



Paula Lobo



Presented by Dance Affiliates  
and Annenberg Center Live

## **PARSONS DANCE**

Artistic Director **David Parsons**

Associate Artistic Director **Elizabeth Koeppen**

Resident Lighting Designer **Howell Binkley**

General Manager **Rebecca Josue**

Dancers: **Miguel Quinones, Sarah Braverman, Christina Ilisije, Ian Spring,  
Elena D'Amario, Jason MacDonald, Geena Pacareu, Omar Román de Jesús**

Production Stage Manager **Rebecca Josue**

Lighting Supervisor **Christopher Chambers**

### **PROGRAM**

*There will be an intermission.*



**Thursday, December 4 at 7:30 PM**

**Friday, December 5 at 8 PM**

**Saturday, December 6 at 2 PM and 8 PM**

Zellerbach Theatre

# PROGRAM NOTES

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## ***Bachiana*** (1993)

Choreography by **David Parsons**

Lighting by **Howell Binkley**

Music by **Johann Sebastian Bach**, "Orchestral Suite No. 1" and "Air on a G String"

Arranged by the **Turtle Island String Quartet**

Costume Design by **David C. Woolard**

Dancers: **Miguel Quinones, Sarah Braverman, Jason MacDonald, Christina Ilisije, Elena D'Amario, Ian Spring, Omar Román de Jesús, Geena Pacareu**

*Bachiana* was jointly commissioned by Ruth Eckerd Hall the Richard B. Baumgardner Center for the Performing Arts (Ruth Eckerd Hall) in Clearwater, Florida; University of Florida Performing Arts, Gainesville, Florida and Florida Arts Celebration, Gainesville, Florida.

## ***Hymn*** (2007)

Choreography by **Trey McIntyre**

Lighting by **Christopher Chambers**

Music by **Coco Rosie**

Costume Design by **Liz Prince**

Dancers: **Sarah Braverman and Elena D'Amario or Ian Spring and Omar Román de Jesús**

*Hymn* was commissioned by the DRA for the 2007 Fire Island Gala and has been re-staged on Parsons Dance for the 2014-2015 season.

## ***Kind of Blue*** (2001)

Choreography by **David Parsons**

Lighting Design by **Howell Binkley**, Original Lighting Design by **Burke J. Wilmore**

Music by **Miles Davis**, "So What"

Original Costume Design by **Mia McSwain**

Dancers: **Sarah Braverman or Christina Ilisije, Miguel Quinones or Ian Spring, Elena D'Amario or Geena Pacareu and Omar Román de Jesús**

*Kind of Blue* was commissioned by the Umbria Jazz Festival in Perugia, Italy. It is a tribute to the 75th anniversary of the birth of Miles Davis and features music from his best-selling jazz album.

// Intermission //

## **Special Preview: Untitled New Work** (2014)

Generation NOW Commission

Choreography by **Natalie Lomonte**

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of Parsons Dance, GenerationNOW was launched as a mentor and commissioning project for emerging choreographers. This fellowship gives one young American choreographer the opportunity to create a new work for Parsons Dance under the guidance and watchful eye of Artistic Director David Parsons. Each new work created will premiere during Parsons Dance's annual Joyce Theater season in New York City and will then receive maximum exposure on stages around the world. With GenerationNOW, David Parsons will use his company to build opportunities for America's next generation of dance makers, further contributing to the growth of contemporary dance for the next 30 years.

## **Caught** (1982)

Choreography by **David Parsons**

Lighting Concept by **David Parsons**

Lighting Design by **Howell Binkley**

Music by **Robert Fripp**, "Let The Power Fall"

Costume Design by **Judy Wirkula**

Dancer: **Ian Spring or Miguel Quinones**

*Please be advised that strobe lights will be used during this piece.*

*Caught* is maintained in the active repertory of Parsons Dance through generous support from the Jim and Linda Ellis Foundation.

## **Whirlaway** (2014)

Choreography by **David Parsons**

Lighting Design by **Burke Wilmore**

Costumes by **Keiko Voltaire**

Music by **Allen Toussaint**

Assistant Choreography by **Natalie Lomonte**

Dancers: **Miguel Quinones, Sarah Braverman, Jason MacDonald, Christina Ilisije, Elena D'Amario, Ian Spring, Omar Román de Jesús, Geena Pacareu**

*Whirlaway* was commissioned by the New Orleans Ballet Association with generous support from Kerry Clayton and Paige Royer; additional support provided by the Parsons Dance Board of Directors.

*Southern Nights* and *Going Down* were written by Allen Toussaint (Screen Gems EMI/Marsaint music publishing & Warner Tamerlane publishing). *Bright Mississippi* was written by Thelonius Monk (Thelonius Monk corp. publishing). *Yes We Can Can*, *Whirlaway* and *Play Something Sweet* (Brickyard Blues) were written by Allen Toussaint (Screen Gems EMI/Marsaint music publishing).

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Parsons Dance** is an internationally renowned contemporary dance company under the artistic direction of David Parsons. Founded in 1985 by David Parsons and Tony® award-winning lighting designer, Howell Binkley, Parsons Dance is known for its upbeat and athletic ensemble work. The company has toured to more than 350 cities, in 30 countries, across five continents, including an annual season in its home community of New York City. Parsons Dance maintains a repertory of more than 75 works choreographed by David Parsons, including commissions from American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, Alvin Ailey, Batsheva, Jacob's Pillow and the Spoleto Festival. Audiences have also seen Parsons Dance on PBS, Bravo, A&E and the Discovery Channel. In addition to choreography and performance, Parsons Dance is committed to audience development and arts education for participants of all ages and all levels of artistic experience. Parsons Dance regularly offers outreach opportunities including post-show discussions, master classes, open rehearsals and studio showcases. Parsons Dance also offers annual summer study programs for professional and pre-professional dancers that attract students to New York from across the United States and several foreign countries. Parsons is proud to launch two new intensives this year, a winter intensive in New York City at the 92nd Street Y, and a summer workshop in Kansas City in association with Kansas City Ballet.

**David Parsons** (Artistic Director/Co-Founder) has enjoyed a remarkable career as a performer, choreographer, teacher, director and producer of dance. Parsons was born in Chicago and raised in Kansas City. He was a leading dancer with The Paul Taylor Dance Company, where Taylor created many roles for him in works such as *Arden Court*, *Last*

Look and Roses. He received the Dance Masters of America's 2011 Annual Award and the 2000 Dance Magazine Award, as well as the 2001 American Choreography Award for his work with AEROS, a production featuring the Romanian Gymnastic Federation broadcast on the Bravo Channel. Parsons has created more than 70 works for Parsons Dance and has received commissions from The American Ballet Theater, New York City Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the American Dance Festival, Jacob's Pillow, the Spoleto Festival and Het Muziektheater. His work has been performed by Paris Opera Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, Nederlands Dans Theater, National Ballet of Canada, Hubbard Street Dance and Batsheva Dance Company.

**Elizabeth Koeppen** (Associate Artistic Director) was born and raised in Virginia Beach, Virginia, where she began her training with Judith Hatcher and Darlene Kelly. She continued her education at SUNY Purchase where she received her B.F.A. under the instruction of Gayle Young, Larry Clarke, Kevin Wynn, Rosanna Seravalli and Betti-Jane Sills. Her teaching credits for Parsons Dance include SUNY Purchase, The Juilliard School, NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, The 92nd Street Y, the New Arts Festival, Baltimore School of the Arts, Peridance and Dancespace. Koeppen has staged works by Parsons on numerous companies, including the Milwaukee Ballet, Dallas Black Dance Theater, Repertory Dance Theater, New York City Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal, Louisville Ballet and Roland Petit's Ballet National de Marseille. She would like to thank her family and friends for their love and support. Koeppen joined Parsons Dance in 1989.

**Miguel Angel Quinones III** (Dancer) was born in New York City and grew up in Miami, FL. Quinones began his dance studies at the Miami Conservatory under Ruth Weisen and Thomas Armour. He attended the New World School of the Arts High School and graduated with a focus in Visual Arts. Quinones has worked with leading choreographers Robert Battle, Donald McKayle, Jennifer Muller, Michael Uthoff, Monica Bill Barnes, Greg Dolbashian, Mark Stuart and Nicholas Andre. He received his B.F.A. in Dance from New World College in 2005. Quinones was a company member of Parsons Dance from 2005-2011 and currently dances with The Dash Ensemble, Mark Stuart Dance Theater and Nicholas Andre Dance Theater and as a guest artist with Parsons Dance.

**Sarah Braverman** (Dancer) is Chicago born and California raised. She trained extensively in the Royal Academy of Dance, under the direction of JoAnna Jarvis and Bernadette Hill, completing all examinations up to Advanced II with distinction. In 2006, she became a founding member of NYC based modern company, AM Dance Project. Braverman graduated cum laude from Marymount Manhattan College in 2008 under the direction of Katie Langan and had the honor of performing works by David Marquez, Robert Battle, David Parsons, Graham Lustig, Stephen Petronio and Joao Carvalho. She joined Parsons Dance in 2008.

**Christina Ilisije** (Dancer) graduated summa cum laude from Marymount Manhattan College in 2007 with a B.F.A. in Dance. Her choreographic work, *Naked Branches*, was bestowed the Alpha Chi award. Upon graduation, she became a company member with Buglisi Dance Theatre, where she performed and instructed company outreach. Ilisije also danced with Maxine Steinman & Dancers and as a guest artist with Take Dance and Shen Wei Dance Arts. Her choreographic work has been presented at St. Mark's Church and The Hatch. Currently accompanying her dance conditioning, she teaches a barré based fitness class, Figure 4, at Pure Yoga NYC. She writes about her passions on her blog, Living Dance, and inaugurated Ballet Blast, a modern-inspired ballet class combining her love for fitness and dance. Ilisije joined Parsons Dance in 2010.

**Ian Spring** (Dancer) is originally from Middletown, OH where he began his training under the direction of Phyllis DeWeese-Morgan. After graduating from high school, Spring attended Point Park University. While at Point Park, he had the honor of performing pieces by Robert Battle, Martha Graham and Kate Skarpetowska. Spring graduated summa cum laude with his B.A. in Dance and has worked with Dayton Contemporary Dance Company 2. He joined Parsons Dance in 2010.

**Elena D'Amario** (Dancer) was born in Pescara, Italy. She studied modern, ballet, contemporary and tap at various schools throughout Italy, most prominently at New Step Art Studio. Over the years, she has won multiple festivals and competitions including the Pescara Dance Festival, the International Expression Dance Competition in 2008 and the International TipTap show in 2007 and 2009 in Rome. D'Amario has appeared on multiple TV shows including *Oscar TV*, *The Best Years* and *Il ballo delle debuttanti*. She auditioned for the most popular Italian talent show *Amici di Maria De Filippi*, which led her to winning the opportunity to apprentice with Parsons Dance for the 2010-2011 season. She joined Parsons Dance in 2011.

**Jason MacDonald** (Dancer), an Orlando native, began his dance training with Melissa Stokes and later with Alberto Alonso, Sonia Calero and Alora Haynes at Santa Fe College. He has performed with the New York City Opera and Alabama Ballet Company under Artistic Director, Wes Chapman. His repertoire includes *Cinderella*, *Don Quixote*, *Firebird* and George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker* and *Serenade*. He recently graduated with a B.F.A. in Dance and a B.S. in Finance from the Florida State University. MacDonald danced with Parsons Dance from 2010-2013, and is currently dancing in *Queen of the Night* in NYC.

**Geena Pacareu** (Dancer) began dancing at an early age in her native Tarragona, Spain at Artemis Dansa. She continued her training in The Royal Professional Conservatory of Dance "Mariemma" in Madrid, where she graduated in 2011 in classical dance. Pacareu also studied contemporary dance at various schools, including Laban Trinity in London, during intensive summer courses and workshops. Before graduating, she was accepted as a full-time trainee in Aikun Ballet Theatre in New York City and promoted to company artist in 2012. During her training, Pacareu assisted at numerous workshops and intensive courses all over the world and has won multiple festivals and competitions.

**Omar Román de Jesús** (Dancer) of Bayamón, Puerto Rico, began his formal training at School for the Performing Arts and Julian E. Blanco School in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. He has received scholarships to the Ailey School and has attended summer intensives at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Gallim Dance and Keigwin + Company. De Jesús has performed with Balletteatro Nacional de Puerto Rico, Dance Iquail and Taira School in Japan. He won the Championship Cup and Gold Medal at the National Dance Competition in Puerto Rico. De Jesús has presented his choreography at Peridance Capezio Center and the Ailey Citigroup Theater. He joined Parsons Dance in 2013.

**Natalie Lomonte** (Generation NOW Choreography Fellow) is a working choreographer, dancer and teacher in NYC. She has collaborated to create work and toured with such companies as MOMIX, Pilobolus and Parsons Dance. She has performed on television throughout Europe and Japan and danced with Liza Minnelli in the movie *Sex And The City 2*. Lomonte was in the original Broadway cast of *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark*, where she eventually served as the Dance Captain and Dance Supervisor. In 2012, she became the Movement Director for One Year Lease Theater Company and an Adjunct Professor of Dance at Fordham University.

**Howell Binkley** (Resident Lighting Designer) is the proud co-founder of Parsons Dance, for which he has designed more than 60 pieces. His Broadway designs include *LoveMusik*, *Xanadu*, *Jersey Boys*, *Avenue Q*, *Bridge and Tunnel*, *Dracula*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Golda's Balcony*, *Hollywood Arms*, *The Look of Love*, *Gore Vidal's The Best Man*, *Minnelli on Minnelli*, *The Full Monty*, *Parade*, *Kiss Of The Spider Woman*, *Taking Sides*, *How To Succeed...*, *High Society* and *Grease*. Binkley's dance credits include Alvin Ailey, American Ballet Theatre, Hubbard Street Dance and The Joffrey Ballet (*Billboards*). He has also designed works for The Dallas and The Metropolitan Opera Houses. He is a five-time Helen Hayes Award recipient and was awarded the 1993 Sir Laurence Olivier Award and the Canadian Dora Award for *Kiss of The Spider Woman*. Binkley was given the 2006 Henry Hewes Design Award, 2006 Outer Critics Circle Award and the 2006 Tony® Award for *Jersey Boys*.

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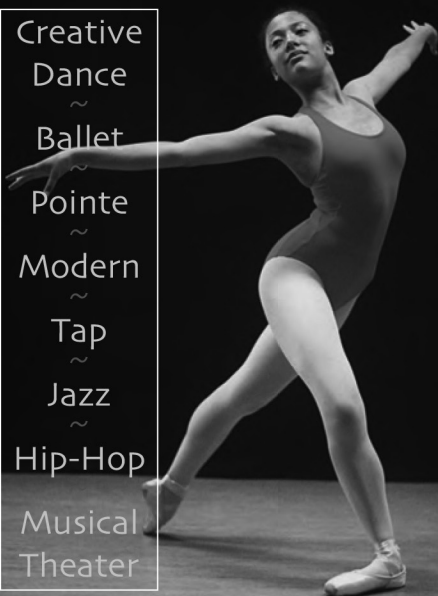


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