



# STEPHEN PETRONIO COMPANY

## ABOUT STEPHEN PETRONIO COMPANY

Stephen Petronio Company, founded in 1984, has performed in 26 countries worldwide, including more than 40 New York City engagements with 22 seasons at The Joyce Theater. The company has been commissioned internationally by Dance Umbrella Festival (London), Hebbel Theater (Berlin), Scène Nationale de Sceaux, Festival d'Automne (Paris), CNDC Angers (France), the Holland Festival, and Festival Montpellier Danse (France), and in the US by San Francisco Performances, Joyce Theater, Wexner Center for the Arts, Walker Art Center, UCSB Arts & Lectures, and White Bird, among others. Last season marked the company's first incarnation of *Bloodlines*, a project honoring and curating a lineage of American postmodern dance masters who embody the highest level of artistic excellence. Over a period of five years, the company plans to bring works by Merce Cunningham, Trisha Brown, Lucinda Childs, Anna Halprin, Yvonne Rainer, Steve Paxton, and others into its repertory. This year, Stephen Petronio Company has launched a campaign to establish a choreographic residency program in Pawling, New York. This new undertaking expands the company's mission and lays the groundwork for a creative and secure future. The residency program will focus on research and the creative process, providing dedicated rehearsal space and resources to choreographers and their collaborators to explore ideas and develop new work away from the pressures of urban life.

## WORKSHOPS & OUTREACH

Stephen Petronio Company's workshops are led by Stephen Petronio and the multi-faceted and talented dancers of the company who offer experiential insight into Petronio's technique and creative processes. Classes in technique, repertory, improvisation, and movement generation can be customized for dancers at every level of experience with a focus towards rigorous and intelligent movement, investigations of multiple states of consciousness within the body, and intuitive embrace of play and accidental discovery. Classes in pilates, yoga, and grounding techniques offer participants opportunities for expanding body awareness and flexibility. Additionally, workshops which engage participants in personal storytelling that combines movement and text, and the reciprocal sharing of tradition-based dance forms, offer creative and playful approaches to self-empowerment and self-expression.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

For over 30 years, Stephen Petronio (American, born 1956 in Newark, NJ) has honed a unique language of movement that speaks to the intuitive and complex possibilities of the body informed by its shifting cultural context. He has collaborated with a wide range of artists in many disciplines over his career and holds the integration of multiple forms as fundamental to his creative drive and vision. Petronio received a BA from Hampshire College in Amherst, MA, where he began his early training in improvisation and dance technique. He was greatly influenced by

working with Steve Paxton and was the first male dancer of the Trisha Brown Dance Company (1979 to 1986). He has gone on to build a unique career, receiving numerous accolades, including a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, awards from the Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts, New York Foundation for the Arts, an American Choreographer Award, a New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award, and most recently a 2015 Doris Duke Performing Artist Award. His work has been presented globally and performed by some of the most significant companies working in contemporary dance. Petronio lives and works in New York.

## PRESS

*Bloodlines* is "as admirable as it is ambitious...[Petronio's work is] serious and witty at the same time...exciting and boldly done...[with] terrific velocity and force; these dancers don't hold back." —Alastair Macaulay, *The New York Times*

Petronio's work "surprises you at every ricocheting leap and pitched body flying off on a tangent...the effect is startling, as if time had been suspended." —*Dance Magazine*

"He is one of the few contemporary dance makers who have created an instantly recognizable style...fresh and unpredictable...infused with emotional texture and wit...jarring and just right." —Roslyn Sulcas, *The New York Times*

Petronio's work "crackles with emphases...a cheeky athleticism [and] flashing force." —Robert Greskovic, *The Wall Street Journal*

## VIDEO

[Non Locomotor](#)  
[30 Years of Dance](#)  
[Sunday in the Park with Petronio](#)

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