

# SMUIN

CONTEMPORARY BALLET

CELIA FUSHILLE / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## SMUIN ANNOUNCES 2019/20 SEASON FEATURING COMPANY PREMIERE OF JOHNNY CASH BALLET, WORLD PREMIERE BY OSNEL DELGADO, PLUS WORKS BY ANNABELLE LOPEZ OCHOA AND MORE

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (8 May 2019) — Following a record-breaking 25th anniversary, Smuin returns with a stellar lineup for its 2019/20 season featuring a vivid ballet set to the iconic music of Johnny Cash, a world premiere by Cuban trailblazer Osnel Delgado, and the return of sensational works by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa and Michael Smuin, plus a showcase of works created by Smuin dancers.

Smuin's 26th season, unveiled by Artistic Director Celia Fushille, launches in the fall with *Dance Series 1*, featuring the company premiere of *The Man in Black* choreographed by James Kudelka, former artistic director of the National Ballet of Canada. This mixed repertory program will also include the mainstage premiere of up-and-coming choreographer Rex Wheeler's *Take Five* set to the jazzy music of Dave Brubeck, and Michael Smuin's eternally powerful *Carmina Burana*. In spring 2020 Smuin will present *Dance Series 2*, featuring a world premiere by Osnel Delgado, renowned Cuban choreographer and artistic director of Malpas Dance Company. Also on the program, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's hit *Requiem for a Rose* revisits the stage alongside Michael Smuin's otherworldly *Symphony of Psalms*. Smuin's wildly popular *The Christmas Ballet* returns during the holiday season with its signature collection of festive classics plus the addition of all-new surprises. The company will also present its Choreography Showcase, this time taking place in the company's new headquarters. For subscriptions and further information the public may call (415) 912-1899 or visit [www.smuinballet.org](http://www.smuinballet.org). Single tickets go on sale early August.

### Dance Series 1

*The Man in Black* by James Kudelka

*Take Five* by Rex Wheeler

*Carmina Burana* by Michael Smuin

The music of country icon Johnny Cash comes alive in *The Man in Black*, an acclaimed work for three men and a woman, danced in cowboy boots. This company premiere choreographed by **James Kudelka**, the former artistic director of the National Ballet of Canada, is an ode to American working-class grit featuring complex choreography influenced by popular country-western dance styles including line, square, swing, and step dancing. Arresting and inventive, Kudelka's piece was called "deeply touching and poignant" by the *National Post* and an "absolute killer... heartbreaking" by *The Vancouver Sun*. It is set to six songs by Cash, covered by a variety of artists. *Dance Series 1* will also include the mainstage premiere of former Smuin artist **Rex Wheeler's** *Take Five*, a delightfully witty work set to the jazzy beat of Dave Brubeck. This quirky ballet was developed in Smuin's 2018 Choreography Showcase and brought the house down when an excerpt was performed at Smuin's 2019 Annual Gala.

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Also on the bill is **Michael Smuin**'s stunning *Carmina Burana*, set to the sensual Carl Orff score, called "dazzling" and "unforgettable" by the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Dates and Locations

**September 20-21, 2019 Leshar Center for the Arts**, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek

**September 27-October 6, 2019 Cowell Theater**, 2 Marina Boulevard, San Francisco

**February 27-March 1, 2020 Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts**, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View

**The Christmas Ballet**

Choreography by Michael Smuin and guest choreographers

Smuin's joyful holiday tradition returns to spread yuletide cheer with its signature showcase of classical and contemporary dances set to delightfully festive tunes. *The Christmas Ballet* will kick off the holidays with two acts featuring the best of both worlds: flawless classical ballet set to beloved carols, and red-hot contemporary numbers set to pop favorites. With the surprise unwrapping of new treats each year, this charming medley of dances incorporates a variety of styles including ballet, tap, jazz, and more. Smuin's yuletide spectacular was declared "sheer joy...the finest toast to the season" by the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Dates and Locations

**November 22-23, 2019 Leshar Center for the Arts**, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek

**November 29-December 1, 2019 Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts**, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View

**December 12-23, 2019 Yerba Buena Center for the Arts**, 700 Howard Street, San Francisco

**December 28-29, 2019 Sunset Center**, San Carlos Street at 9th Avenue, Carmel-by-the-Sea

**Choreography Showcase**

Choreography by Smuin artists

Fresh new works take center stage in this showcase of rising choreographers, in which Smuin artists create breathtaking original pieces on their fellow company members. Featuring an exciting array of dance styles and musical selections, this opportunity to preview inventive and inspiring dances is followed by an intimate Q&A session to learn more about the dancers and discuss their creative process. For the first time this showcase will be presented in Smuin's brand new home.

Dates and Locations

**March 6-7, 2020 Smuin Contemporary Ballet**, 1830 17th Street, San Francisco

**Dance Series 2**

World Premiere by Osnel Delgado

*Requiem for a Rose* by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa

*Symphony of Psalms* by Michael Smuin

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Smuin's groundbreaking spring program will introduce the Bay Area to internationally renowned Cuban choreographer **Osnel Delgado**, with a world premiere. Co-founder and artistic director of Havana's Malpaso Dance Company, an Associate Company of Joyce Theater Productions, Delgado creates flawless contemporary dance combined with Afro-Cuban and Latin social dances to dazzling effect. Intertwining intricate musicality with emotional resonance, Delgado's movement exploration offers up passion, uncertainty, and cultural blending of life in Cuba and beyond. Returning by popular demand, **Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's *Requiem for a Rose*** is a bold and bewitching ballet set to one of Schubert's most romantic adagios, from the String Quintet in C Major. Ochoa, introduced to the Bay Area by Smuin in 2017, was inspired by the ups and downs of relationships in creating this transcendent work, which the *San Francisco Classical Voice* declared "perfection!" Rounding out the bill is ***Symphony of Psalms***, **Michael Smuin's** spiritually evocative piece set to the dramatic Stravinsky score of the same name. Inspiring awe with distinctly modern shapes and fiendishly difficult partnering, this striking classical ballet highlights the Smuin artists' incredible athleticism and technical skill.

#### Dates and Locations

**April 24-May 3, 2020 Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 700 Howard Street, San Francisco**

**May 15-16, 2020 Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek**

**May 21-24, 2020 Mountain View Center for the Arts, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View**

**June 5-6, 2020 Sunset Center, San Carlos Street at 9th Avenue, Carmel-by-the-Sea**

#### **ABOUT SMUIN**

For more than 25 years Smuin has expanded the boundaries of contemporary ballet, engaging and delighting audiences with uncommon physicality and expression. Founded in San Francisco in 1994 by Tony and Emmy award-winning choreographer Michael Smuin, the company is committed to creating work that merges the diverse vocabularies of classical ballet and contemporary dance. As Artistic Director since 2007, Celia Fushille has maintained Michael Smuin's legacy while enriching the Company's impressive repertoire by collaborating with inventive choreographers from around the world, commissioning world premieres, and bringing new contemporary choreographic voices to the Smuin stage.

*All programs are subject to change.*

**FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:**

**WHAT:** San Francisco's Smuin Contemporary Ballet announces a stellar lineup for its 2019/20 season, launching in the fall with *Dance Series 1*, featuring the company premiere of *The Man in Black* choreographed by **James Kudelka**, former artistic director of the National Ballet of Canada. The program will also include the mainstage premiere of up-and-coming choreographer **Rex Wheeler's** *Take Five* set to the jazzy music of Dave Brubeck, and **Michael Smuin's** eternally powerful *Carmina Burana*. In spring 2020 Smuin will present *Dance Series 2*, featuring a world premiere by renowned Cuban choreographer **Osnel Delgado**, the return of **Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's** hit *Requiem for a Rose*, and **Michael Smuin's** otherworldly *Symphony of Psalms*. Smuin's wildly popular holiday tradition *The Christmas Ballet* returns, and the company will also present its Choreography Showcase in its brand new headquarters for the first time.

**TICKETS:** For subscriptions (\$150-\$205), the public can call **(415) 912-1899** or visit [www.smuinballet.org](http://www.smuinballet.org).

Single tickets (\$25-\$97 for San Francisco; \$25-\$93 for Mountain View, Walnut Creek, and Carmel) will be available through the respective theaters beginning August 1, 2019. Discounts are available for students and groups of 10 or more.

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**PRESS:** Contact Steph Keay, Carla Befera & Co.  
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**PHOTOS:** For high-res photos, please visit: <http://cbpr.co/press/smuin19-20/>

## SEASON SCHEDULE:

<b>Venue Info</b>	<b>San Francisco:</b> Cowell Theater (2 Marina Blvd)  <b>Tickets:</b> (415) 912-1899 or smuinballet.org	<b>San Francisco:</b> Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater (700 Howard St)  <b>Tickets:</b> (415) 912-1899 or smuinballet.org	<b>San Francisco:</b> Smuin (1830 17th Street)  <b>Tickets:</b> (415) 912-1899 or smuinballet.org	<b>Walnut Creek:</b> Leshner Center for the Arts (1601 Civic Drive)  <b>Tickets:</b> (925) 943-7469 or smuinballet.org	<b>Mountain View:</b> Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts (500 Castro Street)  <b>Tickets:</b> (650) 903-6000 or smuinballet.org	<b>Carmel:</b> Sunset Center (San Carlos Street at 9th Ave)  <b>Tickets:</b> (831) 620-2048 or smuinballet.org
<b><u>Dance Series 1</u></b> <i>The Man in Black</i> by James Kudelka <i>Take Five</i> by Rex Wheeler <i>Carmina Burana</i> by Michael Smuin	<b>September 27-October 6, 2019</b> 7:30pm Fri Sept 27 2pm & 7:30pm Sat Sept 28 2pm Sun Sept 29 7:30pm Thurs Oct 3 2pm & 7:30pm Sat Oct 5 2pm Sun Oct 6			<b>September 20-21, 2019</b> 7:30pm Fri Sept 20 2pm Sat Sept 21	<b>February 27-March 1, 2020</b> 7:30pm Thurs Feb 27 7:30pm Fri Feb 28 2pm & 7:30pm Sat Feb 29 2pm Sun Mar 1	
<b><u>The Christmas Ballet</u></b> <i>New works TBA</i>		<b>December 12-23, 2019</b> 7:30pm Thu Dec 12 7:30pm Fri Dec 13 2pm & 7:30pm Sat Dec 14 2pm Sun Dec 15 2pm Wed Dec 18 7:30pm Thurs Dec 19 7:30pm Fri Dec 20 2pm & 7:30pm Sat Dec 21 2pm Sun Dec 22 2pm & 7:30pm Mon Dec 23		<b>November 22-23, 2019</b> 7:30pm Fri Nov 22 2pm & 7:30pm Sat Nov 23	<b>November 29-December 1, 2019</b> 2pm & 7:30pm Fri Nov 29 2pm & 7:30pm Sat Nov 30 2pm Sun Dec 1	<b>December 28-29, 2019</b> 7:30pm Sat Dec 28 2pm Sun Dec 29
<b><u>Choreography Showcase</u></b> <i>New works TBA</i>			<b>March 6-7, 2020</b> 7:30pm Fri Mar 6 2pm & 7:30pm Sat Mar 7			
<b><u>Dance Series 2</u></b> <i>World Premiere</i> by Osnel Delgado <i>Requiem for a Rose</i> by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa <i>Symphony of Psalms</i> by Michael Smuin		<b>April 24-May 3, 2020</b> 7:30pm Fri Apr 24 2pm & 7:30pm Sat Apr 25 2pm Sun Apr 26 7:30pm Thurs Apr 30 7:30pm Fri May 1 2pm & 7:30pm Sat May 2 2pm Sun May 3		<b>May 15-16, 2020</b> 7:30pm Fri May 15 2pm Sat May 16	<b>May 21-24, 2020</b> 7:30pm Thurs May 21 7:30pm Fri May 22 2pm & 7:30pm Sat May 23 2pm Sun May 24	<b>June 5-6, 2020</b> 7:30pm Fri June 5 2pm Sat June 6

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