

# Steve Paxton, Performances by Stephen Petronio Company Bios

**Steve Paxton** has researched the fiction of cultured dance and the “truth” of improvisation for 55 years. He lives on a farm, and he has received grants from Change, Inc., E.A.T., the Foundation for Performance Arts, and John D. Rockefeller Fund, as well a Guggenheim Fellowship. He has been awarded two NY Bessie Awards, and is a contributing editor to Contact Quarterly Dance Journal. He was one of the founders of the Judson Dance Theater, Grand Union, Contact Improvisation, and Touchdown Dance for the visually disabled (UK), and he began his career studying modern dance techniques, ballet, Aikido, Tai Chi Chuan, and Vipassana meditation. He performed with the Merce Cunningham Dance Company from 1961 to 1965. He lectures, performs, choreographs, and teaches primarily in the US and Europe. In 2008 he published the DVD Material for the Spine with ContreDanse in Brussels. In 2009 he re-choreographed Ave Nue (1985) in Amsterdam, and toured Japan—including Night Stand, with Lisa Nelson, in Tokyo. With Contredanse of Brussels, he, Florence Corin, and Baptiste Andrien have developed the Phantom Exhibition, a multi-image room of meditations on Material for the Spine, which was featured in the Super Bodies Triennale in Hasselt, Belgium. In 2013 he was featured in Tanz im August, Berlin; and his Night Stand was performed in NYC at Dia:Chelsea. In 2014 his work Bound, with Jurij Konjar, was presented in Ljubljana, Venice, and Munich. In June 2014 he received the Venice Biennale Leone d'Oro for lifetime achievement in dance. He received another Bessie in 2016 for the same reason. Robert Ashley's opera Quicksand, which premiered in January 2015 at the Kitchen, NYC, and was

performed at Festival D'Automne in 2016, featuring set and choreography by Paxton, was included on The New York Times' 2016 “Best 10 Classical Music Performances” list.

For over 30 years **Stephen Petronio** has honed a unique language of movement that speaks to the intuitive and complex possibilities of the body, informed by its shifting cultural context. Founded in 1984, Stephen Petronio Company has performed throughout the world, including 24 seasons at The Joyce Theater. Since 2015 the Company's Bloodlines project has honored a lineage of American postmodern dance masters with works by Merce Cunningham, Trisha Brown, Anna Halprin, Yvonne Rainer, Rudy Perez, and Steve Paxton. In 2016, the Company established the Petronio Residency Center, where paid artist residencies provide space and resources for the development of new work. Petronio was born in New Jersey and received a BA from Hampshire College. He was greatly influenced by Steve Paxton and was the first male dancer of the Trisha Brown Dance Company (1979–86). He has received numerous accolades, including a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, New York Foundation for the Arts, an American Choreographer Award, a New York Dance and Performance Bessie Award, and a 2015 Doris Duke Performing Artist Award.

**Bria Bacon**, a New Jersey native, graduated in 2017 from Mason Gross School of the Arts – Rutgers. Bacon has completed her first year of graduate school at Rutgers University, where she is working toward her masters of dance education. She has worked with Kyle Marshall Choreography and Netta Yerushalmy on recent projects.

**Taylor Boyland** is from Texas and graduated from SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance. She has worked with Kyle Abraham, Doug Varone, Trisha Brown Dance Company, Gregory Dolbashian, Kimberly Bartosik, and others. Recently, she has been working as a choreographer's assistant for Bridget Moore, and she was a backup dancer for Madonna at the 2018 Met Gala.

**Ernesto Breton** studied at SUNY Purchase and then transferred and graduated from The Juilliard School in May 2013. Breton has danced in several works, including work as a fellowship dancer with the Merce Cunningham Trust, in the North American premiere of *Die Materie: Matter & Spirit*, and in the immersive theater production *Sleep No More*.

**Jaqlin Medlock**, a native New Yorker and a graduate of Marymount Manhattan College, joined Stephen Petronio Company in 2011. Her performance credits include works by Julie Bour, Neijla Yatkin, Nacho Duato, Angelin Preljocai, Donald Byrd, Davalois Fearon, Max Stone, Tyce Diorio, and Sonya Tayeh. Medlock also has her own photography business specializing in movement.

**Tess Montoya** graduated from Point Park University with a BA in dance. Montoya has performed with Megan Kendzior, Daniel Gwartzman, and Daniel Roberts, and has taken part in performances through the Merce Cunningham Trust Fellowship Program. Montoya is currently a project manager for Davalois Fearon Dance. She joined Stephen Petronio Company in 2015 and co-directs the company's education program.

Originally from Ithaca, New York, **Ryan Pliss** received a BFA in dance performance from the Conservatory of Dance at SUNY Purchase in 2014. He has worked and performed with such renowned choreographers as Nelly van Bommel, Johannes Wieland, and Doug Varone. He has been dancing with Stephen Petronio Company since 2017.

**Nicholas Sciscione** was born and raised in Elizabeth, New Jersey. He graduated magna cum laude with a BFA in dance from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. Sciscione joined Stephen Petronio Company in 2011, and is currently the assistant to the artistic director.

**Mac Twining** was born in Baltimore, and trains with Nadege Hottier at Premiere Division Ballet and studies contemporary dance with a variety of artists in New York. He has performed with Dakshina/Daniel Phoenix Singh Dance Company and Michael Mao Dance Company, and he has participated in several workshops with the Merce Cunningham Trust.

**Megan Wright** was born in New York City and raised in Maine, and trained at the Walnut Hill School for the Arts. She danced with the Margaret Jenkins Dance Company in San Francisco from 2013 to 2016. She joined Petronio in 2016 and co-directs the company's education program.