

# SMUIN

CONTEMPORARY BALLET

CELIA FUSHILLE / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## SMUIN ANNOUNCES FREE STREAMING OF MICHAEL SMUIN'S "CARMINA BURANA" AS JULY "HUMP DAY BALLETS" RELEASE

Wednesday, July 15 – Friday, July 17

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (26 June 2020) — **Smuin Contemporary Ballet** presents **Michael Smuin**'s acclaimed *Carmina Burana* as the July release in its *Hump Day Ballets* series, which aims to brighten mid-week spirits with free video streaming of a ballet from the company's archives. Set to the sensual Carl Orff score of the same name, this dramatic piece was called "dazzling" and "unforgettable" by the *San Francisco Chronicle*. *Carmina Burana* will be offered beginning **Wednesday, July 15, 2020**, accompanied by a video introduction from Smuin dancer **Tessa Barbour**. The recorded performance will be available for 48 hours only, with streaming instructions announced through Smuin's email list (sign up at [smuinballet.org](http://smuinballet.org)), or via Smuin's Facebook ([facebook.com/SmuinBallet](https://facebook.com/SmuinBallet)) and Instagram ([instagram.com/smuinballet](https://instagram.com/smuinballet)). For more information the public may visit [smuinballet.org](http://smuinballet.org).

Company founder Michael Smuin's renowned *Carmina Burana* premiered at Smuin over 20 years ago. Set to German composer Carl Orff's triumphant score, its world premiere in 1997 was praised as "an exuberant dance by an American artist at the peak of his powers" (*San Francisco Chronicle*). Most recently revived for Smuin's *Dance Series I* program during its 2019-20 season, *San Francisco Chronicle* called it "Pulse-pounding. Lyrical. Showcases its creator's flair for striking stage pictures and use of the body as living sculpture." This impassioned piece celebrates life, lust, and joy, honoring the enduring legacy of Michael Smuin's genius.

Smuin's *Hump Day Ballets* series was created to share inspiring art and enable the Company to stay connected with its community during the Shelter-in-Place order. On select Wednesdays, a different ballet from Smuin's repertoire, introduced by a current Company dancer or guest artist, is released to the public. The sharing of these productions is made possible by the generous support of Smuin's partners—the choreographers, unions, designers, and composers providing permission outside of standard contracts to share these creations with the community.

For more than 25 years Smuin has pushed the boundaries of contemporary ballet by presenting works that engage and delight audiences with their 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. Since 2007, Artistic Director Celia Fushille has built on Michael Smuin's legacy by creating her own vision and expanding the company's repertoire. Fushille has invited numerous choreographers to create works that highlight the Smuin artists' extraordinary versatility, presenting pieces that are unique, joyful, athletic and inventive.

Daily Newspaper and Online Media sponsor for Smuin's 2019/2020 season is the *San Francisco Chronicle* and SFGATE.

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