

# **Pilobolus Dance Theatre**

Robby Barnett and Michael Tracy, Artistic Directors
Renée Jaworski and Matt Kent, Associate Artistic Directors

Dancers: Shawn Fitzgerald Ahern, Benjamin Coalter, Matt Del Rosario, Eriko Jimbo, Jordan Kriston, Jun Kuribayashi, Nile H. Russell

Itamar Kubovy, Executive Director

Lily Binns, Co-Executive Director, Development

Susan Mandler, General Manager • Shane Mongar, Director of Production Kristin Helfrich, Production Manager • Kirsten Leon, Company Manager Jun Kuribayashi, Communications Liaison • Emily Kent, Institute Coordinator Mike Faba, Lighting Supervisor • Sarah Fujiwara, Production Stage Manager

Matt Del Rosario and Nile Russell, Co-Dance Captains

Karen Feys, Director of Sales

Neil Peter Jampolis, Éminence Gris/Lighting Designer

Mary Canter, Associate Producer • Dani Venokur, Associate Marketing Director

AJ Radford, Assistant to the Executive Director

Madeline Orton. Assistant to the Co-Executive Director

Oriel Pe'er, Videographer • Mary Hawvermale, Administrative Assistant

#### **PROGRAM**

**Azimuth** 

Skyscrapers

Gnomen

-Intermission-

All Is Not Lost

Automaton

Thursday, January 17 at 7:30 PM Friday, January 18 at 8 PM Saturday, January 19 at 2 PM & 8 PM Sunday, January 20 at 2 PM

## **PROGRAM**

## Pilobolus is a Fungus

Edited by Oriel Pe'er and Paula Salhany: Score by Keith Kenniff

#### Azimuth (2012)

Choreography: Renée Jaworski, Michael Tracy and Michael Moschen in collaboration with Shawn Fitzgerald Ahern, Winston Dynamite Brown, Matt Del Rosario, Eriko Jimbo, Jordan Kriston, Jun Kuribayashi, Manelich Minniefee and Nile Russell

Performed by: Shawn Fitzgerald Ahern, Matt Del Rosario, Eriko Jimbo, Jordan Kriston,

Jun Kuribayashi and Nile Russell

Music: Alva Noto & Ryuichi Sakamoto, Yann Tiersen, René Aubry

Costumes: Liz Prince

Lighting: Stephen Strawbridge

Azimuth was commissioned by the American Dance Festival with support from the SHS Foundation and the Charles L. and Stephanie Reinhart Fund, with additional funding by the Litchfield County Friends of Pilobolus.

#### **Traffic**

Edited by Paula Salhany; Score by Crystal Castles

## Skyscrapers (2012)

Based on original concept and choreography by Trish Sie for Skyscrapers, the music video for OK Go (2012).

Created by: Trish Sie, Paula Salhany and Renée Jaworski in collaboration with Shawn Fitzgerald Ahern, Eriko Jimbo, Jordan Kriston, Jun Kuribayashi, Manelich Minniefee and Nile Russell

Performed by: Shawn Fitzgerald Ahern, Benjamin Coalter, Matt Del Rosario, Eriko Jimbo, Jordan Kriston and Nile Russell

Music: "Skyscrapers," written by Damien Kulash, performed by OK Go, courtesy

of Paracadute

Video: Paula Salhany

Costumes: Phoebe Katzin, Trish Sie

Lighting: Shelly Sabel

This International Collaborators Project work is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

#### Starlings

Film by Dylan Winter; Score by PYYRAMIDS

#### Gnomen (1997)

Choreography: Robby Barnett and Jonathan Wolken in collaboration with Matt Kent,

Gaspard Louis, Trebien Pollard and Mark Santillano

Performed by: Shawn Fitzgerald Ahern, Benjamin Coalter, Matt Del Rosario and

Jun Kuribayashi Music: Paul Sullivan

Throat Singing: Matt Kent

Costume Design & Construction: Eileen Thomas

Lighting: David M. Chapman

This piece is dedicated to the memory of our friend and colleague, Jim Blanc. It was made possible in part by contributions from his family and friends as well as by a commission from the American Dance Festival with support from the Connecticut Commission on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Philip Morris Companies, Inc., New Production Fund.

#### -Intermission-

### All is Not Lost (2011)

Created by: OK Go, Pilobolus and Trish Sie, created in collaboration with Pilobolus dancers Shawn Fitzgerald Ahern, Winston Dynamite Brown, Matt Del Rosario, Andy Herro, Eriko Jimbo, Jordan Kriston, Jun Kuribayashi and Nile Russell

Performed by: Shawn Fitzgerald Ahern, Benjamin Coalter, Matt Del Rosario, Eriko

Jimbo, Jordan Kriston, Nile Russell

Music: OK Go

Costume Construction: Phoebe Katzin Lighting: Michael Dostal and Shane Mongar

Creation of All is Not Lost is made possible by The O'Donnell Green Music and Dance Foundation.

#### **Explosions**

Film by Dumt & Farligt

## Automaton (2012)

Created by: Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Renée Jaworski in collaboration with Shawn Fitzgerald Ahern, Matt Del Rosario, Eriko Jimbo, Jordan Kriston, Jun Kuribayashi, Manelich Minniefee and Nile Russell

Performed by: Benjamin Coalter, Matt Del Rosario, Eriko Jimbo, Jordan Kriston, Jun

Kuribayashi and Nile Russell Music: APPARAT, Max Richter

Sound Design: John Kilgore and Renée Jaworski

Set Construction: Mark Melvin

Costumes: Phoebe Katzin, Chiharu Jimbo, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Renée Jaworski

Lighting: Shelly Sabel

Automaton was commissioned by the American Dance Festival with support from the SHS Foundation and the Charles L. and Stephanie Reinhart Fund. Automaton was created through Pilobolus' International Collaborators Project, which receives funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Litchfield County Friends of Pilobolus.

This program is subject to change.

## PROGRAM NOTES

## A Note From the Company

Our primary goal, as a dance company, could be to make dances. In fact, when we arrive at work in the morning, our chief concern is to spend time with people we admire... and have fun. This was a founding impulse for the formation of the company 41 years ago, and it drives us still today. We decided a few years ago to test the limits of our group methods. Since then, we have invited in a growing succession of inventive minds—with differing expertise but all with evident curiosity about human relationships and their physical expression—to join us in our collective process of making new things. To date, we have worked with Inbal Pinto and Avshalom Pollak, the MIT Distributed Robotics Laboratory, Maurice Sendak, Basil Twist, Art Spiegelman, Dan Zanes, Trish Sie and OK Go, Takuya Muramatsu, Radiolab, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Michael Moschen-reinventors of engineering, journalism, storytelling, comics, music videos, puppetry, juggling and dance theatre. The dances that remain are the traces of our relationships with them. As we convene again under the Pilobolus circus tent, we work, as always, to keep the faith as we envision our future: a community of artists who view the world as playfully as we possibly can. - The Directors of Pilobolus, 2012

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Pilobolus is a modern performance company, founded in 1971, that to this day wears its revolutionary stripes on its sleeves. In keeping with its fundamentally collective creative process, Pilobolus Dance Theatre now curates and convenes groups of diverse artists to make inventive, athletic, witty, collaborative performance works on stage and screen using the human body as a medium for expression. Pilobolus makes art to build community. It teaches its group-based creative process to performers and non-dancers alike through popular, unique educational projects and programs. This collection of activities is called the Pilobolus Institute. Pilobolus also applies its method of creative invention to a wide range of movement services for film, advertising, publishing, commercial clients and corporate events. This division is called Pilobolus Creative Services. The 2012 season marks Pilobolus' 41st year. In keeping with the energy and spirit of its biological namesake—a phototropic fungus that thrives in farmyards—the company has continued to grow toward the light, expanding and refining its unique methods of collective creative production to assemble a repertoire of over 100 choreographic works. While it has become a stable and influential force in the world of dance, Pilobolus remains as protean as ever, looking forward to the next 40 years of collaborating on the future.

Pilobolus is based in Washington Depot, Connecticut and performs for stage, television and online audiences all over the world. The company has appeared late at night on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, early in the morning on *Sesame Street*, and in primetime as a feature on CBS's 60 Minutes. Pilobolus has performed live shows in 64 countries and has received a number of prestigious honors, including the Berlin Critic's Prize, the Scotsman Award, the Brandeis Award, a Primetime Emmy® award for Outstanding Achievement in Cultural Programming, the Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement in Choreography and a TED Fellowship for performing a TED Talk in 2005. In 2010, Pilobolus was honored as the first collective to receive the *Dance Magazine* Award, which recognizes artists who have made lasting contributions to the field. Pilobolus works also appear in the repertories of major American

and European dance companies. In 2005, Pilobolus transferred its archive to Dartmouth College, where the company originated. Since then, the college has been growing the "living archive" with a series of new work commissions.

#### The Company

#### **Robby Barnett** (Artistic Director)

Barnett was born and raised in the Adirondack Mountains and attended Dartmouth College. He joined Pilobolus in 1971.

## Michael Tracy (Artistic Director)

Tracy, born in Florence and raised in New England, met the other Pilobolus founders at Dartmouth in 1969, becoming an Artistic Director after graduating magna cum laude in 1973. He toured with Pilobolus for 14 years—for eight as the only touring director—and continues to choreograph and direct the company. He has set his work on the Joffrey, Ohio, Hartford, Nancy and Verona Ballets and choreographed a production of Mozart's Magic Flute with John Eliot Gardiner, the Monteverdi Choir and the English Baroque Soloists, and a national tour production for the National Theatre of the Deaf. Tracy taught at Yale University for two decades and lives in northwestern Connecticut.

## **Itamar Kubovy** (Executive Director)

After graduating from Yale with a degree in Philosophy and before joining Pilobolus as its first Executive Director in 2004, Kubovy ran theatres in Germany and Sweden, directed plays by John Guare, co-directed the 2002 season finale of The West Wing, and made a film, Upheaval, starring Frances McDormand. At Pilobolus, Kubovy founded and co-curates the critically acclaimed International Collaborators Project, which opens the choreographic process to artists and thinkers from diverse fields. Recent collaborators include Inbal Pinto/Avshalom Pollak, Art Spiegelman, Basil Twist, the MIT Distributed Robotics Lab, the band OK Go, Steve Banks, the head writer of SpongeBob SquarePants and European choreographer, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui. Kubovy also evolved and heads up Pilobolus Creative Services, developing movement for film, advertising, publishing, commercial clients and corporate events, and is one of the creators of Shadowland. In keeping with the company's traditionally collective approach to creative work, Kubovy now focuses his efforts on securing the company's transition into a sustainable laboratory that convenes creative minds to produce imaginative physical entertainment and distribute it on diverse platforms.

#### **Lily Binns** (Co-Executive Director)

Binns is co-author of The Hungry Scientist Handbook (Harper Collins, 2008) and author of the fiction chapter book The First American Wilderness (JR Vansant, 2011). Formerly, she worked as Managing Editor of Saveur magazine and as a book editor at Ten Speed Press.

## Renée Jaworski (Associate Artistic Director)

Jaworski received her BFA from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, After graduating, she worked with MOMIX, performing and teaching throughout the world, in addition to creating her own work in Philadelphia. She began performing with Pilobolus in 2000, working on exciting projects such as the 79th Academy Awards. She has served as dance captain, master teacher, rehearsal director and most recently, director and choreographer for many of the company's collaborations with artists and entities such as Dan Zanes, Steven Banks, Takuya Muramatsu, the rock band OK Go, Michael Moschen, RadioLab and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui. In 2010, her alma mater honored her with the University's Silver Star Alumni Award for work as an artist in the field of dance. Jaworski lives in Connecticut with her husband and daughter.

## Matt Kent (Associate Artistic Director)

Kent has worked with Pilobolus as a dancer, collaborator, creative director, choreographer and associate artistic director. He was Pilobolus' Head Choreographer for Andre Heller's Magnifico, a large-scale circus production, as well as the choreographer for a Sports Emmy®-nominated teaser for Pilobolus' collaboration with the NFL network. Kent was also Head Choreographer for Pilobolus' television appearance on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*. He is also one of the creators of the Pilobolus' European hit *Shadowland*. Kent has performed in over 24 countries and on Pilobolus' appearance on the 79th Academy Awards. He is also a movement consultant for television and stage. Recent projects include Duncan Sheik's latest musical, *Spring Awakening, Whisper House* and zombie choreograpy for AMC's hit series *The Walking Dead*. Kent lives in Connecticut with his wife and two sons. He joined Pilobolus in 1996.

## Shawn Fitzgerald Ahern (Dancer)

Ahern, a country boy at heart, was born and raised in Dublin, New Hampshire. After graduating from rural public school and the Monadnock Performing Arts Academy, both located in his native New Hampshire, he moved to Vienna, Austria to continue his studies through dance and visual arts. He graduated magna cum laude from Keene as a Theatre and Dance major under the mentorship of William Seigh. Ahern owes his passion for movement and for learning to the inspired instructors at MPAA, KSC and the American Dance Festival.

### Benjamin Coalter (Dancer)

Coalter is from Hurricane, West Virginia. He began his undergraduate work in engineering and international affairs at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. During his second year at Marshall, a friend persuaded him to take a formal dance class. After a few classes, he was hooked and continued training for the next five months under the direction of Ella Hay. That fall he switched majors, transferred and spent the next four years studying at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Colater graduated in the spring of 2012, receiving his BFA in Contemporary Dance. He joined Pilobolus in the fall of 2012.

## Matt Del Rosario (Dance Captain)

Del Rosario was born and raised in Hawaii. He began formal dance training at age 20 under the guidance of Paul Maley, who inspired him to get a BFA in Contemporary Dance at the North Carolina School of the Arts.

#### Eriko (Erica) Jimbo (Dancer)

Jimbo was born in Japan, raised all over the states and earned her BFA in Dance from North Carolina School of the Arts. Since then, she has been dancing professionally and broadening her dancing through aerial work, wushu, Capoeira, hip hop, house, waacking, vogue, breakin, African, acrobatics, swing dance and hustle. She has a special passion for the NYC underground house and hip hop culture and often performs and engages in their events with her two crews: MAWU and FMinit. In 2009, she won House Dance International in the experimental category. She joined Pilobolus in August 2009.

#### Jordan Kriston (Dancer)

Kriston was born in Illinois and grew up in Phoenix, Arizona. She earned a BFA in Dance Performance from Arizona State University while performing with Movement Source Dance Company of Phoenix. In 2006, she moved to Brooklyn, NY to pursue a career in dance. During her time in New York, Kriston worked with H.T. Chen and Dian Dong, Douglas Dunn and Karl Anderson. Kriston joined Pilobolus in August 2010.

## Jun Kuribayashi (Dancer/Communication Liaison)

Kuribayashi was born in Japan and raised in the US since age five. His background includes competitive swimming, break dancing and Capoeira. At age 22, he began learning dance technique at the University of Kansas, where he earned his BFA. He debuted professionally with MOMIX in 2004 and has since performed all over the world with P7. Kuribayashi joined Pilobolus in August 2004.

#### Nile H. Russell (Dance Captain)

Russell is originally from Baltimore, MD. In 2004, he received a BA in Dance from Connecticut College, where he was fortunate enough to have the guidance of dancers and teachers such as Dan Wagoner, Lan Lan Wang, Jeff Rebudal, Robyne Watkin, Eddie Taketa and Jeremy Nelson. Connecticut is also where his love for Indian culture began, and in 2002, Russell traveled to India to explore Temple and Architecture studies and Bharata Natyam dance. Since moving to New York in 2004, Russell has danced with Silver-Brown Dance, LeeSaar The Company, Luis Lara Malvacias, Stefanie Nelson Dance Group and Naganuma Dance. Russell joined Pilobolus in August 2009.

## **Shane Mongar** (Director of Production)

Mongar is originally from Chattanooga, Tennessee.

#### **Kristin Helfrich** (Technical Director)

Helfrich holds a BFA in Lighting Design and Photography from Columbia College in Chicago, Illinois, Prior positions include Production Manager for the Kelly Strayhorn Theatre in Pittsburgh, PA, Production Manager and Lighting Supervisor for Deeply Rooted Dance Theatre in Chicago, IL and Assistant Lighting Designer and Master Electrician for the National Playwrights Festival at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center in New London, CT. She joined Pilobolus as Production Stage Manager in 2008.

#### Mike Faba (Lighting Supervisor)

Faba has worked as the Production Stage Manager and Lighting Supervisor for the Kate Weare Company, as well as Radiolab Live: In The Dark, a collaboration between WNYC's Radiolab and Pilobolus. He was the Lighting Supervisor for Martha Clarke's Angel Reapers and spent two summers working as the Master Electrician at the American Dance Festival. Faba is a graduate of the Professional Theatre Arts Training Program in Lighting Design at the Seattle Repertory Theatre, and he holds a BA in Drama from Vassar College.

## **Sarah Fujiwara** (Production Stage Manager)

Fujiwara holds a BFA from California State University Fullerton in Stage Management and Lighting Design. Her past credits include RENT Off-Broadway, Jacob's Pillow Dance, Houses on the Moon Theatre Company and The Signature Theatre Company.

#### Michael Moschen (Choreographer)

Moschen is a juggler. He has created unique objects and manipulation techniques for performance theater for 30 years. Utilizing his self-taught creative process, he questions and explores what it is to be human. Presently, he is completing a selfimposed challenge to create, from scratch, progressive physical skills and simple objects that celebrate each individual person's ability to learn and share simple mathematics, music and physics. Moschen is the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship.

#### **Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui** (Choreographer)

Cherkaoui has worked for theatres, opera and dance companies, ranging from the Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, Sadler's Wells in London, the Grand Theatre of Geneva to Les Ballets C. de la B. His work has earned a series of awards including a Benois de la Danse, two Laurence Olivier Awards and two National Dance Awards. In 2008 and 2011, *Tanz Magazine* proclaimed him 'Choreographer of the Year'. In 2010, he founded his own company, Eastman, where he created *Play* with Shantala Shivalingappa and *Babel* (words) with Damien Jalet and Antony Gormley; and in 2011, *TeZukA*, a piece for 15 dancers and musicians inspired by the Japanese manga author Osamu Tezuka. In the summer of 2012, he premiered *Puz/zle* at the Avignon Festival.

#### **OK Go** (Composers & Creative Collaborators)

OK Go has been called "the first post-internet band" and is at the forefront of an emerging class of independent creative entrepreneurs making art that is both digital and physical. OK Go's self-produced videos have been viewed over 175 million times on YouTube. The band's critically acclaimed release *Of the Blue Colour of the Sky* has garnered much praise, with a four-star review in *People Magazine* and the *Alternative Press* writing that "it fills you with hope for the next decade's musical offerings." Their previous collaboration with Pilobolus, made in collaboration with Google Japan and Trish Sie, was an innovative HTML5 video for *All Is Not Lost* which was nominated for a Grammy® and recently won five Cannes Golden Lions awards. Their other recent award-winning videos include *Needing/Getting* (debuted at the Super Bowl, and since viewed nearly 21 million times), a collaboration with *Sesame Street* and a fanfavorite pairing with the Muppets. Last year, they released the live album *180/365* on their newly-launched independent label, Paracadute. They are currently writing and recording music for their fourth full-length album, due in 2013.

### **Trish Sie** (Choreographer)

With a background in modern dance, ballet, ballroom dancesport and music, Sie conceptualizes, creates, choreographs and directs projects for film, television and the Internet. She collaborated with OK Go to conceive and produce several of OK Go's music videos, including the Grammy®-winning "treadmill video" and the "dog video." In 2012, All is Not Lost, her previous collaboration with Pilobolus, OK Go and Google, was nominated for a Grammy® and won five Cannes Golden Lions awards.

#### Paul Sullivan (Composer)

Sullivan has composed 14 scores for Pilobolus since 1980. He has appeared as a conductor, performer and composer on and off-Broadway several times. He currently lives on the coast of Maine where he composes music for his own record label, River Music. Sullivan's award-winning piano albums include Sketches of Maine, A Visit to the Rockies, Folk Art, Nights in the Gardens of Maine, and Christmas in Maine. His most recent albums are Circle 'Round the Season and Memory Lane Collection.

## **Phoebe Katzin** (Costume Designer)

Katzin graduated from Endicott College in 1979 and began her career working for Kitty Daly, who was designing and constructing costumes for MOMIX and Pilobolus. She moved to New York in 1984 and worked for various designers constructing costumes for many theatrical productions. After several years' hiatus to raise her three children, she began working again in 1998 for Pilobolus and MOMIX.

#### **Liz Prince** (Costume Designer)

Prince has worked extensively with Bill T. Jones, designing numerous works for his company as well as his work on the Boston Ballet, Berlin Opera Ballet and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre. Other design credits include works by Doug Varone, José Limón Dance Company, Trey McIntyre, Mark Dendy, Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project, Neil Greenberg, Jane Comfort, Bebe Miller, Lawrence Goldhuber, David Dorfman, Arthur Aviles and Ralph Lemon. Prince's costumes have been exhibited at The Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art, Snug Harbor Cultural Center and The

New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. She received a 1990 New York Dance and Performance Award (BESSIE) for Costume Design and in 2008, a Charles Fling Kellogg Award from Bard College for achievement in her field.

## **David M. Chapman** (Lighting Designer)

Chapman was Director of Production for Pilobolus Dance Theatre from 1978 to 1997. A native of the Berkshires, his early credits include many summers with the Berkshire Theatre Festival and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. He has designed the lighting for numerous Pilobolus works including Day Two, Bonsai, Particle Zoo and Axons. Other work includes positions as Assistant Lighting Designer for the 1978 Spoleto Festival USA and Production Manager of the 1981 American Dance Festival. In his most recent New York project, he served as Lighting Coordinator for the Japanese singer Tokiko at Carnegie Hall. His lighting designs can also be seen in the repertory of Peter Pucci Plus Dancers. He was Director of Production for Jacobs Pillow until May 2006 and Director of Facilities and Production at the Colonial Theatre in Pittsfield, MA until 2008.

## **Shelly Sabel** (Lighting Designer)

Drawing inspiration from her long-standing love affair with New York City, Sabel's design career spans numerous arenas and media. Selected credits include Streb vs Gravity (Lincoln Center): collaborations with choreographer Savion Glover: As You Like It (The Public Theatre); and the Off- Broadway Musical Debbie Does Dallas. Her light-based sculptures and installations have been seen at the Ubon Gallery (Manhattan); The Future Perfect (Brooklyn); Design within Reach for DIFFA and Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS. She works with a variety of unconventional and found materials including umbrellas, safety pins and jello (she is also a champion Jell-O mold maker). Other work includes lighting design for the windows at the Ralph Lauren and Donna Karan Madison Avenue flagship stores. She is the Director of Corporate Design for WorldStage: Scharff Weisberg / Video applications. Sabel holds an MFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, where she is a member of the faculty.

## **Stephen Strawbridge** (Lighting Designer)

Strawbridge has many works in the repertory of Pilobolus Dance Theatre. His designs have been seen on Broadway, off-Broadway and at most major regional theatres and opera houses across the country. Internationally, he has designed the lighting for major premieres in Bergen, Copenhagen, the Hague, Hong Kong, Linz, Lisbon, Munich, Naples, Sao Paulo, Stockholm and Vienna. He has been recognized with numerous awards and nominations including the American Theatre Wing, Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle, Connecticut Critics Circle, Dallas-Fort Worth Theatre Critics Forum, Helen Hayes, Henry Hewes Design and Lucille Lortel. He is Co-Chair of the design department at the Yale School of Drama and resident Lighting Designer for the Yale Repertory Theatre.

## Paula Salhany (Video)

Salhany is a filmmaker and editor that first worked with Pilobolus, OK Go and Trish Sie on the music video All is Not Lost, which, in 2012 was nominated for a Grammy® award and won five Cannes Golden Lions awards. She has worked on many dance film projects as well as editing, shooting and co-producing the most recent OK Go video, Skyscrapers with Trish Sie.