

DANCE SPIRIT

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The Iconic Lar Lubovitch Dance Company Celebrates Its 50th Birthday



Lar Lubovitch Dance Company performing *Men's Stories* (photo by Phyllis A. McCabe, courtesy Lar Lubovitch Dance Company)

Founded in 1968, Lar Lubovitch Dance Company has grown to become one of the most revered dance groups in the U.S. This spring, the company will present its 50th season, with performances at The Joyce Theater in NYC April 17–22. The run features a world premiere by Lubovitch; classic works from the repertory, like *Men's Stories: A Concerto in Ruin*; and appearances by the Martha Graham Dance Company and dancers from The Joffrey Ballet, both performing Lubovitch works. *Dance Spirit* caught up with a few of the LLDC dancers to see how they're feeling about the momentous year.

"Being a part of the company for Lar's 50th-anniversary season feels important. Much of the contemporary dance world has become very mainstream today, and that's a direct result of the steps Lar took in merging and innovating classical styles. When I work with Lar, I feel like I'm one of the best versions of myself, like my instrument was absolutely

meant to be in that studio or on that stage in that moment. It's also a joy to watch him show the steps. He's been at it for over 50 years and he still eats up time and space like they're fresh-baked cookies." —**Barton Cowperthwaite**

"Lar is an incredible mentor to me, as he is for a vast majority of the members of the dance community. I'm so excited to share the theater and this entire process with so many other artists who share my enthusiasm for Lar's resilience and craft." —**Jonathan Emanuell Alsberry**

"Lar has always stayed true to what deeply inspires him and, in turn, has inspired countless dancers and choreographers along the way. It feels like we're not just celebrating an anniversary season, we're celebrating a legacy of true dedication and originality. I hope that people walk away appreciating the incredible craftsmanship, nuance, detail, thoughtfulness, and beauty that infuses every work that Lar creates." —**Nicole Marie Corea**

"I first worked with Lar in 1998, and I immediately discovered that doing his work felt like home. It still feels that way. I learned quickly that Lar's legacy was rich and profound. I'm now even more aware of that fact, and feel so lucky to be a part of it. He's consistently used his creativity to bring people together in ways that have contributed immeasurably to our culture." —**Tobin Del Cuore**

A version of this story appeared in the April 2018 issue of Dance Spirit with the title "Happy Birthday Lar Lubovitch Dance Company."