

Outreach Options - Limón Dance Company



Local group performing in conjunction with Company:

Limón's choreography emphasizes the natural rhythms of fall and recovery, the use of breath, and weight. Many consider Limón to be the precursor of post-modern release work, and is an excellent experience for both modern dancers and ballet dancers. Options to consider:



California Institute of the Arts students performing "Missa Brevis" with Limón Dance Company

Option 1:

Incorporating local professional/advanced student dancers into *Missa Brevis*

For *Missa Brevis* residencies, Limón sends a teacher/reconstructor to audition and teach the roles of *Missa Brevis* to the selected dancers. After 2-3 weeks of rehearsal, the company joins the local dancers in rehearsal for an additional 2 weeks leading into the public performance. *Missa Brevis* is a 30-minute piece that the company performs alongside with other works in a program.

Option 2:

Licensing a Limón work to "set" on local students:

Available works range from large group pieces (*The Winged*, *A Choreographic Offering*, *There Is a Time*, among others) to solos, duets, and trios (*Chaconne*, *Concerto Grosso*, among others) and casting can be flexible in consideration for educational settings. A typical staging consists of 2 periods: a 4 to 5-week intensive staging residency with reconstructor, and, a return rehearsal period for the final tech rehearsals if there is significant time between initial staging residency and performance. Whenever possible, the reconstructor will teach Limón technique in conjunction with the staging.



Hartt School students perform an excerpt of Limón's "Psalm"

Limón4Kids



Limón dancers teaching Limón4Kids

The company regularly teaches young children through the Limón4Kids program which can be adapted for touring communities. Limón4Kids serves grades 2 through 12 and exposes children to experiencing dance as an art form through the culturally rooted works of Limón. Students gain knowledge of the Limón-Humphrey movement philosophy and have the opportunity to experience dance as a form of storytelling, dance composition, and some basic dance technique.

Local music groups or musicians to play score for a Limón performance

There are several works within the Limón repertory which can incorporate local musicians, ranging from solo pianists or cellists, to vocal ensembles to jazz musicians. Scores include compositions by Frédéric Chopin, Zoltán Kodály, Johann Sebastian Bach, and Gunter Schuller. Some examples:

There is a Time (Norman Dello Joio) string orchestra - at least 12 - 15 players

Orfeo (Ludwig von Beethoven) string quartet - needs at least 3 music rehearsals

Moor's Pavane (Henry Purcell) string quartet plus harpsichord and bass

Traitor (Gunter Schuller) scored for brass and percussion

Mazurkas (Frédéric Chopin) solo piano

Chaccone (Johann Sebastian Bach) solo violin

Missa Brevis (Zoltán Kodály) solo organist with choir



SJ Dance Co performing Limón's "Mazurkas" with local musician

Lecture/Demonstrations:

Limón lec/dems focus on both the Limón-Humphrey movement philosophy and how the work uses the body, characters, and drama to tell stories, express emotions, and convey timeless humanistic messages.

Based on José Limón's the Moor's Pavane: The company often uses its signature piece, *The Moor's Pavane* as an example (based on *Othello*), using the passing of Othello's handkerchief as a guide to follow the dramatic story and the various quality of movements per character and stage locations of bodies to convey the characters' personalities and interactions. This presentation illuminates the three main choreographic devices that Mr. Limón uses in creating his choreography – space, rhythm and gesture. With these simple tools,

Limón is able to create characters, put them in a specific environment, and shape the progression of a story. A full presentation of the *The Moor's Pavane* concludes the offering to the students. A question and answer session will follow the presentation.

Panel on Limón/Humphrey

Biography, history of Jose Limón and Doris Humphrey's movement techniques and their mentor/mentee relationship, plus the works they created together.



Lecture/Demonstration at Americas Society, NYC

