



the company

skybetter and associates was formed in 2008 to perform the work of choreographer Sydney Skybetter. Skybetter draws from literary, musical, mathematical, and personal texts to explore his contradictory impulses for clear self-expression and the creation of abstract, narrative-free dance. **skybetter and associates** performs its rigorously formal repertory to enliven an architecture of feeling that can only be articulated by arresting bodies in motion. The company has set its repertory on New York University Tisch School for the Arts, SUNY Purchase, Skidmore College, the Zenon Dance Company, Muhlenberg College, and DeSales University and has performed at Inside/Out at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, The Joyce Theater, The Dance Theater Workshop / New York Live Arts, the Danspace Project, The 92nd Street Y and The Joyce SoHo, among many other venues.



artistic director

Sydney Skybetter is a choreographer, curator, and consultant for performing arts organizations. After studying at the Interlochen Arts Academy, Columbia, and New York University, Skybetter performed with Christopher Williams and the Anna Sokolow Foundation. His choreography has been presented in New York at The Joyce Theater, The Joyce SoHo, Dance Theater Workshop / New York Live Arts, Jacob's Pillow, and The Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church, among many others. Skybetter is a founding partner at Edwards & Skybetter | Change Agency, which provides product development, brand management and technology consulting for such international organizations as the Mark Morris Dance Group and The Fresh Arts Coalition, and has written about performance history and technology for the *Ballet Review* and *The Huffington Post*. He is a Producer with the Dance [NOW] NYC Festival, a teacher for the NYU Tisch Dance Department, and a lecturer on Dance History for the LEAP Program at St. Mary's College. Skybetter serves as the President of the Board of Directors of the Gotham Arts Exchange / Zia Artists, and as the Founding Chairman of the Technology Committee for the Board of Trustees of Dance/USA. He received his Master of Fine Arts in Dance Performance and Choreography from New York University.



principal artists

Kristen Arnold (Rehearsal Director) a native of New Jersey, received her early training at the School of American Ballet and later at Princeton University, while earning her BA in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Kristen holds an MFA in Dance from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. She has worked with American Repertory Ballet, Kazuko Hirabayashi Dance Theater, and Riedel Dance Theater, and she currently performs with TAKE Dance and skybetter and associates, where she is the Rehearsal Director. Kristen has taught at various dance schools throughout the tri-state area in addition to NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, Skidmore, and DeSales University.

Jordan Isadore was born and raised in Grass Valley California, and started dancing as a young child. He continued his studies at California State University Long Beach, where in 2009 he received his B.F.A. in Dance. During his studies he had the privilege to perform works by Twyla Tharp, Marie De La Palme, Jodie Gates, Keith Johnson as well as many others. After graduation Jordan became a member of the Los Angeles company Bodytraffic. While working with the company he performed pieces by Barak Marshall, Alex Ketley, as well as Club Guy and Roni. After recently relocating to New York, and in addition to working with skybetter and associates, he is currently working with Andrea Miller of Gallim and choreographer Christopher Williams.

Jennifer Jones is a Brooklyn-based dancer and choreographer. She received her Master of Fine Arts from New York University in 2008 and her Bachelor of Fine Arts with a focus in Ballet Performance from the University of South Florida in 2006. Her choreography has been selected as a representative of USF at the American College Dance Festival for the Southeastern Division, as well as chosen to be performed in the Celebrazione Festival in Milan, Italy. She has danced in works by Jose Limon, Jessica Lang, Ronald K. Brown, Chris Yon, Deborah Jowitt, and Jim Martin, among others. She was a member of the Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company for three seasons, is a founding member of skybetter and associates, and is in productions with Mark Morris, including *Hard/Nut* and the Metropolitan Opera's *Orfeo Ed Euridice*.

Kile Hotchkiss was born in Half Moon Bay, California and trained with Bruce Alan Ewing as a member of Repertory Dance Theater in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He studied at the Joffrey Ballet School on scholarship, at The Ailey School in the Fellowship Program and at LINES Ballet School under the direction of Alonzo King. Kile graduated from the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program in 2010. He has performed works by Alvin Ailey, Nacho Duato, Paul Taylor, Lar Lubovitch, Bill T. Jones, and Nicolo Fonte among others. Kile currently dances with TAKE Dance, where he is a contributing choreographer, as well as with Keigwin + Company. He is excited to be a part of skybetter and associates.



selected repertory

Temporary Matters (2011) is meditation on parenthood and the passage of youth, employing iterative mathematics in an effort to contend with underlying themes of loss of innocence and loss of innocent life. The resulting work is at once haphazard and serendipitous, using the temporal nature of dance to address the temporality of human life.

Music: "Ef Ég Hefði Aldrei...", "Ég Heyrði Allt Án Þess Að Hlusta," and "Sálfræðingur Deyr" from Jóhann Jóhannsson's *Englabörn*
Length: Ten minutes.

Halcyon (2009) is a kaleidoscopic rendering of personal narrative presented through an unfolding grid of bodies. With its lush score and cerebral execution, *Halcyon* juxtaposes dancers' individuality with its own formal construct, permitting subtle glimpses at distant memories and familial ghosts.

Music: "Canção Verdes Anos" by Carlos Paredes and "La Muerte Chiquita" by Enrique Rangel, arranged and performed by the Kronos Quartet.
Length: Seven 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: *Da pacem Domine* by Arvo Pärt.
Length: Six minutes.

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.
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.
Length: Eight minutes.



recent / upcoming

7.2010: **skybetter and associates** presented at Jacob's Pillow's *Inside/Out*, in Becket, Massachusetts.

6.2011: **skybetter and associates'** shared bill at The Joyce Theater, featuring the world premiere of *Temporary Matters* and a reprise of *Halcyon*.

9.2011: **skybetter and associates** commissioned by the New York University Tisch Dance Department to create *Little Boy* on their Second Avenue Dance Company.

12.2011: **skybetter and associates** presented at the 92nd Street Y's *Sundays at Three*, in New York City.

4.2012: **skybetter and associates'** extended three-week season at The Joyce Soho, presenting the world premieres of *For Want of Sleep* and *Little Boy*.



what critics are saying

“Intense and complex.”

- Alastair Macaulay, The New York Times.

“The young choreographer Sydney Skybetter is a man of sophisticated musical tastes who creates quietly elegant works that are abstract, full-bodied, and serene.”

- The New Yorker

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

- Philip Gardner, Reviewer, Oberon’s Grove.

“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

Sydney Skybetter is available for commissioning within conservatory departments and professional companies, as well as lectures on dance history, entrepreneurialism, dance infrastructure, technology, and marketing. For more information, please contact info@skybetter.org.

skybetter and associates is available for choreographic and pedagogic residencies. Company members are master teachers of classical and contemporary ballet, composition, contact improvisation, release and associated contemporary techniques. For more information, please contact info@skybetter.org.