

Nimbus Dance in: ANIMA

Nimbus Dance

Samuel Pott, Founding Artistic Director

LeighAnn Curd, Rehearsal Director

Mika Greene, Associate Director, Nimbus2

Company Artists:

Katherine Acosta | CiCi Crosby | LeighAnn Curd

Henry Steele Dillon | Catherine Escueta

Libiya Gray | Emmett Higgins | Shayla Hutton

Brexdyn LaDieu | Gary McCall

Kaysha Smith-Davis | Audrey Lipson Yanes

ANIMA

Choreography: Samuel Pott

Music: Qasim Naqvi

Projections for Falling Sky: Laia Cabrera & Isabelle Duverger

Set for Dark Water: Nicola López

Lighting: Michael Lupino

Costumes: Mark Eric, Sam Meredith

Falling Sky

Henry Steele Dillon & Shayla Hutton

Katherine Acosta, CiCi Crosby, Libiya Gray,

Gary McCall, Brexdyn LaDieu, Audrey Lipson Yanes

Movement Installation: (Students from Morris Knolls Performing Arts Academy)

Isabella Acosta, Lucia Caramucci, Dakota Giacomaro, Madison Gramp, Gabriella Janezcko

Amanda Kovacs, Emma Maraguila, Jadyne Mayo, Madisyn Ness, Alex Reis

Paityn Ruff, Carla Segarra, Charlotte Tone, Zoe Zuchkowski

-Pause-

Patch of Turf

CiCi Crosby, LeighAnn Curd, Catherine Escueta, Shayla Hutton

-Pause-

Dark Water

Catherine Escueta, LeighAnn Curd, Brexdyn LaDieu

Katherine Acosta, Henry Steele Dillon,

Shayla Hutton, Gary McCall, Kaysha Smith-Davis,
Audrey Lipson Yanes

Falling Sky is made possible in Part by a grant from New Music USA and by commissioning funds from New Jersey Performing Arts Center. Dark Water was commissioned by the New Jersey Symphony and was supported by additional commissioning support from the O'Donnell-Green Music and Dance Foundation.

About Nimbus Dance

Nimbus Dance bridges the gap between world-class performance and community engagement by presenting work that challenges, speaks to, and elevates diverse audiences across the nation. Founded in 2005 by visionary Artistic Director Samuel Pott (former soloist with Martha Graham Dance Company), Nimbus stands at the forefront of excellence in the arts, civic engagement, and equitable impact. With a highly physical and visually engaging aesthetic, Nimbus' international company of dancers "split the difference between traditionalism and modernism... A Nimbus Dance piece can pivot from ballet to Broadway to Beyoncé in a few beats." (Tris McCall, Jersey City Times).

The company tours nationally impacting over 16,000 people annually; and maintains its home base in Jersey City, NJ, at the Nimbus Arts Center, a 14,500 sq ft venue which supports interdisciplinary arts, incubates diverse arts entities, and houses Nimbus' educational programs including the School of Nimbus. Recent collaborations include work with the Boston Symphony at Tanglewood, the New Jersey Symphony at NJPAC, the Gordon Parks Foundation in The New Tide by Dawn Marie Bazemore, and the Bar Harbor Music Festival at the Acadia Dance Festival, which Nimbus produces.

The organization's community engagement and education programs serve 6,500 youth in Jersey City and across the state. Nimbus' company dancers serve as faculty at the **School of Nimbus**, which offers dance classes for ages 2 through adults from the greater New York City area.

In September 2020, Nimbus relocated to a newly constructed, state-of-the-art center, the **Nimbus Arts Center** at the Lively, in the Powerhouse Arts District of Jersey City. In September 2025, Nimbus opened a new location in Summit, NJ.

Samuel Pott (he/him) founded Nimbus in 2005 in support of a vision for dance, creativity, and the arts as a stimulus for growth and unity, both personal and communal. Mr. Pott's work as a performer, choreographer, educator, and arts leader, is dedicated to the authentic, humanistic, and equitable engagement that emerges in individuals and in communities through deep exploration and learning in the dance and the arts.

Under his direction, the organization has toured nationally, built the Nimbus Arts Center at The Lively in Downtown Jersey City, developed the School of Nimbus which serves over 400 students onsite and many thousands in offsite community programs annually, and become the largest contemporary dance organization in the State of New Jersey. Mr. Pott's choreography has embodied the organization's endless fascination with exploration and engagement with important themes of the day, and collaboration with artists from many genres, among them: composers Daniel Bernard Roumain, Samson Young, Judd Greenstein, Aaron Parks, and Qasim Naqvi; visual artists Nicola Lopez, Bryant Small, Laia Cabrera/Isabelle Duverger, Theda Sandiford; and writers Alysia Souder and Rashad Wright. Pott maintains a multi-year artistic partnership with the New Jersey Symphony. Mr. Pott's 20+ original works for Nimbus are complemented by his commitment to support the work of diverse established and emerging choreographers through commissions, including: Dawn Marie Bazemore, Sofia Nappi, Darshan Singh Bhuller, Yoshito Sakuraba, Pedro Ruiz, Vernard Gilmore and Korhan Basaran.

As a performer, Mr. Pott danced as a soloist with the Martha Graham Dance Company, performing in iconic roles—the Husbandman in Appalachian Spring, Agamemnon in Clytemnestra, and Adam in Embattled Garden—and new choreographic works created by a range of leading contemporary choreographers including Larry Kegwin, Ann Bogart, Robert Wilson, and Lar Lubovitch. Prior to joining the Graham company, Mr. Pott performed as a lead dancer with American Repertory Ballet, Oakland Ballet, and Savage Jazz Dance Company, in a wide range of new and classical repertory. A recipient of Choreography Fellowships from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts in 2008, 2017, and 2023 and named a Distinguished Teaching Artist by the Council in 2012, Pott was one of 25 arts leaders nationally selected for the Association of Performing Arts and named a Distinguished Teaching Artist by the Council in 2012, Pott was one of 25 arts leaders nationally selected for the Association of Performing Arts Presenters' (APAP) inaugural Leadership Fellows Program, serves on the Dance Advisory Council for New Jersey Performing Arts Center and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee for ArtPride NJ, and is a co-founder of the Jersey City Arts Council. Performing Arts Center and is a co-founder of the Jersey City Arts Council.

Qasim Naqvi (Composer) is a drummer, composer, and member of the group Dawn of Midi. When he is not touring with DOM, he composes music for film, dance, theater, and chamber ensembles domestically and abroad.

His music has been performed/commissioned by The BBC Concert Orchestra, Jennifer Koh, yMusic, The Now Ensemble, The Loos Ensemble, The Erebus Ensemble, The Contemporary Music Ensemble of NYU, Crash Ensemble, Stargaze, The Helsinki Chamber Choir, TEN PEN CHii, Nimbus Dance Works, The Chicago Symphony Orchestra (MusicNOW Season), and others. He has been a featured composer at the Musica Nova Festival in Helsinki, the Spitalfields Festival in London, and the Rest is Noise Festival in Holland.

Qasim's soundtracks for film have appeared on HBO, NBC, PBS, The Sundance Channel, New York Times Op-Docs, VICE, at The Tribeca, Sundance, Toronto, Rotterdam, and London Film Festivals, at dOCUMENTA 13 and 14, The Guggenheim Museum, MOMA P.S. 1, IDFA, and

others. He has worked with such notable filmmakers as Laura Poitras, Mariam Ghani, Marc Levin, Naeem Mohaiemen, Prashant Bhargava, Erin Heidenreich, and Tanuj Chopra.

Laia Cabrera (Video Artist, Collaborator for Falling Sky) is an award-winning filmmaker, video artist, and multimedia creator working across immersive projection, interactive installations, and new cinema. Her practice blends traditional and experimental filmmaking with scenographic and dramaturgical design to build audience-centered environments that explore identity, perception, consciousness, and belonging. Her work has received multiple Telly Awards (including direction, animation, documentary, and art direction), along with additional nominations and international recognition, plus support from major grants and fellowships. Recent projects include Dream-e-scape, Shifting Gaze, The Now, Self on the Shelf, Qualia, You Matter to Me, and Perennial Land Immersive. She is artistic director and co-founder of LAIA CABRERA & CO.

Isabelle Duverger (Video Artist, Collaborator for Falling Sky) is a French painter and video and installation artist based in New York whose work spans painting, animation, public art, and immersive and interactive video environments. Rooted in observation and emotion, her practice investigates body language, pattern, and imaginary landscapes, often inviting audiences into responsive, large-scale experiences. She launched The Now, a landmark interactive public art installation in Times Square, and has developed internationally presented immersive projects such as Dream-e-scape, exploring lucid dreaming, and Perennial Land, centered on care and climate justice. Her work has appeared at prominent venues and festivals in the U.S. and abroad, including major performing arts and public art sites.

Nicola López's (Visual Artist, Collaborator for Dark Water) work in drawing, printmaking, site-specific installation, sculpture and video examines and reconfigures our contemporary landscape, pointing to deep connections and rifts between our human-constructed world and systems and cycles of nature. She engages architecture and urban structure as ever-accumulating evidence of human aspirations and failures, often contrasting and intertwining them with geological and organic formations. Her work draws on anthropology, architecture, urban planning and historical and fictional explorations of utopia/dystopia. It also leans heavily into material process, intentionally bringing joy, improvisation, and care into the work as it reflects on human patterns of extraction and construction.

López has participated in several residencies and received grants and fellowships including a Guggenheim Fellowship, a NYFA Fellowship in Drawing/Printmaking/Book Arts, a grant from the Joan Mitchell Foundation, and a Sovern/Columbia Affiliated Fellowship at the American Academy in Rome. Her work is held in numerous prominent institutional collections and has been exhibited throughout the United States and internationally, including at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, MoMA and the Guggenheim Museum in NY, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Museo Rufino Tamayo in Mexico City, the Denver Art Museum, Nevada Museum of Art, the Albuquerque Museum and the Inside-Out Museum in Beijing.

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Sam Meredith (Costume Design, Dark Water & Patch of Turf) began his dance career began at Dennis Nahat & Ian Horvath's School of Cleveland Ballet. After graduating from Bedford High School, he pursued his passion at Wright State University's Theatre Arts program in Dayton, Ohio. Sam danced with the Dayton Ballet, Dayton Ballet II, and the Dayton Contemporary Dance Co. II. With a BFA in Dance, Sam joined the Richmond Ballet in Virginia for several seasons. His journey continued in NYC, earning his Equity card in "Chicago" with Chet Walker. Sam then joined the Joffrey II Dancers, performing works by renowned choreographers like Gerald Arpino, Damian Woetzel, and Johann Renvall.

Sam's versatility shone as he ventured into musical theatre productions across the U.S. and Europe. Notable performances include "West Side Story" in Germany, "Carousel," and "Cinderella" with Phyllis Diller, featuring the Joffrey Dancers. His Broadway debut was in Matthew Bourne's TONY Award-winning "Swan Lake." Sam toured extensively with Adventures in Motion Pictures throughout Europe and the Middle East in "Swan Lake."

For 12 seasons, Sam graced the Metropolitan Opera Ballet, taking on soloist roles in productions like "Eugene Onegin" and "La Traviata." He joined Punchdrunk Theatre Company's NYC production of "Sleep No More" as King Duncan and continues periodic performances with both "Sleep No More" and the Metropolitan Opera.

Recently, Sam dazzled as Drosselmeyer in Cleveland Ballet's "The Nutcracker" at Playhouse Square. Beyond performing, he served as Ballet Master for the Joffrey Concert Group, delving into costume design for various institutions, including the Joffrey Ballet School, Oregon Ballet Theatre, Cleveland Ballet, and more. Sam's artistic journey continues to inspire and enrich the world of dance.

Mark Eric (Costume Design, Falling Sky) is a native of the San Francisco Bay Area and now resides in New York City, where he designs costumes and made-to-order creations. He trained as a fashion designer at the Fashion Institute of Technology, where he was recognized as the Critics' Choice among his graduating class. After years of designing in the New York City fashion industry, he discovered his passion for costuming and started his eponymous studio MARK ERIC design in 2017, where he focuses on designing and styling for the stage.

Mark Eric has designed costumes for a diverse roster of choreographers including: Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Amy Hall Garner, Sidra Bell, Darrell Grand Moultrie, Gustavo Remírez Sansano, Lauren Lovette, Andrew McNicol, Jamar Roberts, Robert Battle, Rennie Harris and Marguerite Donlon to name a few. He has costumed works for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theater, Houston Ballet, Paul Taylor Dance Company, BalletX, Ballet Hispánico, Ailey II, and the ABT Studio Company, among others.

Mark Eric's designs have been seen on stages around the world including the Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, New York City Center, Sadler's Wells, Tivoli Concert Hall, Auditorium Theater, Jubilee Auditorium, Zellerbach Hall, Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, Mahalia Jackson Theater, Joyce Theater, Jacobs Pillow Dance, Vail Dance Festival, Wilma Theater, and New York Live Arts, among others.

Nimbus Dance

Katherine Acosta (Sarasota, Florida) (she/her/hers) is a performing artist based in New York City. She began her classical training at The Sarasota Ballet School before attending Booker High School for the Visual and Performing Arts. She earned her BFA in Dance from Florida State University in 2022 and has trained with Alonzo King LINES Ballet, Jacob Jonas The Company, The Sarasota Contemporary Dance Company, and Ballet Hispánico. After graduation, Katherine apprenticed with Sarasota Contemporary Dance, performed with ATLAS Modern Ballet, and joined Nimbus2 in 2023. She is excited to be entering her third year with the company. Outside of performing, she is a certified group fitness instructor specializing in yoga and sculpt, teaching throughout Manhattan.

CiCi Crosby (Bedminster, NJ) (she/her/hers) a New Jersey native, graduated Montclair State University with a BFA in performance and choreography in May of 2021. In the same month, she choreographed and premiered her first dance film titled “The Killer Series.” This sparked an interest in dance film and photography for her as she released her second dance film “La Lucertola” in 2023 and her third, “Salema” in 2025. Crosby also hosted her first gallery for her dance photography titled “The Shapes of Girlhood” in 2024. With a wide range of knowledge in the fields of dance & gymnastics, as well as equal passion for performing, teaching, and choreographing, she has enjoyed the honor of sharing her versatility with the youth of the dance world. Crosby has now been teaching and choreographing for young dancers across New Jersey since 2019, as well as coaching competitive gymnastics in Brooklyn, New York since 2022. She has been awarded for her choreography in the styles of Contemporary, Jazz, Acro, Hip Hop, Lyrical, Pom, and Modern. Crosby danced as a Breaker for the New York Riptide Lacrosse team in 2022 & 2023. She continues to pursue her performance career in her second season with Nimbus Dance.

LeighAnn Curd (Orange County, NY) (she/her/hers) received her BFA from the Boston Conservatory on the Anamarie Sarazin Scholarship. While there, she was featured in new works created by Luis Fuenté, Gianni DiMarco, and Kathryn Posin, and had the privilege of performing classic works by dance legends like Antony Tudor and Martha Graham. She has performed as a guest principal in Tony Williams’ Ballet Rox and Urban Nutcracker, with Opera Boston, and has done freelance work with XT Danscollective. From 2012-2014, Ms. Curd had the opportunity to study and perform abroad in London, UK. LeighAnn is a founding member of the Brooklyn-based dance company Inclined Dance Project where she danced for 10 years and took on the role of Rehearsal Director during her final seasons with the company. In the Fall 2017, Ms. Curd joined Nimbus2 and was promoted to the main company in the Spring of 2018. During her time at Nimbus, she has had the pleasure of dancing lead roles in works choreographed by Artistic Director Samuel Pott, as well as works by Darshan Singh Bhuller, Dawn Marie Bazemore, Sofia Nappi and Kristen Klein. Ms. Curd is a Teaching Artist and the Director of the Pre-Professional Program and Nimbus Youth Ensemble at The School of Nimbus. She was the Costume Coordinator for the company from 2017-2023. In the Spring of 2024, she received the Nimbus Award for Service Through the Arts. This season marks LeighAnn’s ninth year with Nimbus Dance and her third year as Rehearsal Director for the company.

Henry Steele Dillon (Wollongong, NSW, Australia) (He/Him/His) Henry began his training as an elite gymnast for eight years, earning national gold medals three years in a row. During his final years in gymnastics, he began transitioning into dance. In 2012, Henry moved to the United States to attend Point Park University, where he graduated with honors in 2016 with a BFA in Modern

and Jazz Dance. While at Point Park, he performed works by renowned choreographers including Lar Lubovitch, Mark Morris, Madboots Dance, Roni Koresh, Jessica Hendricks, and many others. After graduation, Henry danced professionally with Owen/Cox Dance Group, Texture Contemporary Ballet, and toured internationally with The Bad Boys of Ballet. Most recently, he spent five years as a company member with Parsons Dance, where he notably performed the iconic solo Caught for several years and served as the company's Rehearsal Director. During his time with Parsons, he danced leading roles in works by Trey McIntyre, Robert Battle, and Matthew Neenan. Henry is currently a dancer with the Metropolitan Opera, as well as with other dance companies across the U.S. In addition to performing, he is an active choreographer and educator, sharing his artistry in diverse settings throughout North America and Australia. This is Henry's first season with Nimbus.

Catherine Escueta (Eatontown, NJ) (she/her/hers) began her dance training at the Academy of Dance Arts under the direction of Nick and Shayne Mishoe. She continued her studies at SUNY Purchase College, graduating summa cum laude with degrees in Dance Performance and Arts Management. While at Purchase, Catherine spent a semester studying abroad at the Korea National University of Arts in Seoul. She has worked with choreographers such as Rosalind Newman, Sung Hoon Kim, Autumn Eckman, Jenelle Figgins, and Roger C. Jeffrey. Catherine traveled to Guatemala with JUNTOS Collective in 2019 and continued to research dance as a transformative outreach tool with Rehabilitation Through the Arts (RTA). Additionally, she has worked as Costume Coordinator for the company for the past two years. This is her fourth season with Nimbus.

Libiya Gray (Memphis, TN) (she/her/hers) began her dance training at Collage Dance Collective under the direction of Kevin Thomas and Marcellus Harper. She continued her studies at SUNY Purchase graduating Magna cum laude with a degree in Dance Performance as Composition Concentration in 2025. While at Purchase she has performed works choreographed by Paul Taylor, Sean Curran, Kevin Wynn, Andrea Miller, Kimberly Bartosik, Michelle Ulerich-Thompson, Martha Graham (understudy) and Lamine Thiam. Libiya has choreographed four works in her time at Purchase and in Memphis. She performed at the Shed in 2024 in "Regeneration" by Cain Coleman and at the Judson Church for the Kevin Wynn Memorial Spring 2024. This is her first season with Nimbus.

Emmett Higgins (Orlando, FL) (he/him/his) is a dancer, choreographer, and performer currently based in Brooklyn, New York. He graduated with a BFA in Dance from Florida State University in the Spring of 2025. While at FSU, Emmett had the privilege of performing works by renowned choreographers including Peter Chu, Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, Dan Wagoner, Caleb Mitchell, and Kara Wilkes. His own choreographic works have also been featured in the university's Days of Dance concerts. Along with his collegiate experience, Emmett has trained with esteemed artists from Ballet BC, BODYTRAFFIC, and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, among others. While finishing his last semester of school, he served as a CompanyArtist with Pony Box Dance Theatre and performed works by Omar Román de Jesús and Jaime Carabetta during their residency at Vassar College. This is Emmett's first season with Nimbus.

Shayla Hutton (Kelowna, BC Canada) (she/her/hers) began her dance training at the age of four with The Canadian School of Ballet. After graduating high school, she moved to New York City to further her dance training at Joffrey Ballet School. There she was asked to join and perform with the Joffrey Ballet Concert Group under the direction of Davis Robertson. Ms. Hutton has frequently performed in cities across the United States and internationally in Italy and Canada. She has worked closely with ballet masters Stacy Caddell, Sam Meredith, Brian McSween, and

Nicole Duffy. Ms. Hutton has performed in original works created by choreographers Africa Guzman, Gabrielle Lamb, Roger C. Jeffrey, Gary Chryst, Julie Bour, Jean Emile, Tyler Gilstrap and Davis Robertson. She has also performed signature works by George Balanchine, Gerald Arpino and Donald Byrd. Ms. Hutton graduated from the Joffrey Ballet School in 2017 and is looking forward to her ninth season with Nimbus.

Brexdyn LaDieu (Suffolk,VA) (he/him/his) has been involved in dance since the age of six. Initially focusing on tap and later incorporating additional disciplines as his love for the art form grew more. He commenced his training in concert/modern dance at the age of 13, attending the Virginia Governor's School for Arts throughout his high school years. During the summers (2013-17) he trained with The Richmond Ballet and The Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory, where he was a Resident Advisor in 2017. At George Mason University, he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance (Class of 2021). He had the privilege and distinction of collaborating with a variety of artists, including Fiona Jopp, Hope Boykin, Micaela Taylor, and more. As well as performing pieces choreographed by Lar Lubovitch, Nacho Duato, Lucinda Childs, Andonis Fonidakis, and Rafael Bonachela while attending school. He was then a company member of Todd Rosenlieb Dance Company from 2021 to 2023, during which time he undertook a variety of roles, including ensemble to soloist. Continuing to share his love of dance and the arts, he joined Nimbus Dance Company in 2024 making this his second season!

Gary McCall (Des Moines, IA) (he/him/his) graduated with a B.F.A. in Dance from New York University Tisch in 2023. Born in Des Moines, Iowa, he grew up training in contemporary and jazz dance at his local studio, and has participated in numerous live theater productions. He has participated in several choreography residencies/showcases including "Digging In Group" at Green Space, Steps Beyond Foundation Choreography Lab, "Pilot" by Agora and "Studio to Stage" at Alpha Omega Theatrical Dance Company. His performance credits extend to works by Trisha Brown, Bill T. Jones, and Sidra Bell. This is Gary's third year with Nimbus.

Kaysha Smith-Davis (Chicago, IL) (she/her/hers) began her training at Rockford Dance Company, where she performed various roles. Kaysha received her Certificate of Dance at The Ailey School in 2020, and was a member of the Ailey Student Performance Group (ASPG). She then joined the inaugural cohort of Ballet Hispánico's Pa'lante Scholars program, under the direction of Rodney Hamilton, from 2021-2023. She has attended summer intensives at The Ailey School, Ballet Chicago and Milwaukee Ballet, and also received the Nuestro Futuro Scholarship to attend Ballet Hispánico's ChoreoLab in 2022/2023. Throughout her career she has been featured in works by Samuel Pott, Pedro Ruiz, Norbert De La Cruz, Darrell Moultrie, Dawn Marie Bazemore, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Michelle Manzanales, Gustavo Ramírez Sansano and Eduardo Vilaro. Kaysha has danced for companies such as Alison Cook Beatty Dance, Neville Dance Theater, Project TAG, Ballet Hispánico's second company BH dos, and Nimbus2. This is Kaysha's 3rd season dancing at Nimbus.

Audrey Lipson Yanes (Sussex County, NJ) (she/her/hers) began her dance training at The Ballet Barre under the guidance of Suzanne Sarlitt. At age 13, she continued her classical training at the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School of American Ballet Theatre, where she studied with Franco De Vita and performed ABT repertoire, including world premieres by Alexei Ratmansky. She went on to earn her BFA in Dance through The Ailey School and Fordham University, performing works by Pedro Ruiz, Natalie Lamonte, Brice Mousset, Joanna Kotze, and Phil Orsano. Following graduation, Audrey performed with DoubleTake Dance Company and at Roxey Ballet's River Dance Festival. She worked closely with Brice Mousset as his rehearsal assistant for the 2023 Alvin Ailey Summer Intensive and served as his class assistant at Peridance. She has performed in several dance films with Wilma Casal's Wolf and Swan Company. Audrey joined

Nimbus Dance in 2023, where she has performed works by Artistic Director Samuel Pott, Dawn Marie Bazemore, and Kristen Klein. That same year, she joined the School of Nimbus Faculty, teaching extensively in public and charter schools across Jersey City and New Jersey as well as at the School of Nimbus itself. Audrey was named the School of Nimbus' Teacher of the Year in June 2024. This is her third season with Nimbus.