

# LA 2028 Luminario Ballet

**Director: Judith FLEX Helle Co-director Damien Diaz**

staff@luminarioballet.org ddiaz@luminarioballet.org

mobile: Judith 323-428-6255 Damien: 213-364-5676

<https://luminarioballet.org>

IG: <https://instagram.com/luminarioballet> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/luminarioballetLA/>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/luminarioballet> Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/user4904742>

## Proposal:

Luminario Ballet

with 3 or more dance companies, live musicians, visual artists create a

-Live performance

-Live "dance jam" or "dance mob" including public

Simultaneous and pre-recorded streaming to additional locations, e.g. schools, community centers, theaters, etc.

Archival on LA36 or other public access

## What Luminario Ballet does:

**Choreography and productions** for concerts, corporate events, private events; including ballet en pointe, contemporary, tango, Broadway, aerial and assorted cirque\* choreography for 1-100+ dancers, musicians, aerialists, skaters, martial artists, acrobats, stilt walkers, contortionists, ballroom dancers, cabaret dancers, etc

**Luminario Ballet offers to take the role of hiring and overseeing a curated** selection of dancers and/or dance companies to provide the vision of what Los Angeles dance represents – diversity in culture, techniques, country of origin and racial/ethnic background.

**Director Judith FLEX Helle's experience doing large scale public site-specific performances** began in Berlin, Germany, in 1986, where the city of Berlin provided Judith with a budget to hire more than 150 dancers, aerialists, and martial artists to place in 7 indoor and outdoor locations in and around the City Center of West Berlin, Breidscheidplatz.

The locations included the 90' high atrium of the Europa Center (equivalent to the Beverly Center) the lower-level courtyard; escalators throughout, the large fountain outside; the plaza's low walls and streetlamps surrounding the entire plaza (larger than the LA Music Center); the windows of plaza-facing office buildings, and a fully lit stage built on one end of the plaza large enough to hold 40+ dancers/martial artists at a time, among other locations.

Since 2009, when Luminario Ballet started, we have performed in many outdoor public and private venues in and around LA and SoCal, such as stadium football fields, museums, private villas, public plazas, Laguna Beach on the sand, a Revolutionary War era tall ship's deck floating in the Dana Point Harbor. And more! No space is too large, too small, or too unconventional for Luminario Ballet to imagine a creative way to put dancers into the public eye!

LA Dance Company curated suggestions:

**Luminario Ballet** -ballet, contemporary, aerial dance

**Jazz Antiqua** -afro jazz dance

**Contra Tiempo** -Latino contemporary dance and dance theater

**Lula Washington** -afro contemporary dance

**Pacifico Dance Company** – Mexican folklorico

**Happy Dance Ensemble** -Chinese group dance

**Buck Sam Kong's Siu Lum Pai Kung Fu Association** -martial arts

**Cirque** artists and acrobats

Large scale: 20-100+ performers \* Medium scale 8-20 dancers \* Small scale 4-8 dancers

**Indoor or outdoor venues/ locations can be traditional or site-specific**  
**Outdoor site-specific location thoughts for 1-100 dancers, can be a combination:**  
**Santa Monica pier, board walk or beach Long Beach Harbor on a boat**

Examples:



*Luminario Ballet at Casa Romantica, San Clemente* *Luminario Ballet at Dana Point Harbor, Tall Ship Pilgrim*  
*Echo Park Lake w/ on-lake stages holding dancers, aerialists, musicians*



*Luminario Ballet at Lotusland, Santa Barbara* *Hollywood Blvd Walk of Fame w/ dancers*  
*Venice Boardwalk with dancers and rollerbladers*



Disney Hall outside building



Getty Center outside buildings



LA Music Center Jerry Moss Plaza fountain stage set up for dancers w/aerialists



SpaceX/NASA rocket plaza, Hawthorne

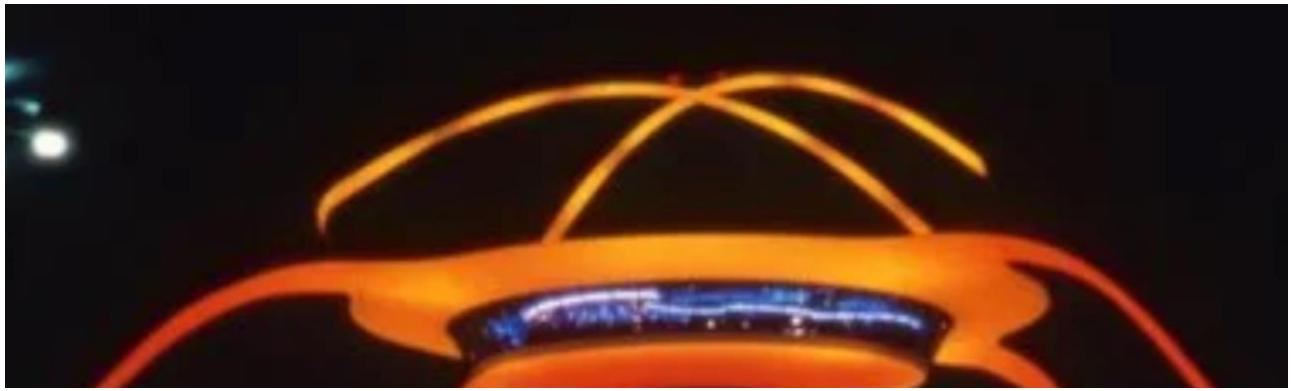


**Indoor site-specific location thoughts:**

Office building windows (20-50 dancers 1+ per window), dancers lit in silhouette  
(ex: Capitol Records Building nighttime view)



Escalators, elevators, lobbies in distinctive LA buildings  
(ex: Disney Hall, the Broad Museum, Capitol Records, Petersen Auto Museum, LAX Encounter Bar and Restaurant)



Atriums for multiple aerialists

Music: live (or playback)- can be classical, rock, jazz, or any combo (ex: Led Zeppelin+Vivaldi, including Hollywood movie soundtracks)

Aerial rigging- crane or truss, motors for aerialists -trapezes, silks, hoops or other  
Staging- site specific non-traditional stage, traditional stage on risers, on-water stage

Some Luminario Ballet locations, traditional and site-specific:



Avalon, Hollywood w/Thrillharmonic Orchestra “Firebird” w/media projections



The Wallis, Beverly Hills, "Hard As A Rock" w/media projections



Grand Park, Earth Day



Jonathan Beach Club, Santa Monica Beach, LedZAerial "Kashmir" rehearsal



Forest Lawn, Hollywood, Victory Hall

Below, Luminario Ballet combined with projected media art examples:





**Funding sources:**

LA28 Olympic production funding  
State, County, City, and other government grants  
Individual donors  
Corporate and business sponsorships  
Foundations

**Luminario Ballet collaborative groups:**

Aerialistic, Ventura, for aerial rigging (Gregg Curtis)  
Thrillharmonic Orchestra (Bryan English)  
Rock musicians (NIN)  
Latin musicians (Grammy winner Jesus Florido)

**Partners:**

**Brockus Project Studios**- rehearsal studio at The Brewery Arts Complex, DTLA

**Dance Dimensions**- rehearsal studio Woodland Hills

**Burbank Dance Academy**- rehearsal studio, Burbank

**Paul Ackerman**- media artist

**Allen Walls**- video asset wizard

**Tech/Logistics:**

Staging (steeldeck, Marley flooring, truss, secure dancer warm-up and changing areas)  
Sound \* Lighting \* Projections \* Catering \* Transportation \* Security \*Insurance \*Accounting

## Co-directors Judith and Damien Bios

### Director Judith Flex Helle

**Born in Boston, MA, Judith** began her professional career dancing at the Deutsche Opera Berlin, Germany, performing all over Europe on stage, film, TV, music videos and, with her FLEX Dance Company. Judith founded Luminario Ballet of Los Angeles in Dec 2008 with the Charles Evans Foundation, NY. Since then, Luminario Ballet has performed annual shows for the general public; toured nationally; performed Judith's choreography with 5 symphonies including the LA Philharmonic; and provided ballet/ aerial dance for movies, TV, music videos, and special events for over 85,000+ audience members. Judith directed and choreographed her first dance film, "*L'Invalide*", in 2021. Judith is known for her beautiful contemporary ballet/aerial dance works; story ballets such as Schubert's "Winterreise" a love triangle gone wrong, Stravinsky's "Firebird"; and "The Last Supper" when Jesus, Judas, and Mary went to Coachella. (presented by The Wallis in February 2023) Her best known work is "LedZAerial", to the music of Led Zeppelin, attended by Led Zeppelin's singer Robert Plant and guitarist Jimmy Page in 2005. Her work-in-progress "Tosh Thoughts", to the music of Reggae legend Peter Tosh of the Wailers, was performed in Mumbai and Goa, India, funded by the U.S. Department of State, in February 2020, prior to covid lockdown. Judith was named by Dance Magazine to the Top 5 Women Leaders in SoCal Dance, nominated for a World Choreography Award in 2012, has been a judge for the World Choreography Awards since 2013. In 2022 Judith received the President's Lifetime Achievement Award, the United Nations Humanitarian Award, and in 2023, a City of Los Angeles.

### Co-director Damien Diaz

**Born in Montebello, CA,** Damien studied classical ballet at the Académie du Ballet in Miami, FL, the North Carolina School of the Arts, the School of American Ballet in New York City, the Alabama School of Fine Arts, and the Houston Ballet Academy in Texas.

Damien began his professional career with the Zürich Ballet in Switzerland and, after the fall of the Berlin Wall, danced with the Leipzig Ballet in Germany, where he became a principal dancer. Damien was a guest artist with the Warsaw Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Tokyo Ballet, Dallas Ballet, ClairObscur Dance Company, and the Ballet Trocadero de Monte Carlo.

He danced with Luminario Ballet and acted as Rehearsal Director and choreographer from 2010 to 2018.

He has received numerous awards for his dancing, coaching, and choreography set on many dance companies and works internationally as a ballet coach and is Guest Professor of Ballet at Loyola Marymount University.

Damien choreographed several short ballets for Luminario Ballet "Traffic" \_from our climate change ballet TRAILS; "Tango" and "Finale" with the New Valley Symphony. Damien choreographed two new choreographies for Luminario's Fall Gala 2024 presentation of "LedZAerial Symphony", "Rain Song" and, "Rock n Roll", and choreographed "Siempre Amor-Always Love", a tango ballet to Astor Piazzolla for Luminario's Fall Gala 2025.

### "Inscape" commissioned by Skirball Cultural Center, Sepulveda Pass

Poses created by Judith FLEX Helle based on Bella Lewitzky's "Inscape" 1976, with costumes designs by Rudi Gernreich recreated by Diana McNeil for Luminario Ballet



Photo: Ted Soqui

Luminario Ballet photos by: Ted Soqui, Paul Antico, Sheri Determan, and Judith FLEX Helle

#### Luminario Ballet Roster Choreographers:

Judith FLEX Helle director

Damien Diaz co-director

Jamal Story (Complexions NY, Dallas Black Dance Theater)

Dreya Weber (PINK, Teatro ZinZanni, Opera Zuid, Holland)

Francisco Gella (PhilaDanco, Philadelphia)

Alexandre Magno (Ballet Hispanico, NY)

Debbie Brown (Head Choreographer, Cirque du Soleil, Toronto)

Trustee of Michael Smuin (Artistic Director, San Francisco Ballet)

Trustees of Bella Lewitzky (Lewitzky Dance Company, Los Angeles)

And many more.