

KANOPIY DANCE

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Experience the Power and Expression of Exquisite Physical Movement

*In Kanopy's **Dance Journeys***

April 27-30, 2023

At the Overture Center of the Arts

*Colin Connor, Award -Winning Choreographer and former Artistic Director of the
of the legendary Limón Dance Company Guest Directs
Two of his critically Acclaimed Works: "Recent Arrivals" and "The Weather in the Room"*

April 4, 2023, Madison, WI... Kanopy Dance opens **Dance Journeys** with celebrated guest director, Colin Connor (Connor), April 27-30, 2023 at the Overture Center for the Arts. Connor, an internationally renowned dancer, award-winning choreographer, and former artistic director of the Limón Dance Company--- that is recognized among the world's greatest-- will direct two of his critically acclaimed works: "Recent Arrivals" and "The Weather in the Room" for Kanopy's production of **Dance Journeys**. Connor describes his work as: "rooted in the mystery of how we live in our physical beings. It is an ongoing investigation of perception, both of dancers and audience, and based on how, in the end, all human experience is felt through the senses."

Connor's work celebrates the power and physicality of movement and invites dancers to participate in evolving the creative narrative. Connor's work celebrates the power and physicality of movement and invites dancers to participate in evolving the creative narrative His choreography combines select techniques of classical dance forms with the expressive power of modern dance. Critic Jennifer Dunham, writing for the New York Times, praised the clarity of intention in every movement of Connor's riveting choreography as "a relief ... to see movement treated as a sufficiently expressive medium."

Describing his iconic "Recent Arrivals", a tribute to "pioneers" who leave behind familiar ground and embrace the challenges of uncertain trajectories in a "new world", will feature eight Kanopy Company dancers, Connor observed:

*"Recent Arrivals" is a beautiful and poignant reminder of the American immigrant story that links us all. It has been set on both ballet companies and modern ensembles. The work is for eight dancers and performed to a sound score and the first movement of Schubert's **Unfinished Symphony**... an homage to those who have had the courage to leave behind their homeland and everything they know to face an unknown future. If we each look back at our ancestors, we will find someone who has made such sacrifices with hope to bring a better life for generations to come."*

In his cross-generational, "The Weather in the Room", Connor choreographs humanity and in his words: "unveils the strength and fragility of a long-term relationship" and the shifting emotional landscape that surrounds an older couple, to be danced by Kanopy's co-artistic directors: Robert E. Cleary and Lisa Thurrell. Six younger Kanopy Company dancers will illuminate and magnify the charged "weather" of the couple's evolving bond. Expect a stunning and synergistic performance with both generations of dancers drawing dynamic strength and artistry from each other.

Kanopy's Dance Journeys

Performing at Overture's Promenade Hall, Reception open to all ticket holders following Friday Night Performance.

Thursday, Apr 27, 7PM: Friday, April 28, 7:30 PM; Saturday, April 29, 5 & 8PM, Sunday, April 30, 1 & 4PM. Tickets (reserved seating): \$40, Groups: 4 or more \$35; Ages 18 & under \$20; Students \$20 (608) 258-4141 <https://www.overture.org/>

Dance Journeys Program

The Weather in the Room

Choreography: Colin Connor

Music: Sarah Shugarman

Lighting Design: Brad Toberman

Costume and Set Design: Colin Connor and Krista Downson

Dancers: Robert Cleary, Lisa Thurrell and Miye Bishop, Joshua Brumm, Stormy Gaylord, Edward Salas, Katie Sovik, Alex Trofka, understudies Carolyn Fitzgibbons, Kendyll Hazzard

The shifting dynamics of love with a mature couple and the six younger dancers who bring the changing weather of that relationship to life. (Premiered 2015)

Intermission

Partita and Chorales

Choreographer: Lisa Thurrell

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach, "Partita in D minor for Violin", and "Chorales for Four Voices". "Morimur" research by Helga Thoene, arranged by Christopher Poppen and the Hilliard Ensemble.

Lighting Design: Brad Toberman

Costume Design: Amy Panganiban

Dancers (Casting Varies): Miye Bishop, Carolyn Fitzgibbons, Stormy Gaylord, Kendyll Hazzard, Hannah King, Edward Salas, Katie Sovik, Alex Trofka, alternate Joshua Brumm

Inspired by the profound beauty of the music, the intricate theme and variation, hidden numerology and codes as an epitaph for Bach's first wife, created from a singular voice line trailing to another. It is not a work that tells a story but rather has shadows of human experience wrapped into the design. (Premiered 2002, Reimagined 2022)

Intermission

Recent Arrivals

Choreography: Colin Connor

Music: Franz Schubert, "Unfinished Symphony: 2nd Movement"

Lighting Design: Brad Toberman

Costumes: Eileen Stoops, Kanopy

Dancers (Casting Varies) Joshua Brumm, Miye Bishop, Carolyn Fitzgibbons, Stormy Gaylord, Kendyll Hazzard, Hannah King, Edward Salas, Katie Sovik, Alex Trofka

"Recent Arrivals" is a homage to those who have had the courage to leave their homeland, and everything they know, to face an unknown future. If we each look back at our ancestors, we will find someone who has made such sacrifices with hope to bring a better life for generations to come.

"Colin Connor's Recent Arrivals made a particularly strong impression... They could have been immigrants eagerly awaiting life in a new country or exiles forever barred from their homeland". Jack Anderson, The New York Times (Premiered 2002)

About Colin Connor

*As the former artistic director of the world-renowned **Limón Dance Company**, Colin Connor created moving evenings with charged dialogue between classics brought to vibrant life. Born in London, England, Connor began dancing in Canada and was a soloist with the Limón Dance Company for eight years. Connor's award-winning choreographic commissions span the worlds of contemporary, ballet and flamenco companies, and have been presented at venues across the Americas and Europe. As an educator, Connor has served on the faculties of The Juilliard School, NYU and at the California Institute of the Arts where he is currently Professor Emeritus.*

About Kanopy Dance

Kanopy Dance is a quintessential modern dance company. While the company "informs" its works through its roots in the Martha Graham tradition, Kanopy has cultivated its own brand, working to forward a new dimension and visual language to advance American dance. Kanopy's artistic directors, Robert E. Cleary, (former principal dancer for Ballet Minnesota and Minnesota Dance Theater) and Lisa Thurrell, (former dancer with the Martha Graham Dance Company, NYC), not only strive to preserve the best of Graham; but also, to cultivate the dynamic growth of American dance by training professional dancers, choreographing new works and collaborating with artists to establish new creative benchmarks. Kanopy is comprised of Kanopy Dance Company, Kanopy 2, (Kanopy's second company and pre-professional training program), and the Kanopy Dance Academy housed at the new Kanopy Center for Modern and Contemporary Dance. Kanopy is a resident company of Overture Center for the Arts. Please visit us at <https://kanopydance.org/>