



Cash or Check?, Jon Lehrer Dance Company

Jon Lehrer Dance Company (JLDC) began in 2007 in Buffalo, NY and has received critical acclaim nationally and internationally. Jon moved the company to his hometown of NYC in 2019, where they have become a vibrant addition to the city's dance community. Under Jon Lehrer's artistic direction, the company showcases his unique choreography and definitive style. His extensive background in both the modern and jazz dance idioms fosters choreography that is organic, athletic, artistic, entertaining, and often humorous, reflecting human experiences.

JLDC's expressive style is based on three main elements of movement - Circularity, 3-Dimensionality, and Momentum - which combine to create a form that is best described as "Organically Athletic". With creativity, athleticism, and the ability to make new and innovative modern and jazz dance accessible to all audiences, the company has made quite a name for themselves in the dance world. Striking the elusive balance between art and entertainment, JLDC showcases a dynamic, fun, and distinctive style which fuses jazz and modern dance, creating a true spectacle onstage which can be enjoyed by dance experts and novices alike. JLDC tours extensively, receiving critical acclaim worldwide. Dance Magazine praised, "the company took the house not so much by storm as by quantum physics," and Galerie Ortenau in Offenburg, Germany declared, "Dynamic, Powerful, Elegant – brings an absolute passion for the dance." From 2012-2016, JLDC had the honor of touring to Russia, sponsored by the US State Department in order to, as they said, "bring the best in American modern dance to the people of Russia." These cultural diplomacy tours brought the company to Vladivostok, Anadyr, Perm, Yekaterinburg, Chukotka, and Berezniki. JLDC has been touring to Europe since 2014, most recently in March 2026. For their 2022 tour they premiered "Bernstein Celebration" - a full evening set to the music of Leonard Bernstein. JLDC was honored and privileged to be one of only a handful of dance companies worldwide given the rights to use Bernstein's music. At home in NYC, JLDC is a three time recipient of the prestigious CUNY Dance Initiative Award (2022, 2023, and 2025).



I'll Build A Stairway to Paradise & Embraceable You, Sandy Cieslak

Long Island native Sandy Cieslak began her dance training at the American Ballet Studio of Bayport and spent her summers training at the Joffrey Ballet School. While earning her degree in French Literature at Stony Brook University, she studied abroad at Université Lumière Lyon II and trained in classical ballet at Académie de Danse Lyon VII. She later danced as a company member with Tau Dance Theatre in Honolulu before earning her M.S. in Childhood Education from Hunter College. Sandy is currently a company dancer with Chevalier Ballet, recently returning from a two-week training residency and performance tour in France with the company. She is also entering her third year performing with New York Dance Theatre, dances with the Polish American Folk Dance Company, teaches on faculty at the Ohman School of Ballet, and works as a freelance dancer throughout New York City. She is deeply grateful and overjoyed to be performing for the first time in the Gold Coast Dance Festival!

