

**HAMMER THEATRE CENTER
ANNOUNCES NEW DATE FOR
NEW BALLET: “*FAST FORWARD*”
FEATURING PREMIERES BY EMERGING
CHOREOGRAPHERS
2:00pm, Sunday, June 7, 2020**

SAN JOSE, CA (17 March 2020) – Due to theaters closing to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, **Hammer Theatre Center** has postponed **New Ballet’s *Fast Forward***, an exhilarating evening of contemporary ballet highlighting the innovative works of rising local and national choreographers originally scheduled for March 28. Subjects from aliens to opera will be explored through dance in this dynamic performance, in which New Ballet’s gifted dance artists bring each choreographer’s creative vision to life in a lively and fast-paced evening. ***Fast Forward*** will feature new works by Ben Needham-Wood, Laura Burton, Mads Eriksen, Naomi Sailors, Heather Cooper, and founder Dalia Rawson. Rawson’s piece is set to a live performance by acclaimed mezzo-soprano Betany Coffland and pianist Veronika Agranov-Dafoe. Sailors’ work was inspired by the idea of encountering an alien species and incorporates a brief presentation by guest speaker Doug Vakoch from METI International on dance as an ideal medium for communicating with potential alien species, and his work with New Ballet motion-capturing dance for this purpose. **New Ballet’s *Fast Forward* will now be presented 2:00pm, Sunday, June 7** at the **Hammer Theatre Center**, 101 Paseo De San Antonio, San Jose. For more information and tickets (\$10-\$40), the public may visit www.hammertheatre.com or call (408) 924-8501.

To keep connected and offer the community an artistic outlet, **New Ballet** is also offering free streamed classes for a variety of ages and stages including adult complete beginners. The schedule of classes is available at newballet.com/live.

Fast Forward is a program launched by New Ballet to provide the opportunity for emerging choreographers to experiment, and for dancers to debut works that have been created specifically for them. Offering dancers the opportunity to be part of the creative process, *Fast Forward* creates an energetic environment of empowerment for all the artists, as well as adventuresome audiences.

New Ballet, founded in March 2016 by local dancer, teacher, and choreographer Dalia Rawson, filled a void in downtown San Jose for a professional ballet school. Offering an additional focus on dancer health and child development, the organization provides ballet instruction as well as performances. With a certified teaching staff, New Ballet is one of only five schools designated as an American Ballet Theatre Certified School nationwide.

The **Hammer Theatre Center** is a distinctive, state-of-the-art performance venue in the heart of downtown San José. Owned by the City of San Jose and operated by San Jose State University (SJSU), the Hammer Theatre's mission is to serve the community through artistically and educationally excellent programming that is expressive of the unique characteristics and diverse cultures that comprise Silicon Valley. The broader vision of the Hammer includes arts, innovation, and technology programming on the Paseo de San Antonio, creating a vibrant pathway between SJSU and the Tech Museum and bridging the urban spaces from Saint James Park down to the South of First Avenue cultural district. The Hammer also aims to connect SJSU's more than 37,000 faculty, students, and staff with the downtown cultural and economic corridors.

For Calendar Editors

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WHERE: **Hammer Theatre Center**
101 Paseo De San Antonio, San José
(Between 2nd and 3rd Streets)

WHEN: **2:00pm, Sunday, June 7, 2020**
(originally announced date was March 28)

INFO: For tickets (\$10-\$40; senior and student discounts available) the public may visit www.hammertheatre.com or call **(408) 924-8501**.

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PRESS: Contact Steph Keay, Carla Befera & Co.
(650) 327-1200 | steph@cb-pr.com

PHOTOS: Media may download high-res photos at:
<http://cbpr.co/press/hammerwinter20>