

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Fandango

(1990 / Company Premiere 1995/ New Production – 2019)

Choreography: Lar Lubovitch

Rehearsal Associates: Nicole Corea and Clifton Brown

Music: Maurice Ravel

Original Lighting: Craig Miller (*Recreated by:* Clifton Taylor)

In his sensually athletic duet—which first entered the Ailey repertory in 1995 but hasn't been performed in over a decade—Lar Lubovitch explores the infinite possibilities of partnering, with the dancers' bodies coming together as if propelled by the lush intensity of Maurice Ravel's "Bolero."

"can only be called a **choreographic sensation**.. the piece is also something very different; a formal exploration of new ways in dance partnering."

The New York Times



Former Ailey dancers Linda-Denise Fischer-Harrell and Richard Witter in Lar Lubovitch's *Fandango*. Photo by Roy Volkmann, circa 1995.



Lar Lubovitch.

Photo by Jack Mitchell.

Lar Lubovitch

Born in Chicago in 1943, Lar Lubovitch began his dance education at The Juilliard School in NYC in 1962. In 1968, after performing in numerous modern, ballet and jazz companies, he created the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2018. He has choreographed over 100 dances, celebrated for their musicality, humanity and rhapsodic style. Called "a national treasure" by *Variety* and named "one of the ten best choreographers" by the *New York Times*, Lubovitch has been the recipient of numerous National Endowment awards, including several "masterpiece grants" for the reconstruction of seminal works.

His dances have also appeared in the repertoire of major dance companies throughout the world including American Ballet Theatre, San Francisco Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, Royal Danish Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, New York City Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet, Martha Graham Dance Company, and many others. His "Othello, A Dance in Three Acts" (1997), a co-production of American Ballet Theatre and San Francisco Ballet, was broadcast on PBS Great Performances and nominated for an Emmy award. His dances on film include "Fandango," also broadcast on PBS (International Emmy Award), and "My Funny Valentine," for the Robert Altman film "The Company" (American Choreography Award). Lubovitch has also made a notable contribution in the field of ice dancing with dances for Olympians John Curry, Peggy Fleming, Dorothy Hamill, and in subsequent years for Paul Wylie, Brian Orser and others. He created a full-length ice-dance special, "The Sleeping Beauty," which was also broadcast on PBS. In 2004, he was honored by the Ice Theater of New York for his contribution to the advancement of ice dancing. Lubovitch made his Broadway debut in 1987 with choreography for Stephen Sondheim's "Into the Woods" for which he received a Tony nomination. In 1993, he received the Astaire Award for his dances in Broadway's "The Red Shoes." In 1996, he created new dances for the Tony Award winning revival of "The King and I" and, in 2002, he choreographed for Disney's "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" in Berlin, Germany.

Lubovitch was named a Ford Fellow by United States Artists and received the Dance/USA Honors Award in 2011. In 2013, the American Dance Guild honored him for lifetime achievements and in 2014, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by The Juilliard School in New York City. In July of 2016, he received the American Dance Festival/Scripps Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Maurice Ravel

Joseph-Maurice Ravel (March 7, 1875 – December 28, 1937) was a French composer of Impressionist music known especially for his melodies, orchestral and instrumental textures and effects. Much of his piano music, chamber music, vocal music and orchestral music has entered the standard concert repertoire. Ravel's piano compositions, such as Jeux d'eau, Miroirs, Le tombeau de Couperin and Gaspard de la nuit, demand considerable virtuosity from the performer, and his orchestral music, including Daphnis et Chloé and his arrangement of Modest Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition, uses a variety of sound and instrumentation. Ravel is perhaps known best for his orchestral work Boléro (1928), which he considered trivial and once described as "a piece for orchestra without music."

Fandango

Music Credit Information

Song: "Bolero"

Composer: Maurice Ravel