A VISIONS AND VOICES SIGNATURE EVENT

BEREISHIT DANCE COMPANY

LOS ANGELES DEBUT!



BALANCE & IMBALANCE JUDO

SUN | 2•23•25 | 6 PM | BOVARD AUDITORIUM

USC Visions & Voices | 10 TEN YEARS | USC Kaufman Glorya Kaufman School of Dance | USC Student Life Asian Pacific American Student Services

Photo: Rober Torres Photography

PROGRAM

BALANCE & IMBALANCE (Premiered 2011)

Choreographer: Park Soon-ho

Live Music: Traditional samul nori percussion and pansori chant from *Sugungga*

Musicians: Kim Jeong-uk, Ko Maeng-ka

Singer: Kim Eun-kyung

Dancers: Lee Da-som, Na Ji-hun, Jeong Min-woo, Park Sang-hyun, Jang Eun-young

JUDO (Premiered 2014)

Choreographer: Park Soon-ho

Music Composition: Pi Jeong-hun, Kang An-na

Dancers: Lee Da-som, Na Ji-hun, Jeong Min-woo, Park Sang-hyun, Jung Kang-han, Jang Eun-young, Kim Pyung-on

Following the performance, USC Kaufman School of Dance professor Patrick Corbin will moderate a conversation with Soon-ho Park and members of the company.

TOURING CREW

Technical Director and Tour Manager: Kim Seon-woo

Lighting Designer: Lee Seung-ho

For booking information, contact:
Sophie Myrtil-McCourty, President
Lotus Arts Management
347-721-08724 | sophie@lotusartsmgmt.com | www.lotusartsmgmt.com

ABOUT THE WORKS

Balance & Imbalance

"Receiving significant international acclaim, *Balance & Imbalance* and *Judo* combine Eastern and Western cultural elements with unique results, moving the viewer through movements, sounds, and even concepts that are otherwise unusual in this part of the world."—Ana Rosa Rodríguez, Channel 5 Uruguay

"It was a fantastic show. There were very pure elements of movement and great performers. Everything was smooth. The sense of theatre and acting was sublime. How the things connected was very nice. I also really enjoyed the sense of timing. It was full of life, going into a trance with the music at some point."—Yossi Berg, Yossi Berg & Oded Graf Dance Theatre

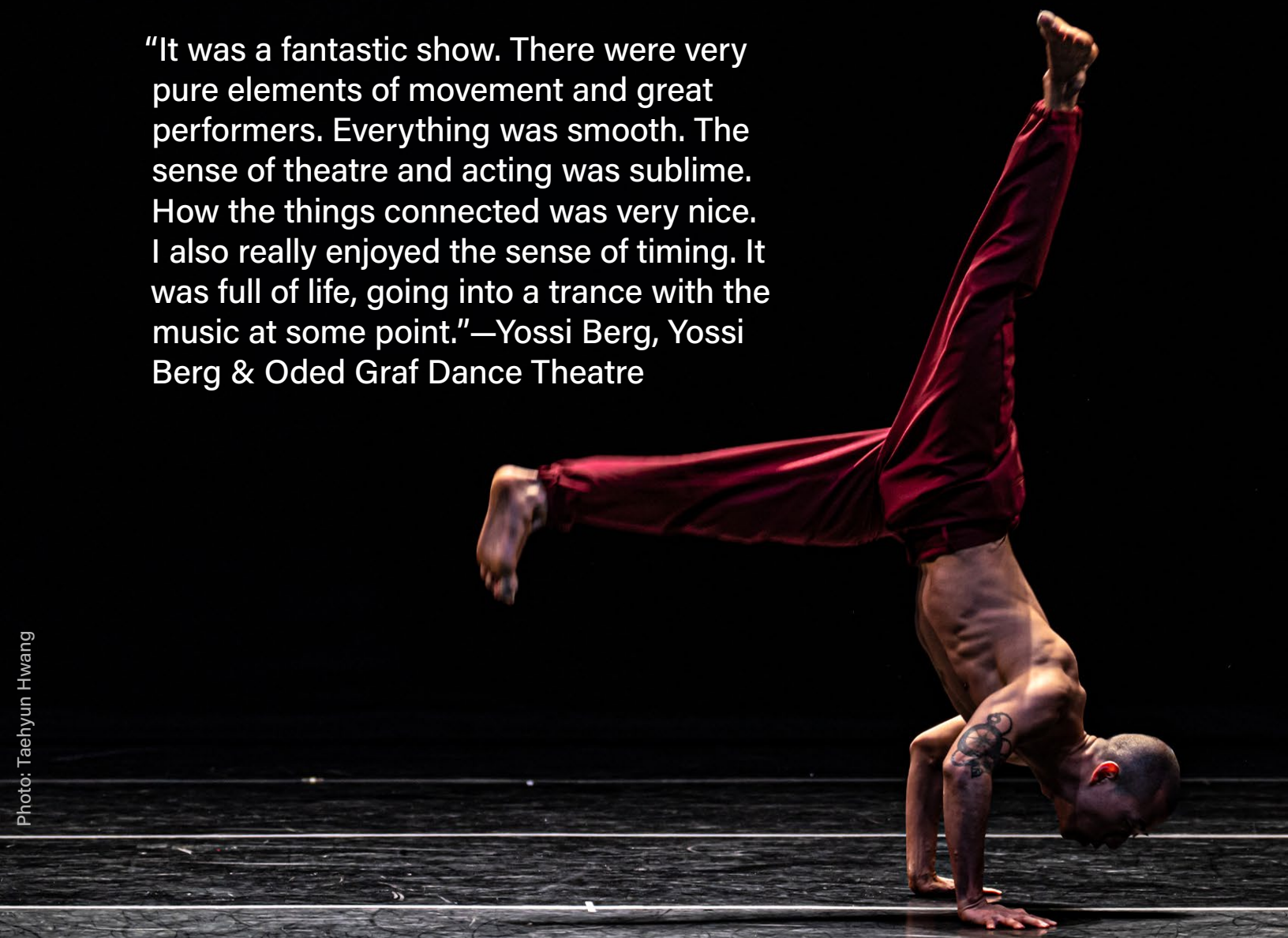


Photo: Taehyun Hwang

"Mr. Park's style, seen in *Balance & Imbalance*, draws from many sources, including hip-hop, judo, and martial arts. In the evening's most captivating moments, they coalesce into something very much his own, with a tranquil efficiency running through even the knottiest, most acrobatic sequences. The pansori singer's deep, magnetic voice jaggedly rises and dips, augmented by strident drums that power the dancers' seamless partnering and slippery hurtling through space."—Siobhan Burke, *The New York Times*

Balance & Imbalance expresses the essence of human relationships that confronts yet harmonizes through an endless process of mutual communication between sound and movement, which are the two most common means of expression.

For more information about the music in *Balance & Imbalance*, turn to page 19.



Photo: Taehyun Hwang

Judo

"Korea's Bereishit Dance Company … doesn't just wonder how stage space shapes contemporary dance. It asks how dance fits into the physical world. It was breathtaking to see how the violence was so well timed, so aesthetically appealing."—Jessica Lockhart, *The Arts Fuse*

"Bereishit Dance Company's dancers are impressive as both athletes and artists, and Park's choreography sometimes does seem to capture something new. Park's inspirations, taken from sports and Korean tradition, afford an ideal entry point from which to begin an exploration of Korean contemporary dance."—Carmel Morgan, *Critical Dance*

Violence is a human instinct that constantly needs to be handled. Sports provide us with opportunities to release it, and to face human nature. Through dance and rhythm, *Judo* explores the delicate balance between human violence and sports movement.



Photo: rRoberttTorres Photography

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Bereishit is the first word in the Hebrew Old Testament. It means "In the Beginning," and symbolizes the starting point for all human beings and human history. Founded in 2011, Bereishit Dance Company is interested in the various aspects that are centered around humans and human history, such as phenomena, forms, situations, and states, and tries to explore and interpret the origins of expressions made through movement. Bereishit Dance Company explores the physical laws of nature, contact improvisation, expression through movement and behaviors, and kinesthetic possibilities as methods of expression and attempts to articulate the forms of content within various genres.



Photo: Taehyun Hwang

BIOS

FOUNDER

Choreographer and dance educator **Park Soon-ho** received a BFA from Hansung University, completed a choreography program at the Europe Dance Development Center in the Netherlands, and received a PhD in Dance from Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul, Korea. Since founding Bereishit Dance Company in 2011, he has been continuously researching the human body while collaborating with artists in different genres internationally. His mission is to create original choreographies challenging new interpretations of traditional art forms.

DANCERS

Lee Da-som majored in Modern Dance at the School for New Dance Development (SNDO) in the Netherlands, works for Bereishit Dance Company as a dancer, and performs his own choreography.

2023

- Performed *Judo* and *Balance & Imbalance* at the Asolo Theater at the Ringling in Sarasota, FL; the Jack H. Skirball Center for the Performing Arts in New York, NY; and the Dade County Auditorium in Miami, FL

2022

- Performed *Judo* (sponsored by the Seoul Cultural Foundation)

- Performed *Balance & Imbalance* and *Cultural Empathy Wanderers* (sponsored by the Korea Culture and Arts Center Association) at the Culture and Arts Center

2021

- Performed *Balance & Imbalance* at the 40th International Modern Dance Festival (MODAFE)
- Choreographed and performed *S* at the 9th Incheon International Contemporary Dance Festival—Selected "Best Work"
- Performed *The Weight of Almonds* at the 10th Cheongju International Dance Festival

2019

- Choreographed and performed *S* at the Moving Futures Festival, Amsterdam
- Choreographed and performed *S* at the Veem House for Performance, Amsterdam

2018

- Choreographed and performed *Red*
- Choreographed and performed *Through Me, By Me, For Me*
- Performed *2020* (choreography by Tamir Eiting)

2017

- Choreographed and performed *She Said*
- Performed *neighbourhood* (choreography by Emile Lagarde)

Na Ji-hun majored in Modern Dance at Kookmin University and performs his own choreography.

2023

- Performed *Judo* and *Balance & Imbalance* at the Asolo Theater at the Ringling in Sarasota, FL; the Jack H. Skirball Center for the Performing Arts in New York, NY; and the Dade County Auditorium in Miami, FL

2022

- Performed *Balance & Imbalance* and *Cultural Empathy Wanderers* (sponsored by the Korea Culture and Arts Center Association) at the Culture and Arts Center
- Performed *Judo* (sponsored by the Seoul Cultural Foundation)

2020

- Choreographed and performed *the present probability* in the 28th Rookie Debut—Awarded "Rookie of the Year"
- Performed *Existential Empty* with the Du.a.Co Dance Company

2019

- Performed at the Seoul International Dance Competition—Won the Silver Award for Senior Contemporary Dance
- Performed *Interaction Ver.2* at the 2019 SCF Seoul International Choreography Festival
- Performed *Interaction Ver.2* at the 40th Seoul Dance Festival
- Performed *Sense Sharing through Relationship* at the Critics' Choice Dance Festival

Park Sang-hyun majored in Modern Dance at Chung-Ang University.

2023

- Performed *Their Argument* at the Korean Dance Awards Festival

2022

- Performed *Judo* (sponsored by the Seoul Cultural Foundation)
- Performed *Small Revolution* at the International Contemporary Dance Festival (MODAFE)
- Performed *Balance & Imbalance* and *Cultural Empathy Wanderers* (sponsored by the Korea Culture and Arts Center Association) at the Culture and Arts Center

2021

- Performed *Balance & Imbalance* at the 40th International Modern Dance Festival (MODAFE)
- Performed *Small Revolution* at the Busan International Dance Festival

2020

- Performed *Judo* (sponsored by the Korea Culture and Arts Center Association) at the Daegu Suseong Artpia Theater

2019

- Performed *Judo* and *Cultural Empathy Wanderers* (sponsored by the Korea Culture and Arts Center Association) at the Culture and Arts Center

Kim Pyung-on majored in Modern Dance at the Seoul National University of the Arts.

2024

- Performed *Re:0* at the BOHUN Dance Festival Competition
- Awarded Grand Prize at the 11th National Youth Unification Dance Performance Contest
- Awarded 2nd place in the National Selection at HIP HOP International Korea

2023

- Performed *Senggi* at the Korea Contemporary Dance Association Live Dance Festival

2022

- Performed *Judo* (sponsored by the Seoul Cultural Foundation)
- Performed *Balance & Imbalance* and *Cultural Empathy Wanderers* (sponsored by the Korea Culture and Arts Center) at the Culture and Arts Center, Association

2020

- Performed *Judo* (sponsored by the Korea Culture and Arts Center Association) at the Daegu Suseong Artpia Theater

Jung Kang-han majored in Modern Dance at the Seoul National University of Arts.

2024

- Performed *Re:0* at the BOHUN Dance Festival Competition
- Performed *NowGen: Your Own Body* at the U-dance festival

2023

- Performed *Senggi* at the Korea Contemporary Dance Association Live Dance Festival

2022

- Performed *Judo* (sponsored by the Seoul Cultural Foundation)
- Performed *Balance & Imbalance* and *Cultural Empathy Wanderers* (sponsored by the Korea Culture and Arts Center Association) at the Culture and Arts Center

2021

- Performed *Balance & Imbalance* at the 40th International Modern Dance Festival (MODAFE)
- Performed *The Weight of Almonds* at the 10th Cheongju International Dance Festival

Jeong Min-woo majored in Modern Dance at the Seoul National University of the Arts.

2023

- Awarded a Special Prize in the Contemporary Dance Division at the 63rd National Dance Entertainment Show
- Awarded the Grand Prize in Contemporary Dance (National Assembly Culture, Sports, and Tourism Committee Chairman's Award) at the CAD Korean Dance Grand Prix

2022

- Performed *Judo* at the Sponsored by the Seoul Cultural Foundation
- Performed *Balance & Imbalance* and *Cultural Empathy Wanderers* (sponsored by the Korea Culture and Arts Center Association) at the Culture and Arts Center

2021

- Performed *Balance & Imbalance* and *Maria Complex 3* at the 40th International Modern Dance Festival (MODAFE)
- Performed *The Weight of Almonds* at the 10th Cheongju International Dance Festival

Jang Eun-young majored in Modern Dance at Hanyang University.

2023

- Received the Senior Gold Award at the 60th National New Dance Competition
- Received the Senior Silver Award at the KOREA International Contemporary Dance Competition
- Received the Senior Jury Prize at the 28th Contemporary Dance Association Dance Competition
- Received the Silver Award at the 28th Boksagol Major Dance Competition
- Received the Silver Award at the 18th Cheongju National Dance Competition
- Received the Senior Gold Award at the 4th International Dance Federation Dance Competition
- Performed *A Quiet Protest* at the International Modern Dance Festival (MODAFE)

2022

- Performed *Judo* (sponsored by the Seoul Cultural Foundation)
- Performed *Balance & Imbalance* and *Cultural Empathy Wanderers* (sponsored by the Korea Culture and Arts Center Association) at the Culture and Arts Center

2021

- Performed *Balance & Imbalance* at the 40th International Modern Dance Festival (MODAFE)

MUSICIANS

Kim Jeong-uk majored in Traditional Performing Arts at the Korea National University of Arts.

2023

- Performed *Judo* and *Balance & Imbalance* at the Asolo Theater at The Ringling in Sarasota, Florida Sarasota; Jack H. Skirball Center for the Performing Arts in New York, NY; and Dade County Auditorium in Miami, FL
- Performed *Pan* at the 2023 Gugak Broadcasting Traditional Music Concert

2022

- Received the Grand Prize at the 5th King Sejong Traditional Art Competition
- Received the Prime Minister's Award at the 63rd Korean Folk Art Festival
- Performed at the East Asian Cultural City Korea-China-Japan Exchange Festival
- Performed *Balance & Imbalance* and *Cultural Empathy Wanderers* (sponsored by the Korea Culture and Arts Center Association) at the Culture and Arts Center

2021

- Received the Grand Prize, General Division, at the National Gugak Competition
- Performed *Balance & Imbalance* at the 40th International Modern Dance Festival (MODAFE)
- Performed Hanbok Fashion Show at the Istanbul Consulate General in Turkey

2020

- Selected for General Department Targets at the 28th Jeongeup Wild Country Farmers' Convention
- Performed at the 1st Anniversary of the Gugak TV Art Center

2019

- Performed with Red Sun/SamulNori at the UCLA Global Musics and Musical Communities Conference and Concert

Ko Maeng-ka majored in Traditional Performing Arts at the Korea National University of Arts.

2024

- Received Grand Prize at the 10th Gyeyang Sang Gugak Festival

2023

- Performed at the Hakko Expo in Taiwan
- Received Grand Prize in the General Division at the 28th Jeongeup Nongak Master Competition

2022

- Received the Prime Minister's Award at the 63rd Korean Folk Art Festival
- Performed *Balance & Imbalance* and *Cultural Empathy Wanderers* (sponsored by the Korea Culture and Arts Center Association) at the Culture and Arts Center

2020

- Performed *Jeokbeok* at the Jeongdong Theater Repertory
- Performed *Secrets of Pottery* at the Uijeongbu Music and Drama Festival

SINGER

Kim Eun-kyung graduated at the top of her class in Traditional Music and Arts History at the Korea National University of Arts and majored in Cultural and Arts Management at Chung-Ang University Graduate School.

2023

- Received the Grand Gold Award for Hwarang Cultural Property at the 15th Wansan National Gugak Festival
- Performed main vocals for the band Oldham at Day Gugak at Anyang Art Park

2022

- Received the KBS Gugak Awards Group Award from Pansori Factory Floor Sound
- Received the 22nd Grand Prize of the General Division of the National Gugak Competition
- Performed *Pile Up* at the Korea Culture and Arts Commission Performing Arts Mid- and Long-Term Creative Support Project Creative Pansori Snow Tree Concert

- Performed *Balance & Imbalance* and *Cultural Empathy Wanderers* (sponsored by the Korea Culture and Arts Center Association) at the Culture and Arts Center

2021

- Performed *Balance & Imbalance* at the 40th International Modern Dance Festival (MODAFE)
- Received the Grand Prize in the Shinyoung Securities Coloring Contest at the Shinyoung Culture Challenge

2020

- Performed *Jeokbyeok* at the Jeongdong Theater Repertory
- Performed *Secrets of Pottery* at the Uijeongbu Music and Drama Festival



Photo: Christopher Duggan

ABOUT THE MUSIC IN *BALANCE & IMBALANCE*

Samul nori refers to music composed of four types of folk percussion instruments, each instrument with a unique tone and role:

- Jing gong provides a deep and weighty sound, grounding the music.
- Buk drum offers a robust and strong sound, laying the foundation of the rhythm.
- Janggu drum creates a diverse rhythm with its use on both sides of the drum.
- Kwaenggwa-ri gong adds a sharp and lively sound, energizing the piece.

Through the harmony of the four instruments, samul nori creates a unique sense of rhythm and dynamic sound.

In Korean agriculture, these instruments were used for various rituals and entertainment performed outdoors. The total performance, organically combining music, dance, drama, and play is known as *Pungmul nori* or *Nongak*. In modern times, it has evolved into a performance form that reconstructs traditional melodies and is performed on stage.

Pansori is a traditional Korean oral epic form that combines captivating storytelling with musical expression. It is a unique genre of Korean traditional music. Pan means “a place where many people gather,” and sori means “song.” It is a genre in which a singer

and gosu (drummer) weave a musical story into a performance for an audience. The story is told through chang (songs), which are sung to a rhythm, and aniri (words), which have their own rhythmical formula, creating a full and enriching content amplified through nureumsae (movement).

The pansori music genre includes the work *Sugungga*, a satirical fable that anthropomorphizes animals such as turtles, whales, tigers, and rabbits. The story unfolds with a repetitive pattern of underwater palace ›› land ›› underwater palace ›› land. The world represented by the Dragon King and turtle symbolizes the rulers and the ruling class, while the world represented by the rabbit and the fox symbolizes the common people, showing the opposition between the strong and the weak. Throughout the work, *Sugungga* humorously criticizes corrupt political power and Confucian ideology through the foolish ministers who blindly pledge loyalty to it.



Photo: Taehyun Hwang