

GIOCONDA BARBUTO



Gioconda Barbuto is an internationally esteemed Italian-Canadian dancer and choreographer. She trained in the professional program at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School, The Banff Centre, and under the tutelage of Gladys Forrester in Toronto, her natal city. As a long-time member of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens and Nederlands Dans Theater III, Barbuto was quickly re-cognized as a versatile and magnetic soloist. Her performances have highlighted Jiří Kylián's dance films *Birth Day* and *Car Men*, Robert Wilson's *2Lips* and *Dancers and Space*, Margie Gillis's *M.Body.7*, and most recently Joe Laughlin's *4OUR*. Since 1996, she has unflaggingly pursued her choreographic calling, creating detailed, dynamic friezes of full-bodied gesture, marked by her innate musicality.

Her oeuvre now counts over fifty works, among them solos, duets, group pieces, and films. Internationally acclaimed dance companies—Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, Ballet BC, Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal, Alberta Ballet, Minnesota Dance Theatre, and many others—commission her choreography. She created *FOOTPRINT*—a “stark and poignant” work (*Star Tribune*)—as the 2015 McKnight International Artist Fellow for TU Dance in Minnesota. Gioconda also recently obtained one of the choreographic positions for Oregon Ballet Theater's Choreography XX competition with creation and performance slated for June 2017. In 1996, she was nominated for The Kennedy Center Fellowship and received The Banff Centre's Clifford E. Lee Choreography Award. In recent years, Barbuto has been extending her methods for moulding space and energy through her Movement Workshops. She is invited to teach actors, circus artists, vocalists, and dancers at academies and institutions worldwide, including The Juilliard School, Simon Fraser University and Harvard. Barbuto choreographs frequently for the Dutch National Ballet Academy, Arts Umbrella Dance in Vancouver, L'École supérieure de ballet du Québec, Ballet Divertimento, and the École nationale de cirque in Montréal where she recently created and directed the graduating production *L'abri*. Gioconda shares her creative life in Montréal with her husband, the renowned dance photographer Michael Slobodian.