



Photo of Nimbus Dancers by Megan Maloy

Nimbus

Nimbus Dance | Nimbus Arts Center | School of Nimbus

Press Kit | Nimbus Dance

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About

Nimbus Dance bridges the gap between world-class performances and community engagement by presenting work that challenges, speaks to, and elevates diverse audiences across the nation. Founded in 2005 by visionary Artistic Director Samuel Pott (former soloist with Martha Graham Dance Company) and based in Jersey City, Nimbus stands at the forefront of excellence in the arts, civic engagement, and equitable impact. With a highly physical and visually engaging aesthetic, Nimbus' international company of dancers "split the difference between traditionalism and modernism... A Nimbus Dance piece can pivot from ballet to Broadway to Beyoncé in a few beats." (Tris McCall, Jersey City Times). The company tours nationally and throughout the greater New Jersey/New York region, impacting over 16,000 people annually. Nimbus recently performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood and is humbled by support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the O'Donnell-Green Music and Dance Foundation.



Samuel Pott (Founding Artistic Director) founded Nimbus in 2005 in support of a vision for dance, creativity, and the arts as a stimulus for growth and unity, both personal and communal. Mr. Pott's work as a performer, choreographer, educator, and arts leader, is dedicated to the authentic, humanistic, and equitable engagement that emerges in individuals and in communities through deep exploration and learning in dance and the arts.

Under his direction, the organization has toured nationally, built the 15,000 sq. ft. Nimbus Arts Center in Downtown Jersey City, developed the School of Nimbus which annually serves over 500 students onsite, and many thousands more in offsite community programs, and become the largest contemporary dance organization in the State of New Jersey.


Mr. Pott's choreography has embodied the organization's endless fascination with exploration and engagement with important themes of the day, and collaboration with artists from many genres, among them: composers Daniel Bernard Roumain, Samson Young, Judd Greenstein, Aaron Parks, and Qasim Naqvi; visual artists Nicola Lopez, Bryant Small, Laia Cabrera/Isabelle Duverger, Theda Sandiford; and writers Alysia Souder and Rashad Wright. Pott maintains a multi-year artistic partnership with the New Jersey Symphony. Mr. Pott's 20+ original works for Nimbus are complemented by his commitment to support the work of diverse established and emerging choreographers through commissions, including: Dawn Marie Bazemore, Sofia Nappi, Darshan Singh Bhuller, Yoshito Sakuraba, Pedro Ruiz, Vernard Gilmore and Korhan Basaran.

As a performer, Mr. Pott danced as a soloist with the Martha Graham Dance Company, performing in iconic roles—the Husbandman in *Appalachian Spring*, Agamemnon in *Clytemnestra*, and Adam in *Embattled Garden*—and new choreographic works created by a range of leading contemporary choreographers including Larry Kegwin, Ann Bogart, Robert Wilson, and Lar Lubovitch. Prior to joining the Graham company, Mr. Pott performed as a lead dancer with American Repertory Ballet, Oakland Ballet, and Savage Jazz Dance Company, in a wide range of new and classical repertory. A recipient of Choreography Fellowships from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts in 2008, 2017, and 2023, and named a Distinguished Teaching Artist by the Council in 2012, Pott was one of 25 arts leaders nationally selected for the Association of Performing Arts Presenters' (APAP) inaugural Leadership Fellows Program, serves on the Dance Advisory Council for New Jersey Performing Arts Center and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee for ArtPride NJ, and is a co-founder of the Jersey City Arts Council.


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Current Touring Works

Nimbus Dance, the acclaimed contemporary dance company directed by award-winning choreographer Samuel Pott, is now booking engagements for the 2025-2026 season and beyond. Nimbus' touring repertoire includes **ANIMA, The New Tide, Firebird, Spring, Insight/Incite**, and a range of opportunities for direct community engagement in company performances. ANIMA features three complementary pieces: *Patch of Turf*, *Falling Sky*, and *Dark Water*—with *Dark Water* and *Firebird* set to premiere in Spring 2025. Detailed information on each of these works is available on pages 4-9, or you can visit www.nimbusdance.org/current-projects for more.

Works in Process

Nimbus is currently developing multiple new works, including a premiere by Cuban-American choreographer Pedro Ruiz, set to the choral music of Caroline Shaw. More information available upon request.

Technical Requirements & Logistics

Nimbus Dance's technical and administrative requirements vary depending on the programmed performance. Below is a general overview of touring needs that apply to most of our repertoire:

Traveling Personnel

- Artistic Director
- Production Stage Manager/Lighting Supervisor
- Additional staff as needed

Technical Requirements

- Projector
- Marley Flooring
- For select repertoire: Performers may enter through the aisles from the front of house, necessitating access from BOH to FOH after the performance begins, and step/stairs to access the stage from the aisles.



ANIMA: Patch of Turf, Falling Sky, Dark Water

Nimbus Dance captivates in this euphoric and transportive dance program. Featuring Samuel Pott's iconic environmental triptych, *Patch of Turf, Falling Sky, and Dark Water* (premiering Spring 2025),

[▶ Watch: State of the Arts NJ, Behind The Scenes -Patch of Turf, Falling Sky](#) [▶ Watch: Falling Sky \(Excerpt\)](#)

Patch of Turf (2015)

Run Time: 18 minutes Music/Composer **Qasim Naqvi**
 Number of Performers: 4 Choreography, Costumes **Samuel Pott**

By way of an 8' x 12' square patch of artificial grass, *Patch of Turf* tells of Man/Womankind in a diminishing natural environment. Set to a commissioned score by Qasim Naqvi, the work is an intense tour de force for four virtuosic female performers. The work is both ironic in its depiction of nature vis-à-vis the artificial grass and poignant in revealing both our estrangement from the natural world and competition and dominance over it.



Falling Sky (2019)

Run Time: 24 minutes Music/Composer **Qasim Naqvi** Video Projections **Isabelle Duverger, Laia Cabrera**
 Number of Performers: 8 Choreography **Samuel Pott** Costumes **Mark Eric**

Falling Sky provides a counterpoint and new perspective to the critical subject matter of the environment presented within its partner piece, *Patch of Turf*, inverting the motifs and structure of the original piece, exploring and testing dichotomies such as Organic/Artificial, Earth/Air, Biology/Spiritual, External/Internal within a greater context of a human relationship to the environment. With the immediacy of climate change today, *Falling Sky* addresses the moral obligation to consider both earthbound and existential interactions, the natural world and the impact of society's insatiable appetite for its resources.

Dark Water (2025)

Run Time: 24 minutes Music/Composer **Qasim Naqvi** Set Designs **Nicola López**
 Number of Performers: 7 Choreography **Samuel Pott** Costumes **Mark Eric**

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS FOR SITE-SPECIFIC INSTALLATIONS: Community residencies include developing and performing site-specific "movement installations" by participants, enhancing engagement and raising visibility for company performances. The community cast creates movement sequences and improvisations in public spaces leading up to the performance and in areas outside the theater, such as the lobby, serving as a prelude to the show.

SCHOOL MATINEE PERFORMANCES & WORKSHOPS: These programs combine performance and discussion on the planet, nature, and environmental issues. The in-school residencies link art-making with societal understanding and academic subjects, fostering engaged, curious students. Nimbus' diverse dancers, also Teaching Artists, help students personally connect to the performances, which are attended by the school community.



The New Tide

Choreographer Dawn Marie Bazemore (Philadanco, Dreamgirls) returns to Nimbus with *The New Tide*, a visionary work inspired by the iconic photography of Gordon Parks from the 1940s-50s, and set to the transcendent music of the legendary Sam Cooke. Drawing on the profound insight, implicit activism, and universal appeal of these 20th-century cultural giants, Ms. Bazemore crafts a piece deeply rooted in history, storytelling, and irresistibly dynamic dance. Gordon Parks' photographic images, seamlessly integrated into the scenic design, were provided courtesy of the Gordon Parks Foundation and the Chi Modu Estate. *The New Tide*, supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, and the Gordon Parks Foundation, premiered in Fall 2023.



Choreography

Dawn Marie Bazemore

Music, Audio Interview

Sam Cooke

Photography

Gordon Parks

Run Time: 23 minutes

Number of Performers: 9

 Watch [The New Tide \(Trailer\)](#).

The New Tide is an extraordinary multi-genre performance that delves into the rich, intertwined histories of the United States, African Americans, and media studies. Gordon Parks' career spanned these worlds throughout much of the 20th century. By incorporating primary source materials, including Parks' photography and Sam Cooke's audio, *The New Tide* offers a captivating opportunity for students to engage with history—both in its enduring influence and through the lens of iconic Black American artists. Opportunities for engagement include:

PRE-PERFORMANCE STUDY GUIDE

For school assembly performances (grades 6-12), Nimbus provides pre-performance materials with academic touchpoints to enrich and extend curriculum connections to the concert experience.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

With advance notice, *The New Tide* offers engaging pre-performance discussions with scholars. These can be coordinated through host venues, local colleges or universities, or directly through Nimbus and the Gordon Parks Foundation.

WORKSHOPS & MASTERCLASSES

In conjunction with performances of *The New Tide*, Nimbus Dance artists are available to teach repertory workshops and masterclasses, featuring choreography and phrase work from the piece.





© Jack Grassa

Firebird

In a dramatic departure from traditional renditions of *Firebird*, Pott's new creation imagines the firebird as an Icarus-like character, who, along with a young girl from a modern-day family in turmoil, escapes from a world of violence and conflict to freedom and flight. The work marries ethereal and mythological storytelling with depictions of contemporary childhood and family-life, exploring the deep-seated anxiety and stresses that have come to underscore the experience of many young people in today's world. Images of self-discovery, violence, dreams, and flight abound in the choreography which engages with a mobile and interactive set piece. In keeping with the sublime catharsis embodied Stravinsky's *Firebird* score, the new work's narrative expresses a deep sense of revelation in the face of trauma and loss. Premiering in Spring 2025, *Firebird* is commissioned by New Jersey Symphony and New Jersey Performing Arts Center.



Choreography

Samuel Pott

Lighting Design

Rebecca Nussbaum

Set Design

Mark Smith, Samuel Pott

Costumes

Sara Thea

Run Time: 22 minutes

Number of Performers: 9-14

 [Watch *Firebird*](#)

LIVE MUSIC / ORCHESTRAL PARTNERSHIPS: *Firebird* adds to Nimbus Dance's repertory of dance works set to orchestral music: "Spring" - set to Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring*, and "Danzón" - set to Arturo Márquez's *Danzón No 2*. This collection of works opens up opportunities for live music collaboration with orchestra partners.

WORKSHOPS: Nimbus company artists are available to teach masterclasses and repertory workshops connected to company presentations of *Firebird*. Workshops include choreography, phrase work from *Firebird*, and exploration of the creative and character-building processes embedded in the work.

ARTIST TALK / PUBLIC DISCUSSION: Choreographer Samuel Pott and company members are available to discuss the underpinnings of *Firebird* - melding personal narrative, mythology, and reflection on contemporary experience. Public conversations on the work offer opportunities for engagement with scholars, artists, and thinkers from the host community.



Spring

Commissioned and premiered as part of New Jersey Symphony's 100th Anniversary Season, *Spring* honors Martha Graham's seminal "Appalachian Spring" (1944). Pott conveys notions of American hope and optimism embedded in Aaron Copland's vibrant and iconic score, expressing a contemporary perspective on the continuity of spirit through cycles of seasons in nature and through generations of Americans.

Choreography & Concept **Samuel Pott**

Painting **Bryant Small**

Costumes **Erica Johnson**

Music ***Appalachian Spring Suite* by Aaron Copland**

Run Time: 25 minutes

Number of Performers: 6

[▶ Watch *Spring*: A Sneak Peek w/ The New Jersey Symphony](#)

Spring also serves as a program for community engagement. Samuel Pott's choreography is **designed to include a cast of 12-20 local youth dancers** who, in keeping with the work's theme of continuity through generations, provide a touching representation of the future. The youth performers work with Nimbus company dancers to learn choreography and staging which they rehearse and perform alongside the professional dancers. Youth casts from urban and rural settings, and from diverse backgrounds have successfully participated in *Spring*.

Community engagement benefits include:

- Educational enrichment of local youth dancers- direct experience learning and performing with professional dancers, and connection to the legacy of Martha Graham's seminal modern dance work, "Appalachian Spring"
- Audience development- added visibility and local connection
- Press engagement
- Partnership opportunities with local schools and dance/performing arts studios





Insight / Incite

A dazzling collaboration by an all-star creative team consisting of choreographer Roger C. Jeffrey, tap dance virtuosos Jason Samuels Smith and Maurice Chestnut, and legendary jazz percussionist Winard Harper. Roger C. Jeffrey, hailed by the New York Times as one of the most sensitive and savviest young producers in New York, joins forces with revolutionary tap dancer Jason Samuels Smith, described by the Chicago Tribune as "an all-out sensation" and "intoxicating." The ensemble is completed by Winard Harper, acclaimed by Downbeat Magazine as one of his generation's greatest standards bearers.

Premiered in March 2024.

- Choreography **Roger C. Jeffrey**
- Music/Performance **Winard Harper**
- Tap Artist **Jason Samuels Smith**
- Costumes **Samuel Meredith**
- Lighting Design **Rebecca Nussbaum**

Run Time: ~20 minutes
Number of Performers: 6
Number of Musicians on Stage: 1 Drummer

[!\[\]\(fa6f3af6bfa46c5d4a2d362681095beb_img.jpg\) Watch *Insight / Incite*](#)

Community Engagement Opportunities are available upon request.



Press

[Nimbus Dance Takes on the Nation in "The New Americana"](#) –JERSEY CITY TIMES

[New Jersey Symphony opens centennial season with visionary concert](#) –NJARTS.NET

[One enchanting evening: Music, dance and theater are a winning combo at the Criterion Theatre](#) –MOUNT DESERT ISLANDER

“ ... the NJPAC audience leapt to their feet
in a standing ovation.
–NJ.COM

“ Nimbus helps D E F I N E
the American experience.
–The Star-Ledger

Recent Engagements

Zoellner Arts Center, Lehigh University (**Bethlehem, PA**)
New Jersey Performing Arts Center (**Newark, NJ**)
Tanglewood, Music Festival w/ Boston Symphony (**Lennox, MA**)
Mount Holyoke College (**South Hadley, MA**)
Walton Arts Center (**Fayetteville, AR**)
Mayo Performing Arts Center (**Morristown, NJ**)
Count Basie Center for the Arts (**Red Bank, NJ**)
Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) (**Brooklyn, NY**)
The Putney School (**Putney, VT**)
Bickford Theater/Morris Museum (**Morristown, NJ**)
Grunin Center for the Arts (**Toms River, NJ**)
Acadia Dance Festival (**Mount Desert Island, ME**)
Golden Door Film Festival (**Jersey City, NJ**)
Hudson West Folk Fest (**Jersey City, NJ**)
Asbury Park Dance Festival (**Asbury Park, NJ**)
The Lively Arts at Suffolk County Community College (**Brentwood, NY**)
Newark Museum of Art (**Newark, NJ**)

Entering our 20th Anniversary Season, Nimbus Dance eagerly anticipates the world premiere of Samuel Pott's *Firebird*, commissioned by the NJ Symphony and to be performed at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in March 2025, as well as three more FY25 world premieres. Artistic creativity and collaboration are the lifeblood of our organization and we can't wait to share a new wave of creations with the public.

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