

**SADLER
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The Barre Project (Blake Works II)

Presented by Sadler's Wells Digital Stage

Produced by CLI Studios and Forsythe Productions GMBH

cli studios

FORSYTHE PRODUCTIONS GMBH

Tiler Peck at La Mirada Theater, Los Angeles, California © Geovanny Santillan



About The Barre Project (Blake Works II)

Conceived in the midst of the pandemic that has swept the globe, choreographer William Forsythe, New York City Ballet Principal Dancer Tiler Peck, and CLI Studios present The Barre Project (Blake Works II). Choreographed for film, with the feel of a live performance, The Barre Project was created via Zoom, with all rehearsal, filming and assembly taking place bi-coastally and entirely remotely.

Set to the music of popular singer-songwriter James Blake, The Barre Project is the second in a series of Forsythe's works to music by Blake. While theatres were closed and stages vacant, Forsythe set to work looking for a common theme running through our challenging times. The Barre Project consists of five musical episodes that focus on the most primary feature of ballet training: barre.

Forsythe wished for the work to be an homage to all the dancers worldwide who have recently been unable to access formal classes but have nonetheless sustained themselves by diligently doing ballet barre by any means possible.

His classical, yet unpredictable choreography delights in revealing a surprising range of dynamic potential contained within a barre, and artists Tiler Peck, Lex Ishimoto, Brooklyn Mack, and Roman Mejia, revel in the opportunity to put the demands of daily ballet class in a refreshingly different light.

In addition to the performance, get a behind-the-scenes look at the creative process that brought this unique piece of art to life. Experience the creative process up close as Forsythe choreographs the entire show via Zoom from his east-coast studio while the dancers bring his vision to life on stage in California. From anywhere in the world, enjoy a front-row seat to breathtaking talent and stunning dance.



(Left to right) Brooklyn Mack, Tiler Peck, Lex Ishimoto and Roman Mejia at La Mirada Theater, Los Angeles, California © Geovanny Santillan

Cast & Crew

Choreography by **William Forsythe**
Edited by **Devin Jamieson**

Performers in order of appearance:

Tiler Peck, Lex Ishimoto, Roman Mejia, Brooklyn Mack

Music

"Buzzard & Kestrel" by **James Blake**

Under license from Hessle Audio, 2010

"Lindisfarne I" by **James Blake**

Under license from Polydor Ltd. (Universal Music Group), 2011

"Lullaby for My Insomniac" by **James Blake**

Under license from Polydor Ltd. (Universal Music Group), 2019

"200 Press" by **James Blake**

Under license from 1-800-Dinosaur, 2014

"Retrograde" by **James Blake**

Under license from Polydor Ltd. (Universal Music Group), 2013

Crew

Executive Producer **Jon Arpino**

Executive Producer **Tiler Peck**

Executive Producer **Teddy Forance**

Executive Producer **William Forsythe**

Producer **Chris Quazzo**

Producer **Jordan Richbart**

DP / Steadicam **Devin Jamieson**
Technical Director **Jonny Forance**
Lighting Design **Brandon Stirling Baker**
Production Design **William Forsythe**

Costume Design

Janey Taylor, Harriet Jung & Reid Bartelme
Tiler Peck Designs for Body Wrappers
Mens track pants: **EPTM, Los Angeles**

Stage Manager **Spencer Saccoman**
Photographer **Geovanny Santillan**
Video Switching **John Haslam**
Camera Operator **Nathan Haugaard**
Jib Operator **David Kister**
Jib Tech **Jeff Schutz**
1st Assistant Camera **Mař "Q" Edwards**
2nd Assistant Camera **Luis Arthur Buno IV "Bong"**
Sound Engineer **Isaac Carter**
DIT **James Fleming**
BTS Camera Operator **Gavin Millette**
Alterations & Wardrobe Supervisor **Jamie Brown**
Additional wardrobe facilitation **Trudy Christ**

The Crew at La Mirada Theatre, with special thanks to:
Technical Director, La Mirada Theatre **Chris Conrad**
Producing Artistic Director **BT McNicholl**
Rentals Coordinator, La Mirada Theatre **Helene Duarte**

A special thank you to:

Garces Memorial High School
Bakersfield Dance Company
Kim Maselli and California Dance Theatre
ARCpoint Labs
Sasan Massachi, MD
Trudy Christ
Body Wrappers X Tiler Peck Designs



Brooklyn Mack at La Mirada Theater, Los Angeles, California © Geovanny Santillan

William Forsythe

William Forsythe has been active in the field of choreography for over 45 years. His work is acknowledged for reorienting the practice of ballet from its identification with classical repertoire to a dynamic 21st century art form. Forsythe's deep interest in the fundamental principles of organization has led him to produce a wide range of projects including Installations, Films, and Web based knowledge creation.

Raised in New York and initially trained in Florida with Nolan Dingman and Christa Long, Forsythe danced with the Joffrey Ballet and later the Stuttgart Ballet, where he was appointed Resident Choreographer in 1976. In 1984, he began a 20-year tenure as director of the Ballet Frankfurt.

After its closure, Forsythe established a new ensemble, The Forsythe Company, which he directed from 2005 to 2015. Forsythe's most recent works were developed and performed exclusively by The Forsythe Company, while his earlier pieces are prominently featured in the repertoire of virtually every major ballet company in the world, including The Mariinsky Ballet, The New York City Ballet and The Paris Opera Ballet.

Tiler Peck

Tiler Peck is an award-winning principal dancer with New York City Ballet, an actress on film, stage and screen, a curator, choreographer, author and fashion designer. She made her Broadway debut at age 11 and has continued to create at the highest level across multiple disciplines. During the pandemic Peck founded and taught a daily ballet class on her Instagram account, #TurnitOutwithTiler, to keep dancers moving and connected. @tilerpeck

Lex Ishimoto

Lex Ishimoto began his career at age 11 performing the title role on the US national tour of Billy Elliot The Musical. He trained at Boston Ballet under the direction of Mikko Nissinen for two years before joining Travis Wall's Shaping Sound company. He won So You Think You Can Dance in 2017 and appeared as an All-Star for the 15th season. He can be seen in music videos such as Sia's "The Greatest" and BeBe Rexha's "I'm a Mess" and recently completed the MUSE 2019 world tour.

Brooklyn Mack

Brooklyn Mack is highly in demand as a guest principal dancer the world over. He danced for nine years with Washington Ballet and spent three seasons as a principal dancer with Orlando Ballet. He has performed at the London Coliseum, the Bolshoi in Moscow, the Palais Garnier, and most recently the Metropolitan Opera, where he debuted as a guest principal with American Ballet Theatre in Le Corsaire.

Roman Mejia

Roman Mejia trained with the School of American Ballet and New York City Ballet before officially joining NYCB in 2017 at the age of 17. His Principal roles include Peter Martins' Romeo and Juliet, Balanchine's Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux, Jerome Robbins' Fancy-Free, and Justin Peck's Principia. He can be seen dancing annually as a guest artist at the prestigious Vail Dance Festival and is a 2019 Princess Grace Award recipient.

About CLI Studios

CLI Studios, the world's top online arts education platform, is a venture-backed technology company on a mission to make the world a more creative place. At its core, CLI Studios believes in the transformative power of arts education, and is leveraging technology to ensure that every student has equal access to the world's top arts educators. Through the video-on-demand platform students get unlimited access to thousands of recorded, live, and interactive classes taught by 300+ world-renowned instructors, including Principal dancer Tiler Peck from New York City Ballet, hip-hop icon Stephen "tWitch" Boss, Dancing with the Stars Pro Allison Holker, Broadway stars, and more. To learn more visit clistudios.com and follow us on Twitter, TikTok, Instagram and Facebook.

About Sadler's Wells

Sadler's Wells is a world-leading dance organisation, committed to producing, commissioning and presenting new works and to bringing the best domestic and international dance to UK and worldwide audiences. Under the Artistic Directorship of Alistair Spalding, the theatre's acclaimed year-round programme spans dance of every kind, from contemporary to flamenco, Bollywood to ballet, salsa to street dance and tango to tap.

Audiences of over half a million come to Sadler's Wells' three London theatres each year, with many more enjoying its touring productions at venues across the UK and around the world and accessing its content through its Digital Stage. Sadler's Wells commissions, produces and presents more dance than any other theatre in the world, embracing the popular and the unknown. Since 2005, it has helped to bring over 180 new dance works to the stage, many of them involving its 16 Associate Artists, three Resident Companies and four Associate Companies – the most exciting talents working in dance today.

Sadler's Wells' own productions have toured to some of the most prestigious theatres and festivals around the world, such as the Sydney Opera House, the Lincoln Center's White Light Festival in New York, and the National Centre for Performing Arts in Beijing.

Sadler's Wells also nurtures the next generation of talent through a range of artist development initiatives including its New Wave

Associates programmes, its Wild Card initiative and the National Youth Dance Company. A further 30,000 individuals take part in its learning and engagement programmes each year.

During the Covid-19 crisis, Sadler's Wells has continued to connect with global audiences through its Digital Stage, an online programme of performances and workshops for people to watch at home. Since 27 March 2020, the programme has been enjoyed by audiences all over the world, generating over 5 million video views globally.

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Lex Ishimoto at La Mirada Theater, Los Angeles, California © Geovanny Santillan



Creating The Barre Project (Blake Works II)

A chance text message sent at the right moment brought Forsythe and Peck together for this groundbreaking project

"Working with William 'Bill' Forsythe has always been a dream of mine. It has been difficult for so many of us artists to find opportunities to do what we love while in quarantine," said Tiler Peck. "A few months ago, I took a chance and reached out to Bill to ask if he would want to create a new work together. He texted back, '...Could we start soon?' I said, 'Yes, we can start whenever! You let me know.' He replied, 'Like, tomorrow!?' And just like that, my bucket-list dream became a pandemic reality.

"From that moment on, my spirits were lifted, and my creative muscles were stretched as I had the pleasure of spending the next three months rehearsing and creating a work over Zoom with Bill. When I watch The Barre Project, what I think shines through the screen is the love and joy that both of us poured into the process and the appreciation we both felt as artists to be working together. Bill, the dancers, and the devotion of the rock star CLI Studios team made for the perfect partnership. I hope this work inspires the next generation of dancers to think outside of the box in every way possible. Classical ballet can be so many different things, and there is always a way to create something you are immensely proud of if you take a chance and use your heart."

The group spent months patiently choreographing the work over Zoom. CLI Studios worked closely with Forsythe and the artists to create a visually striking production. The work as a whole is infused with an infectious creative energy, designed to inspire younger generations.

"Working on a first-of-its-kind production is always exhilarating. But collaborating and breaking new ground with William Forsythe and Tiler Peck—two of the most brilliant and talented artists in dance—is an experience the team at CLI will never forget," said Jon Arpino, CEO of CLI Studios. "The work they created with the cast over Zoom is truly remarkable, and we are honoured to bring that magic to life for all to enjoy."

William Forsythe said, "The Barre Project is designed to celebrate the deep commitment that all dancers bring to their chosen form. Irrespective of genre, a dancer's irrepressible capacity to summon fierce joy through their work gives testament to the resilience of the human spirit."

Roman Mejia at La Mirada Theater, Los Angeles, California © Geovanny Santillan

