

SMUIN

CONTEMPORARY BALLET

CELIA FUSHILLE / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

SMUIN CONTEMPORARY BALLET ANNOUNCES

“SMUIN AL FRESCO”

LIVE OUTDOOR PERFORMANCES IN SF

May 14 – 28, 2021

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (21 April 2021) — San Francisco audiences will get a breath of fresh air when **Smuin Contemporary Ballet** presents live outdoor performances of its spring program, ***Smuin al Fresco***, at its headquarters in San Francisco’s Potrero Hill. This delightful program offers a vivacious line up of new works plus “Smuin Songbook” favorites of scintillating dances set to pop standards and jazzy classics by the late Tony Award-winning choreographer Michael Smuin. Excerpts from Smuin’s story ballet “The Tempest” with music by acclaimed composer Paul Chihara, and the exuberant “Sueños Latinos,” set to the Aaron Copeland score, will be featured. Also on the bill are a moving duet from Trey McIntyre’s “Blue Until June,” a new pas de deux by Smuin alum Rex Wheeler, and premieres by eight company artists. ***Smuin al Fresco*** will be presented Friday afternoons with shows at noon, 2pm, and 4pm, **May 14 – June 6** on an outdoor stage adjacent to the **Smuin Center for Dance**, 1830 17 St, San Francisco. For tickets (\$30), the public may visit www.smuinballet.org.

Individual performances will vary, with separate sets of Smuin artists who have been working in their own COVID-safe “pods” performing different selections.

Pod Iris

May 14 at 12pm & 4pm; May 28 at 4pm

Featuring Smuin artists Tess Lane, Max van der Sterre, Tessa Barbour, Brennan Wall, and Ricardo Dyer, this program will showcase a variety of Michael Smuin crowd-pleasers including a cheeky duet

from “Fly Me to the Moon” and an exquisite solo from “The Tempest.” New dances choreographed by Barbour, van der Sterre, and Wall will also be showcased.

Pod Peony

May 21 at 2pm; May 28 at 2pm

Featuring Smuin artists Cassidy Isaacson, Brandon Alexander, Terez Dean Orr, and John Speed Orr, this program includes the premiere of new dances created by Dean Orr, Speed Orr, and Isaacson. A new pas de deux by Smuin alum Rex Wheeler, a moving duet from acclaimed choreographer Trey McIntyre’s “Blue Until June,” and a sassy solo from Michael Smuin’s “Sueños Latinos” will also be performed, in addition to a collection of surprises from the Smuin repertoire.

Pod Poppy

May 14 at 2pm; May 21 at 12pm & 4pm; May 28 at 12pm

Featuring Smuin artists Maggie Carey, Ian Buchanan, Lauren Pschirrer, and Mengjun Chen, the program will feature three stunning solos from Michael Smuin’s “The Tempest,” plus classic dances from “Fly Me to the Moon” and “Sueños Latinos.” Smuin artists Carey, Buchanan, and Brennan Wall will premiere new creations.

The *Smuin al Fresco* performances at the Smuin Center for Dance will observe all COVID-19 protocols. Upon arrival, all attendees over 12 years old must show a copy of their vaccination record or a negative COVID-19 test result taken within 72 hours of the event. Masks must be worn at all times, and no food or beverage consumption (with the exception of bottled water) is allowed in the performance space. All seating and grouping pods will adhere to current physical distancing guidelines from the CDC. Seating will be preassigned based on the size of each party. For more information, including details on ADA seating, patrons should email boxoffice@smuinballet.org.

Audiences will also be able to enjoy a filmed version of the *Smuin al Fresco* program from the comfort of home, streaming online May 6-30. For more information, the public may visit www.smuinballet.org.

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.

For Calendar Editors

WHAT: San Francisco audiences will get a breath of fresh air when **Smuin Contemporary Ballet** presents live outdoor performances of its spring program, *Smuin al Fresco*, at its headquarters in San Francisco's Potrero Hill. This delightful program offers a vivacious line up of new works plus "Smuin Songbook" favorites of scintillating dances set to pop standards and jazzy classics by the late Tony Award-winning choreographer Michael Smuin. Excerpts from Smuin's story ballet "The Tempest" with music by acclaimed composer Paul Chihara, and the exuberant "Sueños Latinos," set to the Aaron Copeland score, will be featured. Also on the bill are a moving duet from Trey McIntyre's "Blue Until June," a new pas de deux by Smuin alum Rex Wheeler, and premieres by eight company artists.

TICKETS: For tickets (\$30), the public may visit www.smuinballet.org.

WHEN: **May 14-28, 2021**
Fridays at noon, 2pm, & 4pm

WHERE: **The Smuin Center for Dance**
1830 17 St, San Francisco

Performances will take place in the outdoor area behind the building. Patrons will be escorted to the outdoor performance space 15 minutes prior to showtime.

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PRESS: Contact Steph Keay, Carla Befera & Co.
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PHOTOS: Media may download high-res photos at:
<https://cbpr.co/press/smuinspring21>