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**Northrop Announces 2016//17 Dance Season**

***Eleven dance companies, six Northrop debuts, four large-scale ballets, and one theater/dance special mark a season celebrating international dance***

***New $30 Under 30 Program***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Minneapolis, MN (April 27, 2016) – [Northrop](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/) announces its 2016//17 dance season, featuring 11 renowned dance companies and three performances with live music. This season features six newcomers to the Northrop stage including Aszure Barton & Artists, Ballet de Lorraine, Bereishit Dance Company, Kidd Pivot/Electric Company Theatre, Malandain Ballet Biarritz, and Brian Brooks Moving Company. Returning favorites include Batsheva Dance Company, Eifman Ballet, Grupo Corpo, and more. Northrop Director Christine Tschida previews the season in this [video](http://youtu.be/GrfuhDPJPeA).

Brazilian fan-favorite [Grupo Corpo](http://www.grupocorpo.com.br/en) kicks off the season celebrating a whole wide world of dance on [October 1](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/events/grupo-corpo-0) with a performance including the gravity-defying [*Parabelo*](http://www.grupocorpo.com.br/en/pieces/parabelo)and the stunning[*Dança Sinfônica*](http://www.grupocorpo.com.br/en/pieces/danca-sinfonica)*,* a breathtaking homage to the group’s varied repertoire from the last 40 years.

On [October 20](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/events/canada-s-royal-winnipeg-ballet-0) [Canada’s Royal Winnipeg Ballet](http://www.rwb.org/) presents its full-length fantasy [*Dracula*](http://www.rwb.org/whats-on/show/dracula), just in time for Halloween. Choreographer Mark Godden’s frightfully entertaining adaptation of Bram Stoker’s quintessential Gothic tale will be set to the foreboding music of Gustav Mahler, played by a live orchestra.

Making her Twin Cities debut on [November 12](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/events/aszure-barton-artists), choreographer [Aszure Barton](http://www.aszurebarton.com/)—whom Mikhail Baryshnikov calls “one of the most innovative choreographers of this generation”—brings the powerful [*Awáa*](http://www.aszurebarton.com/photos/awaa/)*,* a work flooding “with emotion and rhythmic heart,” (*Washington Post*). The evening length performance manifests the sensuality, humor, and “whole-body expression” that have become trademarks of Barton and her company, resulting in a hauntingly beautiful meditation on the life-giving forces in humanity and nature.

Copresented with the Walker Art Center, audience favorite [Batsheva Dance Company](https://batsheva.co.il/en/home) and its 18 energetic dancers return to the Northrop stage [January 24](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/events/batsheva-dance-company) with the high-octane retrospective *Decadance 2017.* Spanning the 25+ years under Ohad Naharin’s artistic direction, *Decadance 2017* is packed with ten eccentric excerpts, showcasing the signature physicality, creativity, and precision for which this company is renowned.

Merce Cunningham, the revolutionary American choreographer who ranks among the foremost figures of artistic modernism, will be the subject of a large-scale Walker Art Center [exhibition in 2017](http://www.walkerart.org/calendar/2017/common-time). Northrop joins the Walker in celebrating the Cunningham legacy with two of his renowned dance works performed by France’s acclaimed [CCN-Ballet de Lorraine](http://ballet-de-lorraine.eu/en/) on [February 16](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/events/ballet-de-lorraine). The energetic company, which is also making its Northrop debut, will perform Cunningham’s personal favorite *Sounddance,* andhisdramatic *Fabrications.*

The new contemporary ballet *Devoted* by the young French choreographic duo Cecilia Bengolea and François Chaignaud complete with a score by [Philip Glass](http://www.philipglass.com/)*,* rounds out the evening.

Northrop welcomes [Bereishit Dance Company](https://bsd7.wordpress.com/) from Seoul, South Korea on [February 28](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/events/bereishit-dance-company). In a performance that melds the ancient musical heritage of traditional Korean drumming with the control and full-body excitement of break dancing, this young troupe of athletic dancers brings a fresh, invigorating power to the stage performing *Balance and Imbalance* and *BOW,* accompanied by live music on stage.

In the theatrical event of the season, Northrop is thrilled to welcome [Kidd Pivot/Electric Company Theatre](http://www.kiddpivot.org/works/betroffenheit/) to the Twin Cities in a two-night engagement [March 21-22](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/events/kidd-pivotelectric-company-theatre) with its emotionally-charged, heart-stopping theater/dance hybrid *Betroffenheit*. Through choreography by Crystal Pite, spoken word, elaborate costumes, make-up and special effects, the full-length drama tells the unforgettable story of actor Jonathon Young’s personal journey through heartbreaking devastation, depression, addiction, and recovery. Due to adult themes, this performance is recommended for ages 16 and up. Presented in cooperation with the University of Minnesota Department of Theatre Arts & Dance.

In its Minneapolis debut, France’s [Malandain Ballet Biarritz](http://malandainballet.com/en/) will perform the classic fairytale ballet [*La Belle et la Bête*](http://malandainballet.com/en/repertoire/la-belle-et-la-bete)on [March 25](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/events/malandain-ballet-biarritz)*.* In following with Jean Cocteau’s 1946 film version of“Beauty and the Beast,” this full-length performance presents a darker side to the beloved tale of mistaken appearances and the unending battle between good and bad forces.With ingenious stagecraft, elegant costumes, and a romantic score drawn from Tchaikovsky's symphonies, this unique version sweeps us toward an uplifting finale where goodness and love conquer fear and evil.

[Scottish Ballet](http://www.scottishballet.co.uk/) returns [April 8](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/events/scottish-ballet-0) with Matthew Bourne’s infectious and rampageous [*Highland Fling*](http://www.scottishballet.co.uk/highland-fling/highland-fling.html). Ina gritty and wry reworking of the classic romantic ballet [*La Sylphide*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_Sylphide), this story ballet follows the club-hopping, newlywed James as he becomes infatuated with a beguiling gothic fairy. On a journey through the mean streets of Glasgow, the Scottish Ballet’s great technique and finesse creates memorable characters and an unforgettable evening, complete with a live orchestra playing the classic score. Due to adult themes, this performance is recommended for ages 12 and up.

Named the up-and-coming “it” boy of contemporary American dance by the *Dallas Morning News*, [Brian Brooks](http://www.brianbrooksmovingcompany.com/) and his young company of energetic dancers make their Northrop debut on [April 22](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/events/brian-brooks-moving-company). Having carved his niche with a unique and minimalist style, Brooks brings audiences a compelling repertory program including the fast-paced and free-spirited *Torrent,* which will feature U of M dance students. Support for this presentation is provided by the [University of Minnesota Dance Program](https://theatre.umn.edu/dance) through the Sage Cowles Land Grant Chair.

The season closes on [May 17](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/events/eifman-ballet-0) with perennial favorite [St. Petersburg’s Eifman Ballet](http://www.eifmanballet.ru/en/), returning with the cinematic ballet, *Red Giselle,* that first captivated our attention in 2000*.* The dramatic piece tells the story of Russian prima donna Olga Spessivtseva whose lightness, virtuosity, and perfect technique made her an international star. Tragically, her own life mirrored that of the fragile romantic heroine Giselle, eventually succumbing to depression and madness. An electrifying score combining Tchaikovsky and Bizet lends to the dramatic atmosphere.

All Northrop Dance Season events are enriched with related programming such as film screenings, master classes, and lectures that will be announced throughout the year. Free performance previews in the 4th floor Best Buy Theater before each event provide an in-depth exploration of the evening’s programming by members of the company and/or artistic staff.

**TICKETS:**
Series packages offer deeper discounts, the best seats, payment plans, free ticket exchanges, easy parking reservations, and more. More information and online ordering is available on our [website](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/) or 612-624-2345.

Single tickets go on sale to the public on June 1. [Groups](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/tickets-events/discounts) receive up to 25% off!

**Northrop is pleased to introduce its ’30 Under 30’ program**, providing guests aged 18-30 two $30 tickets to any dance season show when purchased 30 days prior to the performance date. Each pair of tickets also comes with a free drink coupon, redeemable at Surdyk’s Café at Northrop the night of the performance.

**THE 2016//17 NORTHROP DANCE SEASON**

[**Grupo Corpo**](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/events/grupo-corpo-0)

Sat, Oct 1, 8:00 pm

*Dança Sinfônica*

*Parabelo*

[**Canada’s Royal Winnipeg Ballet**](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/events/canada-s-royal-winnipeg-ballet-0)

Thu, Oct 20, 7:30 pm

*Dracula*

With live orchestra

[**Aszure Barton & Artists**](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/events/aszure-barton-artists)

Sat, Nov 12, 8:00 pm

*Awáa*

**Northrop and Walker Art Center Present**

[**Batsheva Dance Company**](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/events/batsheva-dance-company)

Tue, Jan 24, 7:30 pm

*Decadance*

**Northrop and Walker Art Center Present**

[**CCN-Ballet de Lorraine**](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/events/ballet-de-lorraine)

Thu, Feb 16, 7:30 pm

*Sounddance*

*Fabrications*

*Devoted*

[**Bereishit Dance Company**](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/events/bereishit-dance-company)

Tue, Feb 28, 7:30 pm

*Balance and Imbalance*

*BOW*

With live music on stage

[**Kidd Pivot/Electric Company Theatre**](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/events/kidd-pivotelectric-company-theatre)

Tue, Mar 21, 7:30 pm & Wed, Mar 22, 7:30 pm

*Betroffenheit*

[**Malandain Ballet Biarritz**](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/events/malandain-ballet-biarritz)

Sat, Mar 25, 8:00 pm

*La Belle et la Bête*

[**Scottish Ballet**](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/events/scottish-ballet-0)

Sat, Apr 8, 8:00 pm

Matthew Bourne’s *Highland Fling*

With live orchestra

[**Brian Brooks Moving Company**](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/events/brian-brooks-moving-company)

Sat, Apr 22, 8:00 pm

Mixed repertory including *Torrent* with U of M dancers

[**Eifman Ballet**](http://www.northrop.umn.edu/events/eifman-ballet-0)

Wed, May 17, 7:30 pm

*Red Giselle*

**FUNDING CREDITS**

This season’s programming is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

**NORTHROP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**

Northrop is an epicenter of discovery and transformation that connects the University of Minnesota and communities beyond by celebrating innovation in the arts, performance, and academics.

Artists and programs subject to change.

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

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Press photos at: <http://www.northrop.umn.edu/media/event-photos>