Arts Academy, and Moves Institute in St Gallen, Switzerland. He is a Ballet Hispanico’s Instituto Coreografico 2012 Resident recipient. He is co-designer and founding choreographer of The Muller Works Foundation Choreographic Residency/Legacy Project. He choreographed and staged movement for the original production Kansas City Swing with Tony Award winning writer-director Ricardo Khan. He is a 2013 Career Transitions Brothers Fund Fellowship and founding artist in residence at the Institute of Contemporary Ballet, Visceral Dance Chicago, Chicago Dance Crash, Johnsonville University, Shenandoah University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and University of Richmond. In 2010, she assisted Broadway legend Ann Reinking in setting the Fosse Trilogy on Thodos Dance Chicago, as well as Daniel Ezralow, choreographer of Broadway’s Spiderman: Turn off the Dark, in remounting his celebrated work, Pulse, for Company C Contemporary Ballet in San Francisco.
Ms. Martinez has been a featured dancer on a stage, film, and television. After a 17-year stint with River North Dance Chicago, for which she merited a Ruth Page Award for Outstanding Performance, she joined the Lyric Opera of Chicago as a principal dancer for its productions of Manon and The Merry Widow, followed by the Marriott Theater’s production of Swing, performed with Luna Negra Dance Theater, Ron de Jesus Dance, Same Planet/Different World, appeared as a special guest performer for The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and was a featured dancer for Diana Ross’s appearance in the 2006 World Cup opening ceremonies.
This year, The Joffrey Ballet celebrates its twentieth anniversary of being in Chicago and in 2016, its sixtieth company anniversary. Classically trained to the highest standards, The Joffrey Ballet expresses a unique, inclusive perspective on dance. The company proudly reflects the diversity of America. Its repertoire includes major story ballets, reconstructions of masterpieces, and contemporary works.

The company’s commitment to accessibility is met through an extensive touring schedule and an innovative and highly effective education program that includes the much-lauded Academy of Dance, Official School of The Joffrey Ballet. It also offers community engagement programs and engages in collaborations with myriad other visual and performing arts organizations.

Founded by visionary teacher Robert Joffrey in 1956 and guided by celebrated choreographer Gerald Arpino from 1988 until 2007, The Joffrey Ballet continues to thrive under internationally-renowned Artistic Director Ashley Wheater and Executive Director Greg Cameron.

To learn more, please visit joffrey.org.

Joffrey Academy of Dance, Official School of The Joffrey Ballet, is proud to present an inspiring performance of world premieres by three choreographers who are the winners of the Choreographers of Color Awards 2015: Jennifer Archibald, Abdul Latif, and Stephanie Martinez. The program will also include a new work by Academy Artistic Director Alexei Kremnev.

The Winning Works Program was created to recognize emerging minority choreographers and provide them with a platform to showcase their original and innovative work. Each of the three selected choreographers was given a minimum of thirty rehearsal hours to develop a new work with the Joffrey Academy Trainees and Joffrey Studio Company. Each winning choreographer also received a $2,500 stipend, travel and accommodations in Chicago, and the opportunity to work directly with Joffrey Academy Artistic Directors, Alexei Kremnev and Anna Reznik.

About the Joffrey Academy Trainees and Joffrey Studio Company

The Trainee Program is a rigorous program with an internationally recognized reputation for excellence. It gives students the skills needed for careers into the professional world of dance. Graduates from the Trainee Program have danced with companies around the world, including The Joffrey Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, Dresden Semperoper, and many more.

The Joffrey Studio Company is a scholarship program of the Joffrey Academy. It consists of ten outstanding students at the cusp of their professional careers. The individualized training and performance opportunities provided by the Joffrey Studio Company offer dancers exceptional insight into the life of a professional dancer and they push dancers to realize their full artistic and technical potential.

For more information on the Joffrey Academy of Dance, Official School of The Joffrey Ballet, please visit joffrey.org/academy.
The Joffrey Ballet Staff
Ashley Wheater, Artistic Director
Greg Cameron, Executive Director

Artistic
Gerard Charles, Director of Artistic Operations
Nicolas Blanc, Ballet Master/Principal Coach
Guy Sales, Ballet Master/Principal Coach

Music
Scott Speck, Music Director
Grace Kim, Company Pianist
Paul James Lewis, Senior Pianist/Music Administrator
Russell Vinick, Cover Conductor

Company Administration & Production
Claude Binder, Director of Production
Kirsty Hackell, Company Manager
Blair Baldwin, Artistic and Production Business Administrator
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Andrea Heuermann, Stage Manager
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As of March 2015

The MCA is a proud partner of the National Performance Network.
As an internationally renowned institution devoted to contemporary culture, the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago presents the most thought-provoking visual art and performing arts of our time. MCA Stage is a vibrant series presenting theater, dance, and music by leading artists from the US and around the world in MCA’s three-hundred-seat Edlis Neeson Theater.

MCA Stage’s groundbreaking performances are an integral part of MCA Chicago’s artist-activated, audience-engaged programming. Along with the museum’s exhibitions and educational initiatives, they encourage a broad and diverse community to experience and discuss the work and ideas of living artists.

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Program notes compiled by Yolanda Cesta Cursach

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mcastage@mcachicago.org

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