

LAR LUBOVITCH DANCE COMPANY

presents

Histoire du Soldat and *Crisis Variations*

February 10–12, 2012, at Manhattan Movement & Arts Center (MMAC)

New York, NY, January 13, 2012 – **Lar Lubovitch**, **Ransom Wilson**, and **Le Train Bleu** bring their critically acclaimed production of Stravinsky's *Histoire du Soldat* to Manhattan Music and Arts Center, Feb 10–12, 2012. The program also features Lubovitch's most recent work, *Crisis Variations*, set to a commissioned score by **Yevgeniy Sharlat**. All music will be performed live by **Le Train Bleu**, under the direction of conductor **Ransom Wilson**.

Lar Lubovitch and Le Train Bleu's production of *Histoire du Soldat* had its one-night-only premiere at Brooklyn's Galapagos Art Space in March 2011 and received critical acclaim for its compelling theatricality, storytelling, and musical interpretation. Created "to be read, played, and danced," the work, based on a Russian folk tale, is by Swiss writer C.F. Ramuz, set to music by Stravinsky. Performed by three dancers, three actors, and seven musicians, *Histoire du Soldat* tells the story of a soldier who trades his fiddle to the devil for a book that predicts the future. The cast includes Lubovitch dancers **Reid Bartelme** as the Soldier, **Attila Joey Csiki** as the Devil, and **Nicole Corea** as the Princess, special guest artist **Marni Nixon** as the Narrator, actors **Corey Dargel** as the Soldier, and **Reed Armstrong** as the Devil, and seven musicians.

In *Crisis Variations*, Lubovitch challenges his signature approach to interpreting musical scores, creating space for an accidental relationship of music and dance, and what he calls action painting of the sensations evoked by the word 'crisis'. The dance is performed by seven dancers and five musicians. The cast includes Lubovitch dancers **Katarzyna Skarpetowksa** and **Brian McGinnis**, with **Nicole Corea**, **Attila Joey Csiki**, **Reed Luplau**, **Jason McDole**, and **Laura Rutledge**. *Crisis Variations* premiered in November 2011 at the Baryshnikov Arts Center.

Performances will take place Friday, February 10, at 8:00pm; Saturday, February 11, at 8:00pm; and Sunday, February 12, at 7:00pm. Tickets range from \$15 to \$45 and can be purchased through MMAC at 212-787-1178, or online at www.manhattanmovement.com/event/LAR. MMAC is located at 248 West 60th Street, between Amsterdam and West End Avenues (aka 10th and 11th Avenues) in New York City. On Opening Night (February 10), there will be a champagne celebration on stage with the artists after the performance. Tickets for the celebration can be purchased online at www.nycharities.org/events/EventLevels.aspx?ETID=4636.

The **Lar Lubovitch Dance Company** was founded in 1968. Over the past 44 years, the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company has gained an international reputation as one of the world's foremost dance companies. Celebrated for both its choreographic excellence and its unsurpassed dancing, the company has created more than 100

new dances and performed before millions throughout the United States and in more than 30 other countries. **Lar Lubovitch** is one of America's most versatile, popular, and widely seen choreographers. His dances have also been performed by many other major companies in addition to his own. His dances on film include *Othello* (broadcast throughout the U.S. on PBS's "Great Performances" and nominated for an Emmy Award), *Fandango* (winner of an International Emmy Award), and *My Funny Valentine* for the Robert Altman film *The Company* (for which Lubovitch was nominated for an American Choreography Award). Lubovitch has also made a notable contribution to choreography in the field of ice-dancing, having created concert dances for Olympic skaters John Curry, Dorothy Hamill, Peggy Fleming, Brian Orser, JoJo Starbuck, and Paul Wylie, as well as two one-hour ice-dances for television: *The Sleeping Beauty* (PBS) and *The Planets* (A&E) (nominated for an International Emmy Award, a Cable Ace Award, and a Grammy Award). His work on Broadway includes *Into the Woods* (Tony Award nomination), *The Red Shoes* (Astaire Award), and the Tony Award-winning revival of *The King and I*. In 2007 he co-founded the Chicago Dancing Festival with former company dancer Jay Franke. The Festival is a series of performances and lectures by major American dance companies that takes place every August at the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Harris Theater, the Auditorium Theatre, and Chicago's Millennium Park. The Chicago Dancing Festival reaches approximately 12,000 audience members annually and showcases some of the country's best dance companies completely free to the public. In 2007, Lubovitch was named "Chicagoan of the Year" by the *Chicago Tribune*, and in 2008, Lubovitch and Franke were named by *Chicago Magazine* as "Chicagoans of the Year" for their efforts with the festival. Last month, Lubovitch was named a Ford Fellow by United States Artists, and earlier in the year he received the Dance/USA Honors, the dance field's highest award.

Conductor **Ransom Wilson** has long been recognized as one of the foremost flutists in the world, and is receiving growing praise for his orchestral conducting as well. He is the founder and conductor of Solisti New York Orchestra, as well as the former artistic director of Oklahoma's OK MOZART International Festival. He has been guest conductor of many prestigious ensembles, including the London Symphony Orchestra, Houston Symphony, Hallé Orchestra, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and the New York City Opera. He is currently a member of the music staff at the Metropolitan Opera.

Le Train Bleu is a new musical collective formed by conductor and flutist Ransom Wilson. The musicians are among the most exciting young players in New York, and are chosen for their brilliance as well as their expressive qualities. Recently named a resident ensemble of the Galapagos Art Space, the group plans to present performances of new and interesting music. *The New York Times* said of its recent debut performance: "Under Mr. Wilson's baton, the Train Bleu ensemble was both incisive and joyous in execution." In the 2011-12 season, the ensemble will have a four-concert series at the Galapagos Art Space. The ensemble collaborated with the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company in a two-week season at the Baryshnikov Arts Center in fall 2011. In September 2011, Le Train Bleu began a 15-month creative residency at the Park Avenue Armory, along with star soprano Lauren Flanigan.

Marni Nixon (Narrator, *Histoire du Soldat*) is an American soprano famous for her key roles in iconic movie musicals, as well as for her concerts with major symphony orchestras around the world and her work on

Broadway. Among her movie credits are singing the roles of Marilyn Monroe in *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, Deborah Kerr in *The King & I*, Natalie Wood in *West Side Story*, and Audrey Hepburn in *My Fair Lady*.

Yevgeniy Sharlat (composer, *Crisis Variations*) has composed music for orchestra, chamber ensembles, solo, theater, ballet, and film. His recent composition, "Piano Quartet," was hailed as "one of the most compelling works to enter the chamber music literature in some time" by the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. He was the recipient of the 2006 Charles Ives Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Other honors include a commission from the Fromm Music Foundation; awards from ASCAP (Morton Gould), Boosey & Hawkes, Leiber & Stoller, and Yale University (Rena Greenwald); and fellowships from MacDowell and Yaddo. His music has been played by such ensembles as Kremerata Baltica, the Seattle Symphony, the Hartford Symphony, Seattle Chamber Players, and Chamber Orchestra Kremlin, among others. Some of his recent commissions came from Gilmore Keyboard Festival, Seattle Chamber Players, Astral Artistic Services, and LA Piano Duo. Sharlat was born in Moscow in 1977. He majored in violin, piano, and music theory at the Academy of Moscow Conservatory. After immigrating to the United States in 1994, he studied composition at the Juilliard Pre-College, Curtis Institute of Music (BM) and Yale University (MM, DMA). He is an assistant professor at the University of Texas at Austin, where he teaches composition and music theory.

The Lar Lubovitch Dance Company is supported, in part, by public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. The company also acknowledges the generous support of the Open Society Foundation's Performing Arts Recovery Initiative (administered by the Fund for the City of New York), O'Donnell-Green Music and Dance Foundation, McMullan Family Fund, Shubert Foundation, Jerome Robbins Foundation, A. Woodner Fund, and Harkness Foundation for Dance. This production of *Histoire du Soldat* was co-commissioned in part by Maxine Pollak. For more information about the company, please visit www.lubovitch.org.

Additional Event:

The Lar Lubovitch Dance Company will also perform as part of the Harkness Dance Festival: Stripped/Dressed at the 92nd Street Y, February 17–19, 2012. Each evening Lubovitch will be joined by an eminent dance writer in a discussion about his creative process. Informal presentations from several works will illuminate the discussion. Following the discussion, the company will also perform *The Legend of Ten*, Lubovitch's master work from 2010 set to Johannes Brahms' Quintet for Piano and Strings. In 1968, Lar Lubovitch gave his very first dance concert at the 92nd Street Y. While the company has offered audiences around the country many opportunities to learn more about contemporary dance, it has rarely offered this particular kind of casual and intimate experience in New York City. The 92nd Street Y is located at 1395 Lexington Avenue in New York City. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased through the 92nd Street Y at 212-415-5500, or online at www.92Y.org/harknessfestival.

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Press kits and digital images are available on request.

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LAR LUBOVITCH STRIPS A LEGEND AT 92Y HARKNESS DANCE FESTIVAL

***A Chance to “See the
Motivation of the
Dance”***

NEW YORK, NY: January 12—This year’s Festival curator, choreographer Doug Varone (a former dancer with Lar Lubovitch, who opens the festival) invited each artist to present a Stripped/Dressed evening. In the first half – “Stripped” – the artists show the skeleton and seeds of the full work, stripped of theatrical devices, as one might see it in a studio rehearsal. Then they present the work “Dressed” with costumes and lights in a more theatrical setting.

For Lubovitch, the Stripped part of the program gives the audience a chance to “see the motivation of the dance, rather than just taking it at face value;” they also get to see how conversation and sharing ideas are integral parts of dance-making. “People think dancers just dance all the time,” he says. “But as you’re creating a dance, there’s much more speaking than dancing.” For his “Stripped” presentation, Lubovitch plans to welcome dance writers and former dancers to talk with him about his creative process. Anna Kisselgoff, formerly Chief Dance Critic of *The New York Times*, will join Lubovitch for the initial conversation on February 17th.

For the 92Y Festival, Lubovitch has chosen *The Legend of Ten*, a dance he considers one of his most successful and a work that shows off his entire company. “Dance is the main subject of my dances,” Lubovitch says. “I pretty much stick to my guns that it’s not about the scenery or costumes.” The primacy of movement makes sense for someone whose choreography is lush and flowing, and who is inspired by music with an “urgency for movement.” *The Legend of Ten*, which premiered in 2010, is set to the first and fourth movements of Brahms’ Quintet in F Minor. The “Legend” refers not to a mythic story, but to the legend at the bottom of a map that explains the symbols used. The dance, Lubovitch says, is a “sort of map of the music, the story of the music told by ten dancers.” For the Stripped portion of the evening, his dancers will show excerpts not only from *The Legend of Ten* but also from other recent dances that share a connection.

Lar Lubovitch gave his very first dance concert back in 1968, at 92nd Street Y. In the 44 years since, he and his company have travelled all over the world and given thousands of performances; Lubovitch is one of the master choreographers of contemporary dance. While his company has offered audiences around the country many opportunities to learn more about contemporary dance, they have rarely offered this particular kind of casual and intimate experience in New York City. Lubovitch thinks it’s an appealing idea. “Wouldn’t everyone want to know more about dance?” he says.

ABOUT LAR LUBOVITCH

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The Lar Lubovitch Dance Company is also presenting two other acclaimed works, February 10–12, 2012, at Manhattan Movement & Arts Center (MMAC). The program will feature *Histoire du Soldat* and Lubovitch's most recent work, *Crisis Variations*, both performed to live music played by the ensemble Le Train Bleu, under the direction of conductor Ransom Wilson. Performances will take place Friday, February 10 at 8:00pm; Saturday, February 11 at 8:00pm; and Sunday, February 12 at 7:00pm. Tickets range from \$15 to \$45 and can be purchased through MMAC at 212.787.1178, or online at www.manhattanmovement.com/event/LAR. MMAC is located at 248 West 60th Street, between Amsterdam and West End Avenues (aka 10th and 11th Avenues) in New York City.

WHAT: 92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Festival: Stripped/Dressed
Week One: Lar Lubovitch Dance Company

WHEN: Fri, Feb 17 & Sat, Feb 18 at 8 pm; Sun, Feb 19 at 3 pm

WHERE: 92nd Street Y, 1395 Lexington Ave, New York, NY, 10128

TICKETS: \$15 at www.92Y.org/harknessfestival or 212.415.5500.

Press Information: Sarah Morton at smorton@92Y.org or 212.415.5435

Upcoming performances at 92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Festival:

WEEK TWO

PEGGY BAKER DANCE PROJECTS: COALESCE

Fri, Feb 24 & Sat, Feb 25 at 8 pm; Sun, Feb 26 at 3 pm

WEEK THREE

DOUG ELKINS CHOREOGRAPHY, ETC.: *MO(OR)TOWN REDUX*

Fri, Mar 2 & Sat, Mar 3 at 8 pm; Sun, Mar 4 at 3 pm

WEEK FOUR

MONICA BILL BARNES & COMPANY: *SUDDENLY SUMMER SOMEWHERE*

Fri, Mar 9 & Sat, Mar 10 at 8 pm; Sun, Mar 11 at 3 pm

WEEK FIVE

SUSAN MARSHALL & COMPANY: *SAWDUST PALACE*

Fri, Mar 16 & Sat, Mar 17 at 8 pm; Sun, Mar 18 at 3 pm

About 92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Center

In 1935, what became 92nd Street Y's Harkness Dance Center provided a home to the fledgling American modern dance movement and its leader, Martha Graham. In the decades that followed, every great American dancer and choreographer – visionaries including Alvin Ailey, Merce Cunningham, Jerome Robbins, Agnes de Mille, Robert Joffrey and Donald McKayle – spent time at the Y, building the foundation for modern dance as we know it. Through the generous support of the Harkness Foundation for Dance, the Dance Center continues this proud tradition of dance teaching, creation and performance, serving the professional world and the community at large. Technique classes range from ballet and modern dance to hip-hop and Flamenco. Rounding out the program are several performance programs including the annual 92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Festival; a professional development program for dance educators; and several teen dance troupes. For more information, please visit www.92Y.org/dance.

About 92nd Street Y

92nd Street Y is a world-class nonprofit community and cultural center that connects people at every stage of life to the worlds of education, the arts, health and wellness, and Jewish life. Through the breadth and depth of 92Y's extraordinary programs, we enrich lives, create community and elevate humanity. More than 300,000 people a year visit 92Y's New York City venues, and millions more join us through the Internet, satellite broadcasts and other digital media. A proudly Jewish organization since its founding in 1874, 92Y embraces its heritage and enthusiastically welcomes people of all backgrounds and perspectives. 92Y is an open door to extraordinary worlds. For more information, visit www.92Y.org.