

SMUIN

CONTEMPORARY BALLET

CELIA FUSHILLE / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

SMUIN CONTEMPORARY BALLET ANNOUNCES “SMUIN AL FRESCO” SONGBOOK FAVORITES AND NEW DANCER CREATIONS STREAMING ONLINE

May 6 - 30, 2021

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (22 April 2021) — **Smuin Contemporary Ballet** announces *Smuin al Fresco* featuring three fresh programs highlighting “Smuin Songbook” favorites, plus a fourth show unveiling all-new dancer creations. Pre-recorded at an outdoor venue, each program will star a different “pod” of Smuin dancers performing highlights from founder Michael Smuin’s canon of classical and pop favorites, playful solos from “The Tempest,” an excerpt from acclaimed choreographer Trey McIntyre’s “Blue Until June,” and more. The special fourth showing, *Offstage/Onscreen 2021*, will be dedicated to unveiling exciting new dance films choreographed, danced, and recorded by Smuin’s multi-talented artists in gorgeous outdoor settings around the Bay Area. *Smuin al Fresco* will take place **May 6 – 30 (7:30pm Thursdays and 5:00pm Sundays)**. For tickets (\$25 single tickets, \$75 all-access pass for all four programs), the public may visit www.smuinballet.org.

Pod Iris

Thurs, May 20 @ 7:30pm; Sun, May 23 @ 5pm (previously recorded)

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. Each stream will be followed by a live Q&A with the pod’s featured dancers.

Pod Peony

Thurs, May 13 @ 7:30pm; Sun, May 16 @ 5pm (previously recorded)

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 moving duet from acclaimed choreographer Trey McIntyre's "Blue Until June," which enjoyed its company premiere with Smuin in September 2018, 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. Each stream will be followed by a live Q&A with the pod's featured dancers.

Pod Poppy

Thurs, May 6 @ 7:30pm; Sun, May 9 @ 5pm (previously recorded)

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 his "Fly Me to the Moon" and "Sueños Latinos." Smuin artists Carey, Buchanan, and Brennan Wall will premiere new creations. Each stream will be followed by a live Q&A with the pod's featured dancers.

Offstage/Onscreen 2021

Thurs, May 27 @ 7:30pm; Sun, May 30 @ 5pm (previously recorded)

Smuin artists will debut their latest creations in this exciting program danced and filmed outdoors across the Bay Area. From passionate solos to exuberant group numbers, flawless classical ballet to inventive contemporary movement, there will be something for every dance lover. Each stream will be followed by a live Q&A with the dancers and choreographers.

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: **Smuin Contemporary Ballet** announces *Smuin al Fresco* featuring three fresh programs highlighting “Smuin Songbook” favorites, plus a fourth show unveiling all-new dancer creations. Pre-recorded at an outdoor venue, each program will star a different “pod” of Smuin dancers performing highlights from founder Michael Smuin’s canon of classical and pop favorites, playful solos from “The Tempest,” an excerpt from acclaimed choreographer Trey McIntyre’s “Blue Until June,” and more. The special fourth showing, *Offstage/Onscreen 2021*, will be dedicated to unveiling exciting new dance films choreographed, danced, and recorded by Smuin’s multi-talented artists in gorgeous outdoor settings around the Bay Area.

TICKETS: For tickets (\$25 single tickets, \$75 all-access pass for all four programs), the public may visit www.smuinballet.org.

WHEN: **May 6 - 30, 2021**

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WHERE: **Online - Ticketholders will be sent a link for viewing.**

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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/smuinsspring21>