

The Miscellany News

Lar Lubovitch to bring modern dance fusion to Vassar

By [Shruti Manian](#)

Reporter

Published: Wednesday, February 2, 2011

Updated: Wednesday, February 2, 2011 15:02



Courtesy of Lubovitch.org

The critically acclaimed Lar Lubovitch Company, which specializes in modern dance, will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 7 at the Frances Daly Fergusson Dance Theater in Kenyon Hall.

Vassar's sesquicentennial excitement has been abound for months now. The whole year has been packed with a dazzling array of events that cater to the wide and varied tastes of Vassar students, alumnae/i, and the greater Poughkeepsie community. In honor of the sesquicentennial, Vassar's Dance Department is presenting a concert by renowned choreographer Lar Lubovitch's Company.

Lubovitch has been named by *The New York Times* as one of 10 best choreographers in the world, and the dancers have graced the stages of Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, almost every state and over 35 countries abroad. No doubt the upcoming performance is one of the highlights in this year's lineup of events.

Now celebrating its 43rd anniversary, Lubovitch founded the company in 1968: "I always intended to be a choreographer. I thought it was the right time to try it out and that's how it all started," he said. The Lubovitch Company primarily performs modern dance. According to Professor of Dance Jean Czula, the organizer of the performance, this type of dance holds a very special place at Vassar, considering the school's origins as a women's institution. Historically, modern dance has been considered a dance movement spearheaded by women. "Modern dance is particularly big for women. The pioneers of modern dance like Dorris Humphrey and Martha Graham were always referred to as 'founding mothers' and I thought that to have a modern dance performance would be a lovely way of celebrating Vassar's history," said Czula.

The Company will be performing an assorted and powerful repertoire ranging from the company's classic "North Star" to their latest work "Coltrane's Favorite Things," as well as many other pieces. Though the dances will be modern, Lubovitch incorporates elements of other dance forms like jazz and ballet to create an original fusion. "I have studied all the forms of dance and my work is mostly

an eclectic blending of all dances and the language that comes across,” said Lubovitch. Lubovitch’s dances are renowned for their strong musicality, their sophisticated and formal structures, and their sheer artistry.

Lubovitch himself has trained under the some of the most notable masters of dance. At the Julliard School in New York he was lucky enough to study under the tutelage of greats like Jose Limon, Antony Tudor, Anna Sokolow and Graham, an opportunity that shaped the dancer and choreographer he is today considerably. “That was a privileged experience; I had never danced before I’d met these people, so I was literally taking my first steps and they have of course left a very deep impression,” said Lubovitch of his time at Julliard.

In the years to come, Lubovitch as well as the Company have grown from strength to strength. Lubovitch has been nominated for numerous prestigious laurels like the Grammy and the Tony Awards, but he holds that his work is itself the greatest reward he could ask for. “Awards are something you cannot really take into account. Art is something that you have to create in a space where you don’t seek compliments or awards,” said Lubovitch. This perfectly mirrors the attitude that Vassar has towards dance as the College offers no dance major. Students are extremely passionate about dancing nonetheless. “This is definitely the most dance-friendly campus that I have ever taught at. There are so many minds in the student body that have sophisticated curiosity about higher-level dance, despite there being no dance major. When you do something just for the pure love of it, it always shows, you can feel the energy,” said Czula.

Dancers from the Lubovitch Company will also conduct a master class for Vassar students. This spectacular opportunity will give Vassar dancers a once in a lifetime chance to dance alongside some of the most talented performers in the world. Explained Czula, “All the students who are being given this chance, should be out of their minds.”

What Czula also hopes is that a performance by a dance company as prestigious as Lar Lubovitch’s will encourage a greater appreciation among the Vassar community for the art of dance and movement as a means of expression. Said Czula, “What culture doesn’t have dance and movement as a form of celebration?” This is precisely what Czula hopes to celebrate: an interest in dance that speaks to all members of the community. “Over the years we have hosted many wonderful artists, always had fine guests and every year we take a step forward. And [Lubovitch] is of the finest ilk,” ended Czula.

The Lar Lubovitch Company will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, February 7 at the Frances Daly Fergusson Dance Theater in Kenyon Hall. To make reservations type Lar Lubovitch in the subject window at [dancetix @vassar.edu](mailto:dancetix@vassar.edu).