



ARENA (2016) by Colin Connor, photo by David Hou

Colin Connor - Biography

Colin Connor's wide ranging dance career encompasses being the award winning choreographer of over sixty works, the Artistic Director of the American legacy Limón Dance Company, an educator at many of the world's foremost dance centers, a Professor Emeritus at the California Institute for the Arts, and a widely recognized dancer.

Born in London, UK, Mr. Connor began dancing in Canada, was a soloist with the Limón Dance Company for eight years, guest performed with several other companies, and toured extensively with his own work. He has created over sixty choreographic works that span the worlds of contemporary, ballet and flamenco companies, and was the winner of the Sarasota Ballet's International Choreography Competition and the Charleston Ballet Theatre's Fountainhead Choreography Competition. His works have been presented across the Americas and Europe, including at the Joyce Theater in New York, the Momment'Homme Festival in Montreal, Jacob's Pillow, The Holland Festival in Den Hague, and the Festival Internacional de Danza Contemporanea in San Luis Potosí, Mexico.

His work includes radical collaborations with artists such as Flamencos En Route in Switzerland, bluegrass band The Biscuit Boys, Emmy award winning theater designer Charles Schoonmaker, and filmmaker Natalie Metzger, with whom he won best experimental film at the California Womens' Film Festival and best music video at the Silent River Film Festival.

His commissions, creations and re-mountings of his work include, among others, the Limón Dance Company, Richmond Ballet, Island Moving Company, Atlanta Ballet, Finland's Damaru Dance Theater, Sarasota Ballet, Pennsylvania Dance Theater, Dayton Ballet and Hartford Ballet, and, of course, the Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre. He has choreographed for The Juilliard School, and numerous other important training centers including the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, the Rotterdamse Dansacademie, the California Institute of the Arts, the London School of Contemporary Dance, Boston Conservatory and New York University / Tisch School of the Arts. Productions have been funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, Altria, and the New York State Council on the Arts among other funding agencies.

During his four years as Artistic Director of the Limón Dance Company, Mr. Connor fostered new generations of Limón dancers, teachers, directors, leaders, and contemporary choreographers from radically different

backgrounds. Under his direction, both the American Dance Festival and Jacob's Pillow invited the Company to return to these iconic venues for the first time in over a dozen years.

Mr. Connor is a Professor Emeritus at the California Institute of the Arts, where he was full-time faculty for fifteen years and the Director of Student Professional Development. He has been on the faculties of The Juilliard School, New York University (where he also worked as a choreographer and movement teacher for the Theater Department's Classical Studio,) and the City College of New York (where he was also Choreographer in Residence.) He has been a guest teacher at many of the finest training centers in the world including CCDT, the London School of Contemporary Dance, the Rotterdamse Dansacademie, Jacob's Pillow, Dresden's Palucca Schule, California State University Fullerton, the Joffrey School Summer Program, The Dance Studio in Novosibirsk, Russia, University of California Irvine, and the Rubin Academy in Jerusalem.

Most recently, he created *The Sea Cleans The Shore* for the Island Moving Company with live music, and his solo film, *From Where I Stand*, will be seen at various film festivals in the fall.