



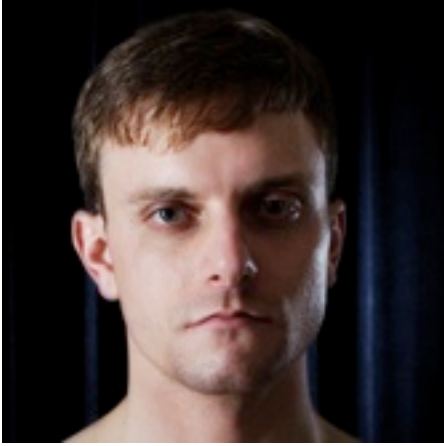
the company

skybetter and associates was formed in 2008 to perform the deeply personal and abstract dance works of choreographer Sydney Skybetter. The company has set repertory on the Zenon Dance Company, within the dance departments of SUNY Purchase and New York University Tisch School for the Arts, and has performed at the Dance Theater Workshop, La MaMa, Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church, and Dixon Place, among many other venues.

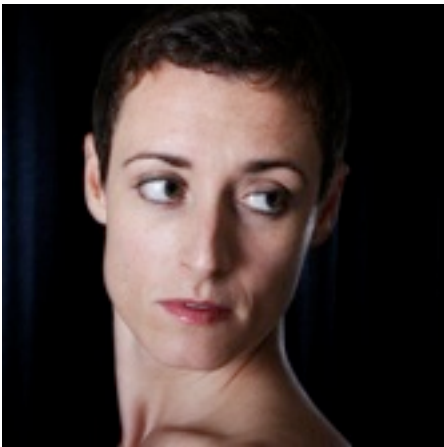
the choreography

Pervasively formal and strikingly human, the repertory of **skybetter and associates** is rich and kinesthetically powerful. Movement originating from the emotional experiences of the company is rigorously explored to create choreography that encompasses multiple fields of meaning. Embodying the artistic drive for clear self-expression and the contradictory impulse for abstraction, Skybetter's work combines emotional subtext with movement, providing a means for audiences to contemplate their own ghosts.

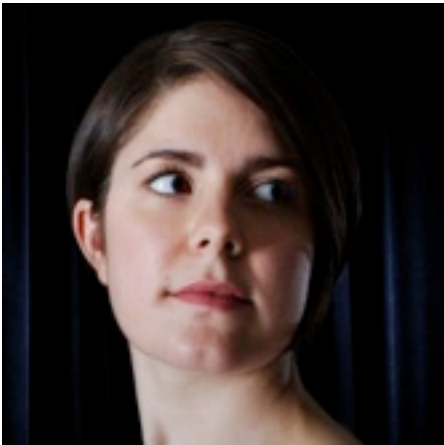
principal artists



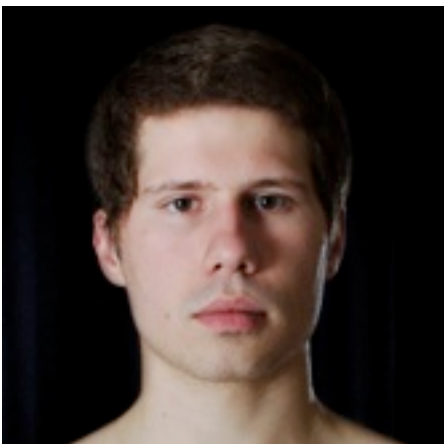
Sydney Skybetter is a choreographer, curator, and consultant for performing arts organizations. After studying at the Interlochen Arts Academy, Columbia, and New York University, Sydney performed with Christopher Williams and the Anna Sokolow Foundation. His choreography has been presented in New York at the Dance Theater Workshop, La MaMa, and the Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church, among many others. Sydney has consulted for the National Ballet of Canada, David Dorfman Dance, and the Jerome Robbins Foundation, and is a Partner with Design Brooklyn, which provides web and online infrastructure solutions for the arts. He is a Producer with the Dance[NOW] NYC Festival, a teacher for the NYU Tisch Dance Department, a lecturer on Dance History for the LEAP Program at St. Mary's College, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Gotham Arts Exchange / Zia Artists, the New York Dance and Performance ("Bessie") Awards Committee, and the Board of Trustees of Dance/USA. He received his Masters in Dance Performance and Choreography from New York University, where he was a Graduate Assistant in Dance History.



Bergen Wheeler is an MFA recipient from the Dance Department of Tisch School of the Arts, New York University. She has had the privilege of working with many choreographers, including Hope Boykin, Jamie Bishton, Gus Solomons jr, Mark Dendy, Christopher House, and Peggy Baker. As a demonstrator for Milton Myers, Bergen traveled and taught at Juilliard, the Ailey/Fordham Program, LaGuardia Performing Arts High School, Philadanco, Steps on Broadway, and Jacob's Pillow, as well as abroad in Canada, Norway, Paris and Greece. Prior to returning to NYC, Bergen was on the dance faculty at Elon and Duke Universities.



Kristen Arnold is a native of New Jersey, and received her early training at the School of American Ballet. She graduated from Princeton University with a BA in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. While at Princeton, she danced in works by Ze'eva Cohen, Rebecca Lazier, and Jessica Lang. In May 2008, Ms. Arnold received her MFA in Dance from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, performing in works by Mark Morris, Christopher Williams, and Deborah Jowitt. She has previously danced with the American Repertory Ballet and Kazuko Hirabayashi Dance Theater, and she currently performs with TAKE Dance Company and Reidel Dance Theater.



Bryan Campbell is a Brooklyn-based dancer and choreographer. He received his BFA in dance at the Tisch School of the Arts, and has studied at Connecticut College and the Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance. In addition to his work with skybetter and associates, Bryan also performs work by Christopher Williams, David Parker, Dorian Nuskind-Oder, Cadence Dubus, and Karl Cronin. His own work has been presented in New York City at Dance Theater Workshop, Chen Dance Center, Lumenhouse, The Tank, and Bowery Poetry Club, and at various national and international festivals.

selected repertory



Cold House You Kept (2008) is by turns violent and tender, staggering and somber, uneasily juxtaposing acute compassion with melancholic ferocity. As the number of onstage dancers gradually decreases from seven to one, *Cold House You Kept* embodies the agonizingly incremental changes that mark the slow extinction of community, family, and self.

Music: String Quartet No. 2. Op. 64 "Quasi una Fantasia," by Henryk Górecki.

Performers: Kristen Arnold, Bryan Campbell, Jennifer Jones, Sydney Skybetter, Laurel Snyder, Sam Wentz, and Bergen Wheeler.

Length: Seven minutes.

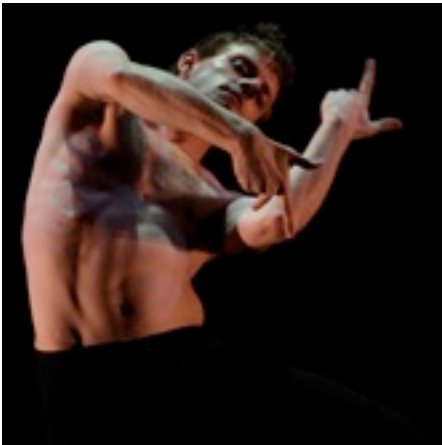


Potemkin Piece (2007) contains energetic and flowing movement within a stark formal arrangement, examining deceptive appearances and the experience of watching, and being watched.

Music: String Quartet No 12 in F Major op 96, "The American," by Dvořák.

Performers: Kristen Arnold, Bryan Campbell, Sydney Skybetter, and Bergen Wheeler.

Length: Eight minutes.

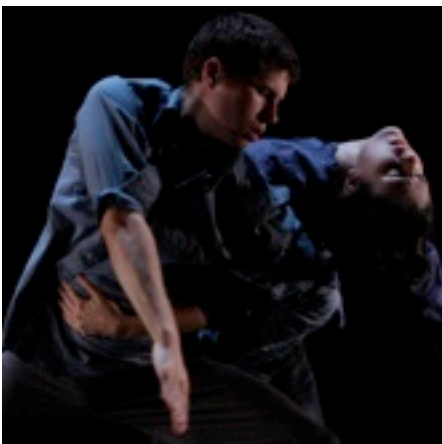


The Personal (2008) is a choreographic grappling with collapse and erasure, consisting of four soloists' execution of rigorous movement in a paradoxically confined space. Through play with gravity and repetition, *The Personal* explores notions of passing, folding, falling, and failing.

Music: Selections from Schumann's *Dichterliebe*, and Schubert's *Schwanengesang*.

Performers: Kristen Arnold, Bryan Campbell, Sydney Skybetter, and Bergen Wheeler.

Length: Thirteen minutes.



Near Abroad (2008) refers to the antithetic impulse to contain yet remain separate from another, exploring the physicality of partnership and loss. With its assiduous sparseness, *Near Abroad* suggests that the most intimate bonds are formed not out of what is shared, but what is mutually had and then lost.

Music: Pärt's *Da pacem Domine*.

Performers: Kristen Arnold and Bryan Campbell

Length: Six minutes.



upcoming

1.8.2010: **skybetter and associates** performs *Halcyon* at the Skirball Center, for the Association of Performing Arts Presenters conference, on the Gotham Arts 360 / Zia Artists Roster. (8pm)

1.10.2010: **skybetter and associates** performs excerpts from *The Personal* at the Joyce SoHo, as part of their ongoing Artist Residency, for the Association of Performing Arts Presenters conference. (11am)

1.21.2010: **skybetter and associates** performs at Studio 34 in Philadelphia, PA.

2.18.10: **sydney skybetter** performs *The Personal* at the Joyce SoHo, as part of Artists Helping Artists Tour (AHAT) inaugural performance.

2.28.2010: **sydney skybetter** performs in "From the Horse's Mouth" at the 92nd Street Y, in New York City.

3.25-3.27.2010: **skybetter and associates'** season at the Joyce SoHo, featuring the premieres of *Fugue State* and *The Laws of Falling Bodies*.



what critics are saying

“Superbly structured... The highest of high notes.”

- Philip Gardner, Reviewer, Oberon's Grove.

“The best that dance can be.”

- Cecly Placenti, ballet-dance.com.

“Intense and complex.”

- Alastair Macaulay, The New York Times.

“Sydney Skybetter choreographs works with some of the most potent dance details on the current scene, visual particulars that form vivid relations with their musical equivalents.”

- Ballet Review.

“As soon as one of his dances began, the audience changed, grew quiet and became deeply absorbed in the stage events, with their musical and formal surprises, their mature perspective on relationships, their many opportunities for each dancer to shine. In every case, the choice of music (classical, for acoustic instruments, mostly) was unpredictable yet entirely justified by the dance action. In every case, the dance and music flew to the finish before one knew it, although not before one was charmed, even overjoyed by the way Skybetter connects sight and sound in a theatrical context. He is a real choreographer and an artist.”

- Mindy Aloff, Reviewer, Voice of Dance and ExploreDance.



what people are saying

"Intelligent, deeply musical, kinetically propelled and honestly romantic."

- David Parker, Artistic Director, The Bang Group.

"Sydney Skybetter makes dances that are at once thoroughly modern yet reassuringly classical. He weds expert choreographic craft and an intelligent musicality that is excitingly refreshing."

- Gus Solomons jr., Choreographer.

"Sydney Skybetter is one of the few emerging contemporary choreographers whose work contains fierce physicality, abstract movement full of emotional resonance, a knowledge of craft and a kinetic that is truly his own."

- Kay Cummings, Curator for Dance, Symphony Space.

"Sydney Skybetter. Oh, wow. If he's still "emerging," will someone please light the fuse and blast him out there? Some better-known choreographers working a similar aesthetic vein get high praise for their musicality whether their work indeed has true musicality or much else to recommend it. This man actually deserves the kudos he's received. And the clarity of execution in his poetic, sophisticated craftsmanship, married with contained passion, makes him a standout."

- Eva Yaa Asantewaa, InfiniteBody Blog, infinitebody.blogspot.com.



booking

skybetter and associates is a member of the Gotham Arts 360 roster, managed by Ken Maldonado and the Gotham Arts Exchange.

Sydney Skybetter is available for commissioning within conservatory departments and professional companies. For more information, please contact info@skybetter.org.

skybetter and associates is available for choreographic and pedagogic residencies. Company members are accredited instructors of classical and contemporary ballet, contact improvisation, release and Horton techniques, Pilates, Core Fusion, and Hatha Yoga. For more information, please contact info@skybetter.org.