

SMUIN

CONTEMPORARY BALLET

CELIA FUSHILLE / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

SMUIN ANNOUNCES SPECTACULAR 25TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON FEATURING WORLD PREMIERE BY AMY SEIWERT AND MAIN STAGE PREMIERES BY DANCERS, WORK BY TREY MCINTYRE, AND “THE BEST OF SMUIN” SHOWCASE

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (26 April 2018) — Marking its quarter-century, Smuin announces a sensational lineup for its 25th Anniversary season featuring the highly-anticipated return of Trey McIntyre, a world premiere by Amy Seiwert and brand new main stage adaptations from Smuin dancers, plus timeless classics by Michael Smuin celebrating an array of music from Gershwin to Nat King Cole.

Unveiled by Artistic Director Celia Fushille, Smuin’s 2018-19 season will spotlight new works in honor of founder Michael Smuin’s legacy of launching new voices in ballet, as well as his most memorable pieces and all-time favorites. Kicking off *Dance Series 01* in the fall is renowned dancemaker Trey McIntyre’s *Blue Until June*, a powerful ballet set to the legendary vocals of Etta James. Smuin devotees will also be treated to three main stage adaptations of popular works by Smuin dancers Nicole Haskins, Ben Needham-Wood, and Rex Wheeler, and a delicious blast from the past: Michael Smuin’s *The Eternal Idol* and his final creation *Schubert Scherzo*. In spring 2019, Smuin will present *Dance Series 02* featuring a world premiere by one of Smuin’s most illustrious alumni, Amy Seiwert, and *The Best of Smuin* showcase. *The Christmas Ballet*, now a Bay Area holiday tradition, also returns to spread cheer with its signature mixed repertoire of classical ballet and contemporary dance, featuring delectable new numbers. For subscriptions and further information the public may call (415) 912-1899 or visit www.smuinballet.org. Single tickets go on sale early August.

Dance Series 01

Blue Until June by Trey McIntyre

Main Stage Premieres by Smuin dancers: *Merely Players* by Nicole Haskins, *Reflection* by Ben Needham-Wood, *Sinfonietta* by Rex Wheeler

Schubert Scherzo by Michael Smuin

The Eternal Idol by Michael Smuin

Trey McIntyre, whose world premiere celebrating the Summer of Love was a Smuin hit last spring, returns to kick off Smuin’s 25th anniversary with *Blue Until June*. This sultry dance set to the heart-wrenching vocals of legend Etta James is McIntyre’s third collaboration with Smuin, which also

commissioned his hit *Oh, Inverted World*. Hailed by *The New York Times* as “one of the most important choreographers working today,” McIntyre has produced more than 100 pieces during his career, and his work has been lauded for its “true artistry” (*San Francisco Examiner*) and “witty physicality” (*San Francisco Chronicle*). Continuing Smuin’s long-time dedication to fostering new talent within the company is a trio of groundbreaking works from Smuin dancers, receiving their main stage premieres after enchanting audiences in previous Choreography Showcases: *Merely Players* by Nicole Haskins, *Reflection* by Ben Needham-Wood, and *Sinfonietta* by Rex Wheeler. *Dance Series 01* will also include Michael Smuin’s timeless *Schubert Scherzo*, an effervescent dance set to Schubert’s sprightly C-Major Symphony. This is classical ballet with the Smuin sparkle at its quintessence, full of high-flying leaps and intricate tosses executed flawlessly by Smuin’s athletic dancers. “A clear statement of his legacy, at its best,” raved *The New York Times*. Rounding out this magnificent bill is *The Eternal Idol*, Michael Smuin’s romantic pas de deux inspired by Auguste Rodin’s iconic sculptures of “The Eternal Idol” and “The Kiss.” Chopin’s wistful F Minor Piano Concerto accompanies this sensuous ballet featuring Smuin’s signature award-winning theatricality, described as a “gem for romantics” by the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*.

Dates and Locations

September 21-22, 2018 Leshar Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek

September 28-October 6, 2018 Palace of Fine Arts, 3301 Lyon Street, San Francisco

February 1-2, 2019 Sunset Center, San Carlos Street between 8th and 10th Streets, Carmel-by-the-Sea

February 21-24, 2019 Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View

The Christmas Ballet

Choreography by Michael Smuin
and guest choreographers

The weather outside may be frightful, but *The Christmas Ballet* is oh-so-delightful. This Bay Area favorite returns to kick off the holidays in 2018 with two acts packed to the brim with the best of both worlds: flawless classical ballet and red-hot contemporary numbers. “Sheer joy...the finest toast to the season,” declared the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Featuring the perfect combination of long-time favorites and thrilling new surprises, this charming medley incorporates a variety of popular dance styles including ballet, tap, jazz, and swing.

Dates and Locations

November 16-17, 2018 Leshar Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek

November 30-December 1, 2018 Sunset Center, San Carlos Street between 8th and 10th Streets, Carmel-by-the-Sea

December 5-9, 2018 Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View

December 13-24, 2018 Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 700 Howard Street, San Francisco

Dance Series 02

The Best of Smuin

World Premiere by Amy Seiwert

After ten years as Choreographer-in-Residence, master dance maker Amy Seiwert returns to Smuin for its quarter-century celebration with a smashing world premiere featuring her signature choreography, described by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as “keeping founder Michael Smuin’s legacy of unabashed showmanship alive.” Seiwert was mentored by Smuin for eight of her nine years as a dancer at the company, becoming the Choreographer-in-Residence upon her retirement from dancing in 2008. As a choreographer, she has pushed the boundaries of dance by collaborating with artists of other disciplines and experimenting with all of its various forms and expressions from a classical base—making her an invaluable voice in the Bay Area dance community. Now Artistic Director of Sacramento Ballet, she returns to help Smuin celebrate this milestone anniversary. Also on the bill is ***The Best of Smuin***, featuring the return of timeless Michael Smuin favorites such as “Unforgettable,” “Foolish Things,” and the red-hot chair solo “Fever” from Smuin’s inaugural program *Dances With Songs*. Along with highlights from *Carmina Burana*, *Dancin’ With Gershwin*, and more, this showcase of classics is packed with the ol’ razzle-dazzle, visually stunning effects, and twists that are Smuin’s trademarks.

Dates and locations

April 26-May 5, 2019 Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 700 Howard Street, San Francisco

May 17-18, 2019 Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek

May 23-26, 2019 Mountain View Center for the Arts, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View

May 31-June 1, 2019 Sunset Center, San Carlos Street between 8th and 10th Streets, Carmel-by-the-Sea

ABOUT SMUIN

For 25 years Smuin has pushed the boundaries of contemporary ballet within a distinctly American style, 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: Smuin Contemporary Ballet celebrates a quarter-century with the announcement of its sensational 2018-2019 lineup. Unveiled by Artistic Director Celia Fushille, Smuin's 25th Anniversary season includes a thrilling *Dance Series 01* program featuring acclaimed choreographer Trey McIntyre's stirring *Blue Until June*, three main stage premieres by Smuin dancers, plus Michael Smuin's *The Eternal Idol* and *Schubert Scherzo*. In spring 2019, Smuin presents *Dance Series 02* with an exciting world premiere by Amy Seiwert and *The Best of Smuin* showcase celebrating classic numbers set to Gershwin, Nat King Cole, and more. Smuin's *The Christmas Ballet* also returns for the holidays with audience favorites and all-new surprises by guest choreographers. **Smuin's 2018/19 season** will be presented in San Francisco, Mountain View, Walnut Creek, and Carmel between September 2018 and June 2019.

TICKETS: For subscriptions (\$147-\$194), the public can call **(415) 912-1899** or visit www.smuinballet.org.

Single tickets (\$25-\$89 for San Francisco; \$25-\$84 for Mountain View, Walnut Creek, and Carmel) will be available through the respective theaters beginning August 1, 2018. 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/smuin18-19/>

SEASON SCHEDULE:

Venue Info	Ticket Info <i>*Additional ticket fees may apply</i>	<u>Dance Series 01</u> <i>Blue Until June (Trey McIntyre)</i> <i>Works by Smuin dancers: Merely Players (Nicole Haskins), Reflection (Ben Needham-Wood), and Sinfonietta (Rex Wheeler)</i> <i>Schubert Scherzo (Michael Smuin)</i> <i>Eternal Idol (Michael Smuin)</i>	<u>The Christmas Ballet</u> <i>New works TBA</i>	<u>Dance Series 02</u> <i>The Best of Smuin (Michael Smuin)</i> <i>World Premiere (Amy Seiwert)</i>
San Francisco: Palace of Fine Arts 3301 Lyon Street (at Bay Street)	Subscriptions: \$147-\$194* Single tickets: \$25-\$79* (415) 912-1899 or smuinballet.org	September 28-October 6, 2018 7:30pm Fri Sept 28 2pm Sat Sept 29 2pm Sun Sept 30 7:30pm Thurs Oct 4 7:30pm Fri Oct 5 7:30pm Sat Oct 6		
San Francisco: Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater 700 Howard Street (at 3 rd Street)	Subscriptions: \$147-\$194* Single tickets: \$25-\$89* (415) 912-1899 or smuinballet.org		December 13- 24, 2018 7:30pm Thu Dec 13 7:30pm Fri Dec 14 2pm & 7:30pm Sat Dec 15 2pm Sun Dec 16 2pm Wed Dec 19 7:30pm Thurs Dec 20 2pm & 7:30pm Fri Dec 21 2pm & 7:30pm Sat Dec 22 2pm Sun Dec 23 12pm Mon Dec 24	April 26-May 5, 2019 7:30pm Fri Apr 26 2pm & 7:30pm Sat Apr 27 2pm Sun Apr 28 7:30pm Thurs May 2 7:30pm Fri May 3 2pm & 7:30pm Sat May 4 2pm Sun May 5
Walnut Creek: Leshner Center for the Arts 1601 Civic Drive (at Locust Street)	Subscriptions: \$147-\$194* Single tickets: \$25-\$82* (925) 943-7469 or smuinballet.org	September 21-22, 2018 7:30pm Fri Sept 21 2pm Sat Sept 22	November 16-17, 2018 7:30pm Fri Nov 16 2pm & 7:30pm Sat Nov 17	May 17-18, 2019 7:30pm Fri May 17 2pm Sat May 18
Mountain View: Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts 500 Castro Street (at Mercy Street)	Subscriptions: \$147-\$194* Single tickets: \$25-\$84* (650) 903-6000 or smuinballet.org	February 21-24, 2019 7:30pm Thurs Feb 21 7:30pm Fri Feb 22 2pm & 7:30pm Sat Feb 23 2pm Sun Feb 24	Dec 5-9, 2018 7:30pm Wed Dec 5 7:30pm Thurs Dec 6 7:30pm Fri Dec 7 2pm & 7:30pm Sat Dec 8 2pm Sun Dec 9	May 23-26, 2019 7:30pm Thurs May 23 7:30pm Fri May 24 2pm & 7:30pm Sat May 25 2pm Sun May 26

Carmel: Sunset Center San Carlos Street between 8 th & 10 th Streets	Subscriptions: \$147-\$194* Single tickets: \$58-\$79* (831) 620-2048 or smuinballet.org	February 1-2, 2019 7:30pm Fri Feb 1 2pm Sat Feb 2	November 30-December 1, 2018 7:30pm Fri Nov 30 2pm Sat Dec 1	May 31-June 1, 2019 7:30pm Fri May 31 2pm Sat June 1
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