

**This year we
celebrate four
extraordinary dance
heroes: New York
City Ballet
principal Tiler Peck,
choreographer
Lar Lubovitch,
activist/teacher
Carolyn Adams
and historian
Lynn Garafola.**

2016 Dance Magazine Awards

Rehearsing *The Bronze Horseman* with dancer Angelina Vorontsova at the Mikhailovsky Ballet

LAR LUBOVITCH

The dance world may be small, but the branch of its family tree made by Lar Lubovitch is expansive. First there's his modern troupe, Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, an incubator for his work since 1968, where former company members include choreographers Doug Varone and Darrell Grand Moultrie, and international performer Drew Jacoby. Then there are Lubovitch's dances in the repertoires of countless modern and ballet companies, not to mention his creations for Broadway, Olympic ice-dancing routines and the Chicago Dancing Festival, which he co-founded. "It's a chance to get out of myself," says the soft-spoken Lubovitch of the variety in his career, "to not get stuck in one idea of who I am or what I do."

At 73, the master dancemaker is still treading new ground: His two-act, 28-dancer

The Bronze Horseman premiered at the Mikhailovsky Ballet in St. Petersburg in May. "Each time I make a dance, I feel like there's something more to discover," says Lubovitch. "It's always an effort and a mystery. It's compulsive to see if I can do it better."

Although he started making up dances as a kid, Lubovitch didn't pursue choreography professionally until he saw José Limón's company as an art student at the University of Iowa. "I didn't realize it was something that people actually did with their lives," he says. He transferred to Juilliard, where he studied under dance giants like Limón, Martha Graham and Antony Tudor.

Today, Lubovitch's polished, yet vulnerable work melds his signature musicality with sweeping movement and seamless, intriguing

partnering. "His movement feels so delicious," says choreographer and former Lubovitch dancer Katarzyna Skarpetowska. "His dances are true dancers' dances."

This year, Lubovitch has become a distinguished professor at the University of California, Irvine; been named one of America's Irreplaceable Dance Treasures by the Dance Heritage Coalition; and received the Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award for lifetime achievement. Unsurprisingly, he continues to explore new avenues: This fall he organized NY Quadrille, transforming The Joyce Theater into a raised stage flanked by the audience, for a series of world premieres by downtown dancemakers Pam Tanowitz, RoseAnne Spradlin, Tere O'Connor and Loni Landon. — *Madeline Schrock*