

Kenneth Walker Dance Project

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Kenneth Walker Dance Project just celebrated 10 years of presenting dance to the Los Angeles area. KWDP grew out of the former Ballet Pacifica, where Kenneth Walker, a dancer with Ballet Pacifica at the time, and a few of his colleagues created a show to perform at a festival. The success of this project spawned a collaboration that was brought home to the community in which Kenneth was born. Kenneth invites the thoughts and ideas of his dancers when creating new works and offers dancers the opportunity to find their own voice within the work. KWDP has a solid reputation for presenting performances, which meld collaboration between interesting music, talented dancers and innovative movement to create a meaningful artistic experience.

The company presents annual concerts and in 2008 KWDP successfully produced summer shows at two venues in Los Angeles, both in underserved communities. In 2012 company presented the contemporary ballet festival, "The Ballet Project". KWDP has appeared at festivals throughout LA, including the *Pasadena Dance Festival*, *Los Angeles Dance Invitational*, *Mix Match Festival*, *Palm Desert Choreography Under the Stars*, *Dance! Now* at the Miles Playhouse in Santa Monica, *MAD BAD Festival* in the San Francisco Bay Area, *AAPHERD* Southeast Conference in Virginia, *Central Coast Summerfest* in Monterey, California, *American Dance Guild's* annual showcase in New York, Golden West College Professional Dance Invitational, and twice at *Piccolo Spoleto Festival* in Charleston, SC.

Mr. Walker's choreography has been well received by audiences and respected dance artists alike. John Meehan former director of Hong Kong Ballet, described

Walker's *Savage Grace* as "...a fun piece, full of energy with some nice choreographic invention" and Alun Jones, former director of Louisville Ballet, called it "tremendous." *Pointe* magazine named KWDP's video collage of their ballet *Transient Memory* editor's choice for August 2008.

Nominated for a 2007 Lester Horton Award for Outstanding Performance by a Company, KWDP performs the ballets of Kenneth Walker exclusively to date and is based in the Los Angeles area. The company has been presented by El Camino College Center for the Arts and guest artists for Moorpark College dance department.

Artistic Director:

Kenneth Walker is Artistic Director of Kenneth Walker Dance Project (KWDP) and a 2007 Lester Horton Dance Awards Nominee for Outstanding Performance by a Company for its program, *Sheer Force of Will*. Mr. Walker is currently on the teaching staff at Lauridsen Ballet Center, the official school of South Bay Ballet, The Wooden Floor, and several other studios in the Los Angeles area. He has taught and coached everyone from professional ballet dancers to young students and even Latin Ballroom dancers. He is an adjunct professor CSU Dominguez Hills teaching ballet and dance appreciation. Additionally, he has taught at Oakland Ballet, Regional Dance America/Pacific, at schools in both Los Angeles and Chico, CA, and has taught Master Classes at Golden West and El Camino Colleges. Kenneth holds a B.A. from UCLA in World Arts and Cultures, and a MBA and MA in Arts Management from the Drucker School at Claremont Graduate University. He served as Secretary for the board of directors of the Dance Resource Center of Los Angeles and was head of the Horton Viewing Committee. Mr. Walker has studied in intensive workshops with William Forsythe, director of The Forsythe Company, Alonzo King, director of Lines Contemporary Ballet, and Donald Byrd.

A true California dance artist his early training was with Diane Lauridsen of South Bay Ballet and later Paul Maure, Charles and Phillip Fuller and Cynthia Young at the Pasadena Dance Theatre. His professional career began with the Sacramento Ballet under the direction of Ron Cunningham. Walker spent 3 years there and while under the direction of Cunningham, he began choreographing on the apprentices and later the company. Clark Mitzie of KXJZ hailed his *How broad be thy shoulders*, "...a fascinating work of several different levels. This was definitely a showpiece, not unlike those action thrillers popular in today's movie world." Kenneth also danced for California ballet companies Oakland Ballet and Ballet Pacifica. He has also worked with Los Angeles choreographers Francisco Martinez, Patrick Franz and Laurence Blake. Career highlights include performances in the works of Ron Cunningham, as well as those of Lisa de Ribere, George Balanchine, Lew Christensen, Willam Christensen, Molly Lynch, Bill Evans, Susan Hadley, David Allan, Jon Magnus, Jodie Gates, Patrick Franz, Ronn Guidi, Choo-San Goh, Jacques Heim, Antony Tudor, and Michel Fokine. He has also had the pleasure of working with Anne Marie De Angelo. Kenneth has also had the privilege of dancing for the Minnesota Ballet. He has performed on tour in Canada, Guatemala, El Salvador and throughout the Midwest.

Kenneth has created dances for the Sarasota Ballet of Florida, Sacramento Ballet, Chico Community Ballet, Southern California Dance Theatre, San Pedro City Ballet, South Bay Ballet, Petaluma City Ballet, Dance Peninsula, DanceCorps, Dance Peninsula Ballet, and Pasadena Dance Theater. His ballet *Angel's Lament* was performed at the 5th L.A. Dance Invitational. He is the recipient of the young choreographer's award from the Southern CA Dance Theatre, and was the youngest finalist ever to compete in the Sarasota Ballet of Florida International Choreography Competition. His second collaboration with Michael Roberts was performed by members of the National Ballet of Guatemala in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of that companies founding.

His third collaboration with Michael Roberts celebrated the twenty-year anniversary of Mr. Roberts' first album for the ballet class. His work has also been performed at the South Coast Dance Arts Alliance, Central Coast Summer Fest, Piccolo Spoleto, Los Angeles Dance Invitational, Palm Desert Under the Stars Choreography Festival, MixMatch Festival, "Dance! Santa Monica" festival, Sacramento Area Dance Alliance, Spectrum Dance in L.A., and in the Ballet Pacifica Conservatory summer intensives.

Artistic Team 2015-2016:

Choreography: Kenneth Walker

Lighting Design: Steve Ellis

Resident Costume Designer: Michael Pacciorini

Additional costuming by: Catherine Baumgardner and Nathan Ortiz

Dances Available for touring

A lil' Mozart

World and Company Premiere: Long Beach, CA 2011

Music: W.A. Mozart

Costumes: Michael Pacciorini



The Folly of Staring at the Sea

World Premiere: Long Beach, CA 2015

Music: The Pogues



The Things We Left Behind

World Premiere: Carson, CA 2013, Company Premiere: Torrance, CA 2014

Music: Arvo Pärt

Originally created for CSU, Dominguez Hills Dance Program

Hum

World and Company Premiere: Long Beach, CA 2012

Music: Meditations by Sebastian Escofet on themes by Debussy, Tan Dun, Stravinsky and Sounds of the Rainforest as remixed by Candice L. Davis



Rito Transcendente

World Premiere: Torrance, CA 2010, Company Premiere: Long Beach, CA 2015

Music: Silvestre Revueltas, remixed by Candice Davis

Originally created for South Bay Ballet. Reworked for KWDP in 2015.



Soft Ambient Pulse

World Premiere: Long Beach, CA 2013

Music: Ludwig Van Beethoven, Violin Sonata in A-major

Co-Produced: Robert Malone and Kena Raquel Rohi Custage

