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[Press Room](#)



Images of the Joffrey Ballet are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS  
THE JOFFREY BALLET**  
WITH WEST COAST PREMIERES OF *ENCOUNTER* BY NICOLAS BLANC AND  
*JOY* BY ALEXANDER EKMAN, AND RECENT WORKS *MAMMATUS* BY  
ANNABELLE LOPEZ OCHOA AND *IN CREASES* BY JUSTIN PECK  
FRIDAY–SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17–19

The performances launch a five-year collaborative project between the Joffrey and Cal Performances, exploring the creative process through new commissions

**The Joffrey's 2017 UC Berkeley residency includes a Community Dance Class, a Ballet Class, a Public Forum, plus open "creative process" sessions to witness choreographer Nicolas Blanc making a new work with Joffrey dancers**

**Berkeley, October 11, 2017** — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley welcomes Chicago's esteemed Joffrey Ballet for the launch of a five-year collaboration that places the artistic process and the creation of new work at the center of a series of three immersive campus residencies. In this first visit, the Joffrey performs a program of new and recent works commissioned from Annabelle Lopez Ochoa (*Mammatus*) and Justin Peck (*In Creases*), as well as the West Coast premieres of Alexander Ekman's *Joy*, a Cal Performances co-commission; and Nicolas Blanc's *Encounter*. Under the direction of Ashley Wheater since 2007, who came to the Joffrey after 18 years with the San Francisco Ballet, the Joffrey was founded over 60 years ago and has earned a reputation for innovation, eclecticism, and excellence. The performances are on Friday–Saturday, November 17–18 at 8pm, and Sunday, November 19 at 3pm in Zellerbach Hall.

“Cal Performances and the Joffrey Ballet enjoy a longstanding relationship, which is supported in large part by our shared commitment to the creation of new work and making that creation accessible to the public,” said Cal Performances associate director Rob Bailis. “With the Joffrey as a partner, throughout this five year collaboration Cal Performances will bring together the unique talents of the Joffrey with the unduplicated resources of the UC Berkeley campus. In addition to traditional residency activities—from master classes to colloquia— what truly sets this partnership apart is the long term investment both organizations have made which enables us to create rare, special circumstances where artists, scholars, students, and the public can come together over an extended period of time to make something truly magical happen. This partnership is yet another manifestation of our Berkeley RADICAL philosophy: by placing audiences directly in touch with the human inquiry of the artist during the process of creation, we enable a deeper connection that can only be accomplished with the added element of an extended period of time together.”

The Joffrey Ballet's three extended visits over five years, beginning in the 2017-18 season, will connect the Company's Chicago home base with the creative and academic life of the UC Berkeley campus and community. Each residency will feature choreographers working on-site to develop new commissions with company dancers, offering audiences, students, and fellow dancers insights into the creative process of internationally renowned choreographers as well as mentoring opportunities

for professional and aspiring dancers. Each campus visit will include performances and associated public programs designed to help audiences experience dance works in new and provocative ways. The project has a strong focus on both new commissions and the process of creating new dance works, and continues a long-standing relationship between Cal Performances and the Joffrey, which visited the campus each summer in the 1970s in a project that resulted in the *Berkeley Ballets*, a series of dances still in the Joffrey's repertoire.

Danced to a live performance of Philip Glass' *Four Movements for Two Pianos*, Justin Peck's *In Creases* showcases the choreographer's penchant for manipulating bodies to form complex geometric structures. Annabelle Lopez Ochoa depicts a turbulent cloud formation through movement in *Mammatus*, which is set to *Weather One* by composer Michael Gordon. Swedish choreographer Alexander Ekman's *Joy*, a Cal Performances co-commission, receives its West Coast premiere, with music by Brad Mehldau Trio, Django Django, Tiga, and Moby. Another West Coast premiere, Nicolas Blanc's *Encounter*, features music by John Adams, from his Saxophone Concerto.

The Company will be in residence on the UC Berkeley campus for one week, with three weekend performances and numerous education and community programs scheduled throughout the visit. Residency activities will kick off with three days of open workshops, during which the public is invited for a glimpse into choreographer Nicolas Blanc's creative process as he creates a new work, a Cal Performances co-commission, with Joffrey artists. Open workshops will take place at Odd Fellows Lodge Hall, 2288 Fulton Ave., in downtown Berkeley on Monday, November 13 at 2:30pm (free and open to the public), Tuesday, November 14 at 5:30pm (by invitation only), and Wednesday, November 15 at 2:30pm (free and open to the public).

In addition, Joffrey artists will teach a ballet class on Friday, November 17 at 12pm in the Hearst Gymnasium, Room 230, co-presented with the UC Berkeley Dept. of Physical Education and offered to participants with some ballet training. At a community dance class on Saturday, November 18 at 11am in the Bancroft Studio, Joffrey dancers will teach choreography from the Company's current program, open to dancers of all ages and abilities. Tickets for each class are \$5 and pre-registration is [required](#). A public forum, *The Joffrey's Bold Moves*, will feature company artistic director Ashley Wheater, choreographer Nicolas Blanc, and Cal Performances associate director Rob Bailis in conversation about both organizations' commitment to commissioning, creating and

presenting new dance works. The free event will take place on Saturday, November 18 at 5pm in Zellerbach Hall.

### **Ticket Information**

Tickets for *The Joffrey Ballet* on Friday–Saturday, November 17–18 at 8pm, and Sunday, November 19 at 3pm in Zellerbach Hall range from \$36–\$126 (prices subject to change). Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org), and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to [calperformances.org/discounts](http://calperformances.org/discounts).

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### **CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

#### **CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Friday, November 17, 8pm**  
**Saturday, November 18, 8pm**  
**Sunday, November 19, 3pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**  
Bancroft Way at Dana Street  
UC Berkeley campus

*Dance Residency*  
**The Joffrey Ballet**

#### **Program:**

Justin Peck/*In Creases*

Music: Philip Glass, *Four Movements for Two Pianos*  
Performed live by Grace Kim and Matthew Long

Nicolas Blanc/*Encounter* (West Coast Premiere)

Music: John Adams, Part 1 from Saxophone Concerto

Alexander Ekman/*Joy* (West Coast Premiere, Cal Performances Co-Commission)

Music: Brad Mehldau Trio, Django Django, Tiga, and Moby

Annabelle Lopez Ochoa/*Mammatus*

Music: Michael Gordon, *Weather One*

**Tickets:** \$36–\$126 (prices subject to change)

#### **Residency Activities**

**Open Session: *Insight into New Works in Progress with Nicolas Blanc***

**Odd Fellows Lodge Hall**

**2288 Fulton St., Berkeley**

**Monday, November 13, 2:30pm**

**Tuesday, November 14, 5:30pm\***

**Wednesday, November 15, 2:30pm**

Choreographer Nicholas Blanc and Joffrey dancers workshop a new dance, co-commissioned by Cal Performances. Monday, November 13 and Wednesday, November 15 are free and open to the public, \*Tuesday, November 14 is by invitation only. RSVP required at [calperformances.org/learn/calendar/2017-18/](http://calperformances.org/learn/calendar/2017-18/)

**Ballet Class**

**Hearst Gymnasium, Room 230**

**UC Berkeley campus**

**Friday, November 17, 12pm**

Joffrey artists teach a ballet class co-presented with the UC Berkeley Dept. of Physical Education. Offered to participants with some ballet training.

**Tickets:** \$5, capacity is limited. Pre-registration is required at [calperformances.org/learn/calendar/2017-18/](http://calperformances.org/learn/calendar/2017-18/)

**Community Dance Class**

**Bancroft Studio**

**UC Berkeley campus**

**Saturday, November 18, 11am**

Joffrey Ballet artists teach choreography from the program they will perform at Zellerbach Hall (November 17–19). Open to dancers of all ages and abilities.

**Tickets:** \$5, capacity is limited. Pre-registration is required at [calperformances.org/learn/calendar/2017-18/](http://calperformances.org/learn/calendar/2017-18/)

**Public Forum: *The Joffrey's Bold Moves***

**Zellerbach Hall**

**UC Berkeley campus**

**Saturday, November 18, 5pm**

Joffrey Ballet artistic director Ashley Wheater, choreographer Nicolas Blanc, and Cal Performances associate director Rob Bailis in conversation about both organizations' commitment to commissioning, creating and presenting new dance works. Plus, insights into the program that the Joffrey is presenting this season.