

# S/O/C/I/E/T/Y &/C/U/L/T/U/R/E



## KICKING INTO HIGH GEAR

The Bay Area has no shortage of dance companies, but when it comes to Broadway style ballet, none compares to Smuin Contemporary Ballet, created by the late Emmy- and Tony-winning Michael Smuin, who paired choreography with music from Bach to the Beatles to Gershwin, as well as a sense of humor, whimsy and passion. The **Smuin Annual Gala** March 3 marks the company's 25th anniversary and the launch of Dance Series 02 in Mountain View and Carmel in May. Many assumed Smuin's fatal heart attack in 2007 would spell the demise of the company, but it's as healthy as ever, with a new, permanent headquarters in San Francisco to replace the rented rehearsal spaces of the past. "When I think back to Smuin's very first performance, I recall being filled with anticipation and hope about what the future might hold," says former dancer Celia Fushille, the company's executive director. "Michael would be amazed with what we've done today." *Gala tickets \$500-\$1,000, The Galleria, 101 Henry Adams St., San Francisco, [smuinballet.org](http://smuinballet.org)—Carolyne Zinko*