



Hubbard Street Dance Chicago announces 2016 International Commissioning Project choreographers

Six accomplished early-career artists join Hubbard Street 2

Elliot Hammans and Adrienne Lipson promoted to main company

Fall 2016 Studio Series kicks off with Nan Jombang Dance and Peter Chu

For immediate release August 30, 2016 • High resolution photos available

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CHICAGO – [Hubbard Street Dance Chicago](#) Artistic Director Glenn Edgerton and Terence Marling, Director of Hubbard Street 2, are pleased to announce the 46th and 47th choreographers to receive opportunities to create original works through Hubbard Street's 17th annual [International Commissioning Project](#): [chuthis. artistic director Peter Chu](#); and **Alice Klock**, creator of multiple premieres through Hubbard Street's annual *Inside/Out Choreographic Workshop*. Edgerton and Marling also congratulate the 15th and 16th dancers invited to join the main company from Hubbard Street 2 – Elliot Hammans and Adrienne Lipson – on their promotions for the 2016–17 season.

Peter Chu's IC Project-supported creation will be premiered by Hubbard Street 2 at the [Velodrom Theater in Regensburg, Germany](#) in November 2016. Alice Klock's IC Project-supported creation will be developed by Hubbard Street 2 and receive its premiere as part of the 25th anniversary season of [UNCW Presents at the University of North Carolina Wilmington](#), in advance of performances by the main company during the third *danc(e)volve: New Works Festival* May 10–14, 2017 at the [Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago](#).

On Saturday, September 17 at the Hubbard Street Dance Center, Chu will also lead a four-hour workshop for advanced and pre-professional dancers, as part of [Hubbard Street's Fall 2016 Studio Series](#). Led by internationally recognized artistic directors, dancers and choreographers, each Studio Series event is based on the work of dance artists performing in Chicago, or repertoire in production at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Hubbard Street's Fall 2016 Studio Series begins on Saturday, September 10, with a Master Class with Eri Mefri of Indonesia's **Nan Jombang Dance**, presented in partnership with Natya Dance Theatre in conjunction with [The Incomplete Gesture, a collaboration between Mefri and Hema Rajagopalan](#) at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie.

Joining Hubbard Street 2 for its fall 2016 season, which concludes with [the New York City premiere of Mariko's Magical Mix: A Dance Adventure](#) presented by LC Kids at Lincoln Center, are **Wilson S.D. Anderson III**, [Grand Rapids Ballet member Isaac Aoki](#), **Nicole Ishimaru**, **Andy Lawson**, returning HS2 member **Natalie Leibert**, **Yue Ru Ma**, and HS2 Apprentice **Parker Finley**.

About Hubbard Street's International Commissioning Project

As part of Hubbard Street's mission to identify and nurture young choreographers, it initiated a National Choreographic Competition in 1999, renamed the International Commissioning Project for

its 15th anniversary in 2014. Each year, the IC Project provides residencies to choreographers, offering each of them the opportunity to create an original work and to conduct master classes. The IC Project has gained an esteemed reputation and international recognition, producing 45 works to date by notable choreographers including Bryan Arias, Robert Battle, Aszure Barton, Camille A. Brown, Gregory Dolbashian, Shannon Gillen, Alex Ketley, Gabrielle Lamb, Edwaard Liang, Andrea Miller, Ihsan Rustem, Katarzyna Skarpetowska, Samar Haddad King, Dominic Walsh, Yin Yue and Edgar Zendejas.

About 2016 International Commissioning Project Choreographer Peter Chu

Peter Chu began training as a competitive gymnast before nurturing his artistry at Dussich Dance Studio on Florida's Merritt Island. Chu pushed further into his study of technique while making his first forays into choreography under the direction of Benjamin Harkarvy at the Juilliard School in Manhattan, where he was awarded the Hector Zaraspe Prize for Choreography upon completion of his BFA. He has performed and toured internationally with Edgar Zendejas' *ezdanza*, Crystal Pite's *Kidd Pivot*, and BJM Danse, formerly Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal; his commercial work includes *A New Day* in Las Vegas, starring Celine Dion, and the lead role in singer Christina Perri's music video for "Jar of Hearts." In 2008, Chu formed the Las Vegas project-based company, *chuthis.*, and recently presented his works *Face Her* and *Smile Masking* at Festival International de DansEncore, through a residency partnership with the West Las Vegas Library Theatre. Recipient of the prestigious 2010 Capezio A.C.E. Award for Choreography, his choreographic credits include two seasons of *So You Think You Can Dance* on Fox TV and the ARTV series *Meneuse de Claques* in Québec; original works for New Dialect, Orlando Ballet Theatre, Houston Met Dance Company, Nederlands Dans Theater's Summer Intensive, the Perry-Mansfield New Works Festival and others; and Naomi Stikeman's *Çaturn*, consulted by Robert Lepage. Through *chuthis.* he has launched an annual Movement Intensive for technical and artistic development, also implementing *chuthis. moves*: customized workshops spanning two or three days. Chu has guest-taught and served as faculty for numerous programs and organizations throughout Canada and the U.S. including BODYTRAFFIC, Harvard University, Western Michigan University, the Movement Invention Project, the Dance Teacher Summit, and Springboard Danse Montréal. Visit chuthis.net to learn more.

About 2016 International Commissioning Project Choreographer Alice Klock

A native of Whidbey Island, Washington, Alice Klock began dancing at age 11. She trained at Interlochen Arts Academy from 2003–07, and in Alonzo King LINES Ballet and Dominican University of California's joint BFA program from 2007–09, in addition to dance studies at Canada's National Ballet School, Miami City Ballet School, San Francisco Ballet School, the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance and Springboard Danse Montréal. Klock joined Hubbard Street 2 in September 2009 and was promoted to the main company in September 2011, originating roles in works by choreographers including Kyle Abraham, Alejandro Cerrudo, Andrea Miller and Robyn Mineko Williams, and performing repertoire by artists such as Nacho Duato, Mats Ek, Sharon Eyal, William Forsythe and Jiří Kylián. Multiple works created by Klock through Hubbard Street's annual *Inside/Out Choreographic Workshop* include men's duets *Raphael and Everest Have an Adventure* and *A Winter's Tale*; *...and other stories of imperfection* and *Days of Decipherment*, both to music by Clint Mansell; and a collection of vignettes set to fight songs from World War I, inspired in part by 1939 military adventure film *Gunga Din*, advertisements for "Victory Girls," and Liberty Bonds. An accomplished visual artist, Klock creates original works in watercolor and mixed media. Visit klockonian.tumblr.com to learn more.

About the Artists of Hubbard Street 2

Wilson S.D. Anderson III (Brooklyn, NY) began his professional dance training at age 13, and attended the Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music and Art and Performing Arts in Manhattan. He holds a BFA from the Conservatory of Dance at SUNY–Purchase, where he performed works by

choreographers including Doug Varone, and Hubbard Street's International Commissioning Project alumni Loni Landon and Gabrielle Lamb. His training also includes summer studies with Complexions Contemporary Ballet, and the Gaga Intensive in New York City. Anderson joined Hubbard Street 2 as a full company member in August 2016.

Isaac Aoki (Salt Lake City, UT) began his ballet training at Ballet West Academy. He then studied at Salt Lake Ballet Conservatory, the University of Utah Ballet Department, and the Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington, D.C. Aoki attended summer courses at the School of American Ballet, Kaatsbaan International Dance Center, Ellison Ballet, Miami City Ballet School and Pacific Northwest Ballet School, where he continued training in its Professional Division on full scholarship. Aoki joined Hubbard Street 2 in August 2016 and appears courtesy of Grand Rapids Ballet, where he has danced professionally since 2013.

Nicole Ishimaru (Chino Hills, CA) trained under Dmitri Kulev at the Dmitri Kulev Classical Ballet Academy, and performed with the Orange County Ballet Theatre in multiple works by George Balanchine. At age 14, Ishimaru performed at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion as a grand-prize winner through The Music Center's Spotlight program, and in 2015 she received the National YoungArts Foundation's Gold Award. Her performance career includes the Lincoln Center premiere and Montréal tour of *Pearl*, directed by Daniel Ezralow; *Hollow Suit*, directed and choreographed by Travis Wall; and *Firebird* with the Pacific Symphony Orchestra. She was also a member of Westside Dance Project under the mentorship of Jessie Riley. Ishimaru joined Hubbard Street 2 as a full company member in August 2016.

Andy Lawson (Corona, CA) holds a BFA in Dance from Chapman University in Orange, California, where he was instructed by Jennifer Backhaus, Laurence Rosenberg, Dale Merrill, Sean Greene, Holly Johnston, and Liz Maxwell. His training also includes summer studies through programs at Hubbard Street, American Ballet Theatre, Backhausdance and San Francisco Ballet. Lawson performed with Gallimaufry Performing Arts under the direction of Steve Josephson as part of the 2010 Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland, and has also performed as a guest artist with Anaheim Ballet, BARE Dance Company, Dmitri Kulev Classical Ballet Academy and Maple Conservatory, working with distinguished artists Mike Esperanza, Sean Greene and Mark Haim, among others. He joined Hubbard Street 2 as a full company member in August 2016.

Natalie Leibert (Moorpark, CA) began training at various dance schools in the Los Angeles area including company work with Westside Dance Project in Redondo Beach, and Pacific Festival Ballet in Agoura Hills. She continued training at the Miami City Ballet School and, most recently, completed a year in Alonzo King LINES Ballet's Training Program. Leibert has attended workshops and programs at the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, the Joffrey Ballet School, the School of American Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet and the Juilliard School, in addition to Nederlands Dans Theater and Batsheva Dance Company. She has performed works by choreographers including Iratxe Ansa, Sandrine Cassini, Jessie Hartley, Will Johnston, Menghan Lou and Carmen Rozestraten. Leibert joined Hubbard Street 2 as an apprentice in August 2014 and was promoted to full company member in August 2015.

Yue Ru Ma (Singapore) began her formal dance education at School of the Arts Singapore (SOTA) and graduated summa cum laude from The Boston Conservatory, where she earned her BFA in Contemporary Dance Performance and was the recipient of the Anne Cuervo and Philip Pionelli Scholarship. Her training also includes intensive programs at Hubbard Street, Nederlands Dans Theater, BODYTRAFFIC and Northwest Dance Project's LAUNCH. She has originated roles in works by choreographers including, among others, Kuik Swee Boon, Marco Goecke, Adam Houglund, Loni Landon, Andrea Miller, Daniel Pelzig, Dwight Rhoden and Uri Sands. Yue joined Hubbard Street 2 as a full company member in August 2016.

HS2 Apprentice **Parker Finley** (West Monroe, LA) began her classical ballet training under the tutelage of Missy Crain at the Louisiana Delta Ballet in Monroe, Louisiana. She has attended summer programs at, among others, the Joffrey Ballet and the Houston Ballet, and recently graduated from the Houston Ballet Academy, under the direction of Sabrina Lenzi and Sally Rojas. In Houston, Finley performed works by choreographers John Neumeier (*Yondering*) and Stanton Welch (*The Long and Winding Road*), and was featured in *Procession to the Club* by Oliver Halkowich. Making her first foray into contemporary dance, Finley joined Hubbard Street 2 as an HS2 Apprentice in August 2016.

About Hubbard Street

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago's core purpose is to bring artists, art and audiences together to enrich, engage, educate, transform and change lives through the experience of dance. Celebrating Season 39 in 2016–17, under the artistic leadership of Glenn Edgerton, Hubbard Street continues to innovate, supporting ascendant creative talent while presenting repertory by internationally recognized living artists. Hubbard Street has grown through the establishment of multiple platforms alongside the Lou Conte Dance Studio — now in its fifth decade of providing a wide range of public classes and pre-professional training — while extensive Youth, Education, Community, Adaptive Dance and Family Programs keep the organization deeply connected to its hometown. Visit hubbardstreetdance.com for artist profiles, touring schedules and much more.

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago

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