

LIMÓN

JOSÉ LIMÓN DANCE FOUNDATION NEWS

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Upcoming Performances

February 9-10, 2010

Performances in Celebration of Anna Sokolow's Centennial

8:00pm Performance at Baryshnikov Arts Center
Program features Anna Sokolow's *Rooms* and José Limón's *There is a Time* with live music in collaboration with the Manhattan School of Music.

[Purchase Tickets Here](#)

February 24, 2010

7:00pm Studio Showing at Adelphi University, Garden City, NY

José Limón's *There is a Time*

March 2010

Limón4Kids Arts and Education program

[For more information, click here](#)

March 5-7, 2010

March 5 and 6 at 8:00pm, March 7 at 3:00pm

92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Center, New York City

Tribute Program to honor some of the legendary choreographers who had an association with both the 92nd Street Y and José Limón

[Purchase Tickets Here](#)

March 28-30, 2010

Italy

March 28: San Marino; Cinema Teatro Nuovo

[For more information, click here](#)

March 30: Trento; Teatro Sociale di Trento

[For more information, click here](#)

April 22-May 6, 2010

STEPS #12 International Dance Festival, Switzerland

April 23 and 24: Zurich; April 27: Lugano; April 29: Baden; May 1: Bern;

May 4: Biel; May 6: Monthley

This engagement is supported by Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation through USArtists International in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

[For more information, click here](#)

May 17, 2010

7:00pm José Limón Dance Foundation Gala Performance

Skirball Center for the Performing Arts, New York City

[Purchase Tickets Here](#)

May, 2010

Mexico Tour- Mexico City, Cuernavaca, Puebla



Photo by Luzian Schlatter

Aaron Wu of the National Center for the Performing Arts shares his impressions of the Company's performances in Beijing.

The Limón Dance Company performed at the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) in Beijing, China on December 3-6, 2009. This was the Company's first tour to mainland China, and included two different programs with live music by the Central Conservatory of Music's EOS Orchestra Academy. Aaron Wu from the programming department at the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA) generously shared his impressions of the Limón Dance Company's performances in Beijing.



Artistic Director Carla Maxwell and Aaron Wu of the NCPA programming department in a press conference at NCPA.

Having the Limón Dance Company here at the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA) was such a wonderful experience! From both an arts presenter's and a dance devotees perspective. The Beijing premiere fully met all the initial expectations of NCPA for this engagement. Last year, NCPA invited the Martha Graham Dance Company to Beijing to put on four performances as part of their mainland China premiere. Who should be the next major modern dance company to follow in their footsteps? The answer seemed simple: It should be the Limón Dance Company, because of its legacy and reputation and especially, the activity in creation.

NCPA is glad to find that this Beijing Tour was to be held at the perfect time as the company was having a world tour in honor of the centennial celebration of José Limón's birth. NCPA was also able to host American Ballet Theatre as a performing company this season. These two American dance companies would definitely be an amazing and meaningful pair! Later it also turned out that this year is also the 30th anniversary of the formal establishment of Sino-American diplomatic relation! What a great coincidence!

Two thematic programs were designed for NCPA by the Limón Dance Company. A short documentary of José Limón's life was also contributed by the Limón Foundation especially for NCPA, which was played before each performance ([Click here to see the 8 minute clip](#)). Artistic Director Carla Maxwell's informative, yet poetic introduction speech and post-performance question and answer sessions, helped educate Chinese audiences about José Limón, a true icon of 20th century American modern art. The four beautiful performances, accompanied by live music, exposed audiences to Limón's innovative movement vocabulary and gave them a deep and meaningful insight into the great variety of culture present in America. The collaboration between NCPA and the Limón Dance Company was a great success and an unforgettable experience for audiences and myself as an arts presenter. We certainly hope to welcome the Company back to China in the near future!

Company Member Kathryn Alter describes dancing with the locals in Beijing

After one more great breakfast, Julia and I met in the lobby of the Regent Beijing at 7:15am. The purpose of this early morning sojourn was to visit the Temple of Heaven Park, which, in the early morning, is a regular meeting place for daily Tai Chi and various other physical regimens and expressions.



Click on the image to see a video of Kathryn and Julia's trip to the Temple of Heaven Park.

When we arrived at 7:30, the park was already bustling. Past a metal fence dividing our walkway from the next, we saw a man and three women dancing. They had a boom box on a blanket set up in front of them. Their bags and purses were thrown over the rungs of the fence. They practiced a sequence of movement for the duration of a song or two and then started a new pattern. The man occasionally shouted out directions or repeated a tricky part.

After a few minutes of watching and unconsciously bobbing to the beats of the music, we decided to see if we could join in. It wasn't until I got into the sequence and was able to raise my eyes from the leader's feet that I realized what a beautiful thing surrounded me. More and more people were joining in, and the only energy I felt was the pure enjoyment of moving. We were visitors, but we were completely welcome.

What a powerful experience of group consciousness! There was a leader, but he was more like an instigator. In some moments people would be leading; in the next they might be following. This was not unlike the best moments of my experience as a dancer in the Limón Company. We have shared sacred times when everyone is fulfilling their personal potential, but also supported each other. Here, in the park, this consciousness was inevitable.

After a while, our group started working on a big circle dance. I smiled because the night before I had been on stage in *Missa Brevis* in this same circle. What an example of the universal themes in José Limón's work! We got to practice counting to eight in Chinese. The circles broke apart and people started forming couples. We stood to the side and watched. A few moments later a woman came and grabbed my hands and pulled me into the dance. As she attempted to count to eight in English, I was in awe at her openness and generosity.

We eventually left this group to visit the Temple. As we got closer to the entrance of the temple we finally came across a large group doing Tai Chi. Time was suspended and everyone was surrounded in a cloak of grace. As an artist who dances and uses physical expression as a way to share ideas, this whole morning was an affirmation of the power and universality of non-verbal communication.

Roxane D'Orléans Juste reflects on the impact of live music for *There is a Time*.



The Limón Dance Company in rehearsal for *There is a Time*.

At the inception of the wonderful opportunity to teach and direct *There is a Time* for the company, I always hoped that the dancers would have the chance to perform it with live music. In these tenuous economical times, dreams of working with orchestras for such ambitious scores do not always come true. This time the dream came true.

To commemorate the centenary of José Limón's birth, and as part of our tour to mainland China, we were honored to perform to live music for most of our repertory, including Norman Dello Joio's rhapsodic score "Meditations on Ecclesiastes" for *There is a Time*. Led by Music Director David LaMarche, the young musicians and teachers from the EOS Orchestra lifted the dancers through the ebb and flows of this magnificent orchestral work. Having the unique opportunity to work side by side with such talented artists was a great honor for each one of us.

José Limón's deep love for music asks for his dances to be performed at such a level of care and sensitivity. *There is a Time* took flight as the first note rose from the suspended silence. The dancers danced with abandon as I sat moved to tears. Movement lives in time and space, and the interpretation of the concertmaster and support of the string orchestra simply embraced each nuance of the dance. David's passionate direction and deep understanding of the delicate relationship between making palpable the dancers physical experience and the spiritual journey, simply brought all doubt to keen clarity. Intention, breath, weight, resistance, falling, recovering, every affirmative statement in its most intimate source, made sense.

This unique experience will remain alive in our sensorial memory for a lifetime. *There is a Time* never came to an end, it is still suspended between two worlds, travelling through continents and etched in our bodies and minds.



The Limón Dance Company and crew at the last performance at NCPA.

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