

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Chroma
(2006)

(Ailey Company Premiere - 2013)

Choreography: Wayne McGregor
Music: Jack White and Joby Talbot
Set Design: John Pawson
Costumes: Moritz Junge
Lighting Design: Lucy Carter
Restaged by Antoine Vereecken

The company premiere of *Chroma* was made possible with the generous support of New York City Center.

Wayne McGregor's *Chroma* is a ballet filled with layered, beautiful dancing and astonishing lifts. The Ailey company premiere, made possible with the generous support of New York City Center, marked the first time a work by this multi award-winning British choreographer appeared in the Ailey repertory. Set to an amalgam of original music by Joby Talbot and orchestrations of music by Jack White III of The White Stripes, the work explores McGregor's curiosity of a concept freed from whiteness and the drama of the human body. Created in 2006 for The Royal Ballet, a luminous, minimalist set designed by architect John Pawson uses motifs of inside and outside, entrance and exit, light and shadow, void and plenitude, to create a spatially charged environment explored through the medium of the ten dancers' bodies.



“A mesmerizing exploration of extreme articulations and imploding, cascading movement, framed by John Pawson’s gorgeously minimal set, *Chroma* occasioned a roar of critical and public appreciation.”

The New York Times

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Alicia Graf Mack and Vernard Gilmore in Wayne McGregor's *Chroma*. Photo by Paul Kolnik.

"Many modern dance-works lose their impact with repeated viewings, **but not *Chroma*. In fact, it gets more exciting, absorbing and downright dazzling every time you see it.**"

The Daily Telegraph



Wayne McGregor

Wayne McGregor (b. Stockport, UK, 1970), is a multi award-winning British choreographer and director, renowned for his physically testing choreography and ground-breaking collaborations. He studied dance at University College Bretton Hall and the Jose Limon School in New York. He is the founder and Artistic Director of Wayne McGregor I Random Dance, resident company of Sadler's Wells, London, for which he has made over 30 works including *The Millennium*, *Sulphur 16*, *Aeon*, *Nemesis*, *AtaXia*, *Ossein*, *Amu*, *Entity*, *Dyad 1909*, *FAR*, and *UNDANCE*. He is the Resident Choreographer of The Royal Ballet. Mr. McGregor has choreographed works for the theater, film (*Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*), music (Radiohead's *Lotus Flower*), television, and a variety of major dance companies such as La Scala, Milan, Paris Opera Ballet, Nederlands Dans Theatre, Stuttgart Ballet and New York City Ballet. In January 2011, McGregor was awarded a CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) for Services to Dance. Mr. McGregor recently created a work for his company Wayne McGregor | Random Dance, *Atomos*, and in 2014, will create a new work for the Royal Ballet. His recent productions include a large-scale public dance work, *Big Dance Trafalgar Square*, in celebration of the London 2012 Olympics, and a new work for San Francisco Ballet, *Borderlands*, which premiered in January 2013.

Joby Talbot

Joby Talbot has written for a broad range of styles, including instrumental and vocal concert music, film and television scores, pop arrangements and works for dance. As an arranger, Talbot has worked with numerous contemporary pop musicians, including Paul McCartney and Tom Jones. In 2004, Talbot was named Classic FM's first Composer in Residence. Among the pieces composed as part of Talbot's residency are *A Yellow Disc Rising from the Sea*, *Transit of Venus* and *Cloudpark*, all of which went on to form part of Talbot's score for the Royal Ballet production *Chroma*, his first collaboration with Wayne McGregor, which also included Talbot's 2005 instrumental covers of songs by The White Stripes from the album *Aluminum*. Talbot's work for film and television began in 1998 with his theme and score for British comedy series *The League of Gentlemen*, for which he was awarded the Royal Television Society Award for Best Title Music. In 2005 he scored the feature-length *The League of Gentlemen's Apocalypse*, as well as *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* directed by Garth Jennings.

John Pawson

British designer John Pawson's projects have spanned a wide range of scales and building typologies, including several Calvin Klein stores, such as the ice palace on Madison Avenue, sets for new ballets, in collaboration with Wayne McGregor, at London's Royal Opera House for the production of *Chroma* and the Opéra Bastille in Paris for the production of *L'Anatomie de la Sensation, pour Francis Bacon*, and the Sackler Crossing—a walkway over the lake at London's Royal Botanic Gardens. Associated with the minimalist aesthetic, Pawson's works focuses on ways of approaching fundamental problems of space, proportion, light and materials, rather than on developing a set of stylistic mannerisms—themes he also explored in his book, *Minimum*, first published in 1996, which examines the notion of simplicity in art, architecture and design across a variety of historical and cultural contexts.

Lighting Design Assistant – Gary Dooley

Set Design Assistant – Mark Treharne

Costume Builder – Marc Happel

“Aluminum,” * “Cloudpark,” ** “The Hardest Button to Button,” * “Blue Orchid,” * “ ‘...a yellow disc rising from the sea...’,” ** “Transit of Venus,” ** and “Hovercraft.”

*Music composed by Jack White. Published by Peppermint stripe Music / EMI Music Publishing Limited.
New arrangement by Jody Talbot and orchestration by Christopher Austin. By arrangement with Novello & Company Limited on behalf of EMI Music Publishing Limited.

**Music composed and Arranged by Jody Talbot. Published by Chester Music Limited. By arrangement with Chester Music Limited.