

# SMUIN

CONTEMPORARY BALLET

CELIA FUSHILLE / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## SMUIN ANNOUNCES 2021/22 SEASON

FEATURING THE COMPANY PREMIERE OF  
GINA PATTERSON'S *YOU ARE HERE*, A TRIBUTE TO PATSY CLINE,  
WORKS BY VAL CANIPAROLI, AMY SEIWERT, MORE

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (8 August 2021) — Following 18 months of inventive virtual and outdoor performances, **Smuin Contemporary Ballet** returns with a stellar lineup for its 2021/22 season, kicking off with a virtual series revisiting Michael Smuin favorites, followed by the return of live, in-person performances on stages in **San Francisco, Walnut Creek, Mountain View, and Carmel**. Each series of live stage performances will also be offered as a streaming on-demand option to home audiences. Smuin's 28th season will include the company premiere of award-winning choreographer Gina Patterson's *You Are Here*, the return of Amy Seiwert's highly praised *Renaissance* set to the music of Kitka Women's Vocal Ensemble, plus the revival of acclaimed dancemaker Val Caniparoli's quirky *Confessions*. Sensational new works by Smuin artists Tessa Barbour and Brennan Wall, debuted in the 2021 Choreography Showcase, will be expanded and premiered on the company's mainstage. For subscriptions or more information, the public may call (415) 912-1899 or visit [www.smuinballet.org](http://www.smuinballet.org). Single tickets go on sale early September.

Smuin's 2021/22 season, unveiled by Artistic Director Celia Fushille, launches in the fall with the virtual series *Limitless Michael Smuin*, offering a look at some of the late founder's most celebrated works. First to be streamed is Smuin's *Stabat Mater*, honoring the 20th anniversary of 9/11. Next, the company will offer rare looks at three of Smuin's wildly inventive story ballets: the clever and daring *Cyrano*, followed by the charming *Pinocchio* and the swashbuckling *Zorro!* Live performances around the Bay Area will kick off in November with Smuin's wildly popular *The Christmas Ballet*, returning for the holiday season with its signature collection of festive classics plus the addition of two all-new surprises. *The Christmas Ballet* will be performed once again at theatres in Walnut Creek, Mountain View, San Francisco, and Carmel. The new year will launch with live performances around the Bay of *Dance Series 1: Love, Smuin*, featuring the company premiere of Gina Patterson's emotionally powerful *You Are Here*, Amy Seiwert's *Dear Miss Cline* set to the iconic recordings of Patsy Cline, and the revival of Seiwert's *Been Through Diamonds*, her first ballet as Smuin's Choreographer-in-Residence in 2008. In the spring, *Dance Series 2: P.S. Forever Smuin* will also tour the Bay, featuring Val Caniparoli's *Confessions*, a collection of nine playful dances set to a contemporary soundtrack in the baroque style. This mixed repertory program will also include the return of Amy Seiwert's inventive *Renaissance*, and the mainstage premiere of two pieces choreographed by Smuin artists Tessa Barbour and Brennan Wall.

## **Limitless Michael Smuin: A Virtual Series**

*Stabat Mater* by Michael Smuin – September 9 – 13, 2021

*Cyrano* by Michael Smuin – September 16 – 20, 2021

*Pinocchio* by Michael Smuin – September 23 – 27, 2021

*Zorro!* by Michael Smuin – September 30 – October 4, 2021

*Offered Streaming on Demand*

The powerful *Stabat Mater*, called “one of Smuin’s most affecting ballets” by *San Francisco Classical Voice*, will pay a beautiful tribute on the twenty-year anniversary of 9/11. Originally choreographed in 2002, the powerful piece was Michael Smuin’s response to the events of 9/11 and an affirmation of the human spirit, set to composer Antonín Dvořák’s composition based on the sorrowful 13th century Catholic hymn “Stabat Mater Dolorosa.” Next up, the clever and daring *Cyrano* offers Michael Smuin’s adaptation of Edmond Rostand’s 1897 play about an unattractive poet and soldier who is too afraid to confess his love for the beautiful Roxane, instead wooing her on behalf of his handsome best friend.

Inspired by the original Carlo Collodi novel, Michael Smuin’s *Pinocchio* tells the beloved story of the wooden puppet who becomes a real boy and learns the meaning of love. Called “terrifically entertaining” by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the story ballet unfolds to a score of 18th and early 19th century works by Vivaldi, Corelli, Geminiani, Rossini, Donizetti, and Scarlatti. Last but not least, Smuin will stream *Zorro!*, a “sword fighting, whip cracking spectacular” (*Talkin’ Broadway*) story ballet focused on the adventures of the California folk hero created by author Johnston McCulley. Set to an engaging original score by composer Charles Fox, the *San Francisco Chronicle* declared “Every movement of this dance ensemble is meant to entertain. It is Broadway meets ballet in the greatest terms.”

*Live talkbacks with Artistic Director Celia Fushille and members of the artistic teams will be held after specified performances. Details to be announced.*

## **The Christmas Ballet**

Choreography by Michael Smuin and guest choreographers

Smuin’s joyful holiday tradition returns to spread yuletide cheer with its signature showcase of classical and contemporary dances set to delightfully festive tunes. *The Christmas Ballet* will kick off the holidays with two acts featuring the best of both worlds: beautiful classical ballet set to beloved carols, and red-hot contemporary numbers set to pop favorites. With the surprise unwrapping of new treats each year, this charming medley of dances incorporates a variety of styles including ballet, tap, jazz, and more. Smuin’s yuletide spectacular was declared “sheer joy...the finest toast to the season” by the *San Francisco Chronicle*. This year’s edition will include two world premieres. *Note: this program will also be offered as a virtual on-demand streaming option, available from Thanksgiving through Christmas.*

### Dates and Locations

**November 19-20, 2021: Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek**

**December 2-5, 2021: Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View**

**December 10-11, 2021: Sunset Center, San Carlos Street at 9th Ave., Carmel-by-the-Sea**

**December 16-26, 2021: Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 700 Howard St., San Francisco**

## **Dance Series 1: Love, Smuin**

*You Are Here* by Gina Patterson

*Dear Miss Cline* by Amy Seiwert

*Been Through Diamonds* by Amy Seiwert

Smuin presents the company premiere of internationally acclaimed choreographer Gina Patterson's *You Are Here*, a moving tale of loss and perseverance set to the music of Italian pianist Ludovico Einaudi. Its world premiere with the Cincinnati Ballet in 2013 was called "Forceful and swirling ... an endless series of surprises," by the *Cincinnati Enquirer*. Patterson is a recipient of the Choo-San Goh Award for Choreography, the B. Iden Payne Award for Outstanding Choreographer, and National Choreographic Competition at Hubbard Street 2. Also on the program are two favorites by former Smuin Choreographer-in-Residence Amy Seiwert including the charming *Dear Miss Cline*, a suite of lighthearted works in tribute to the celebrated country singer and her cheerful crossover hits. The *San Francisco Examiner* praised Seiwert's choreography for its "playful but challenging partnering ... the dancers make it appear effortless: men and women tumble, somersault and swing with acrobatic aplomb." Seiwert's *Been Through Diamonds*, her first premiere as Smuin's first Choreographer-in-Residence upon retiring from dancing in 2008, will also be revived. Seiwert's geometrically inventive movement is showcased in this neo-classical look at relationships between four couples, set to Mozart's String Quintet in C Minor. Mentored as a choreographer by Michael Smuin during her nine years as a dancer at the company, and appointed Choreographer-in-Residence by Fushille, Seiwert's work has been described by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as "keeping founder Michael Smuin's legacy of unabashed showmanship alive." *Note: following the live performances, this program will be offered as a virtual on-demand streaming option, available during the month of March.*

### Dates and Locations

**February 4-13, 2022 Cowell Theater**, 2 Marina Blvd., San Francisco

**February 18-19, 2022 Leshner Center for the Arts**, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek

**February 24-27, 2022 Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts**, 500 Castro St.,  
Mountain View

## **Dance Series 2: P.S. Forever Smuin**

*Confessions* by Val Caniparoli

*Renaissance* by Amy Seiwert

World Premieres by Smuin artists Tessa Barbour and Brennan Wall

Lauded dancemaker Val Caniparoli's playful *Confessions* will be revived for **Dance Series 2**. Originally named *If I Were a Sushi Roll*, the nine-part dance was first created on Smuin and premiered in spring of 2018. Called "truly, madly, funny and spirit-tingling" by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, this inventive work weaves a captivating movement narrative set to a compelling soundtrack by American contemporary classical composer Nico Muhly and Faroese singer/songwriter Teitur. It was also described as "Fresh and vibrant, a welcome reality in these days when dance fans are pondering ballet's future," by the *San Francisco Examiner*. Sharing the bill is Amy Seiwert's *Renaissance*, a powerful dance loosely inspired by the 385-mile "Women's Wall" protest in India to create awareness of gender equality on New Year's Day 2019. The ballet is set to an empowering a cappella soundtrack by Kitka Women's Vocal Ensemble, the award-winning Oakland-based group specializing in the techniques of traditional and contemporary Balkan, Slavic, and Caucasian vocal styling. Smuin artists Tessa Barbour and Brennan Wall will also expand their creations presented in the 2021 Choreography Showcase and premiere them on the

company's mainstage. *Note: following the live performances, this program will be offered as a virtual on-demand streaming option, available during the month of June.*

#### Dates and Locations

**April 29-May 8, 2022 Yerba Buena Center for the Arts**, 700 Howard St., San Francisco

**May 19-22, 2022 Mountain View Center for the Arts**, 500 Castro St., Mountain View

**May 27-28, 2022 Sunset Center**, San Carlos Street at 9th Avenue, Carmel-by-the-Sea

#### **ABOUT SMUIN**

For more than 25 years Smuin has expanded the boundaries of contemporary ballet, engaging and delighting audiences with 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. As Artistic Director since 2007, Celia Fushille has maintained Michael Smuin's legacy while enriching the Company's impressive repertoire by collaborating with inventive choreographers from around the world, commissioning world premieres, and bringing new contemporary choreographic voices to the Smuin stage.

*All programs are subject to change.*

#### **FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:**

**WHAT:** Following 18 months of inventive virtual and outdoor performances, **Smuin Contemporary Ballet** returns with a stellar lineup for its 2021/22 season, kicking off with a virtual series revisiting Michael Smuin favorites, followed by the return of live, in-person performances on stages in **San Francisco, Walnut Creek, Mountain View, and Carmel**. Each series of live stage performances will also be offered as a streaming on-demand option to home audiences. Smuin's 28th season will include the company premiere of award-winning choreographer Gina Patterson's *You Are Here*, the return of Amy Seiwert's highly praised *Renaissance* set to the music of Kitka Women's Vocal Ensemble, plus the revival of acclaimed dancemaker Val Caniparoli's quirky *Confessions* and new works by Smuin artists Tessa Barbour and Brennan Wall. Smuin will also tour the Bay with its annual holiday treat, *The Christmas Ballet*.

**TICKETS:** For subscriptions (\$90-\$215) or more information, the public may call **(415) 912-1899** or visit [www.smuinballet.org](http://www.smuinballet.org).

Live performances: single tickets (\$25-\$99) will be available beginning in September. Discounts are available for students and groups of 10 or more.

Virtual streaming: single tickets (\$15) and series subscriptions (\$39-\$89) for virtual/on-demand programming will be available beginning in August.

**PRESS:** Contact Steph Keay, Carla Befera & Co.  
(650) 687-7830 | [steph@cb-pr.com](mailto:steph@cb-pr.com)

**PHOTOS:** For high-res photos, please visit: <http://cbpr.co/press/smuin21-22/>

<b>Venue Info</b>	<b>Online:</b> Tickets: (415) 912-1899 or smuinballet.org	<b>San Francisco:</b> Cowell Theater (2 Marina Blvd)  Tickets: (415) 912-1899 or smuinballet.org	<b>San Francisco:</b> Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater (700 Howard St)  Tickets: (415) 912-1899 or smuinballet.org	<b>Walnut Creek:</b> Leshner Center for the Arts (1601 Civic Drive)  Tickets: (925) 943-7469 or smuinballet.org	<b>Mountain View:</b> Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts (500 Castro Street)  Tickets: (650) 903-6000 or smuinballet.org	<b>Carmel:</b> Sunset Center (San Carlos Street at 9th Ave)  Tickets: (831) 620-2048 or smuinballet.org
<b><u>Limitless Michael Smuin</u></b> <i>Stabat Mater</i> <i>Cyrano</i> <i>Pinocchio</i> <i>Zorro!</i>	<b>September 9-October 4, 2021</b> Sept 9-13 Sept 16-20 Sept 23-27 Sept 30-Oct 4					
<b><u>The Christmas Ballet</u></b>	Available via streaming Nov 25-Dec 31		<b>December 16-26, 2021</b> 7:30pm Thu Dec 16 7:30pm Fri Dec 17 2pm & 7:30pm Sat Dec 18 2pm Sun Dec 19 7:30pm Tues Dec 21 2pm Wed Dec 22 2pm & 7:30pm Thurs Dec 23 2pm Fri Dec 24 2pm Sun Dec 26	<b>November 19-20, 2021</b> 7:30pm Fri Nov 19 2pm Sat Nov 20	<b>December 2-5, 2021</b> 7:30pm Thurs Dec 2 7:30pm Fri Dec 3 2pm & 7:30pm Sat Dec 4 2pm Sun Dec 5	<b>December 10-11, 2021</b> 7:30pm Fri Dec 10 2pm Sat Dec 11
<b><u>Dance Series 1: Love, Smuin</u></b> <i>You Are Here</i> by Gina Patterson <i>Dear Miss Cline</i> by Amy Seiwert <i>Been Through Diamonds</i> by Amy Seiwert	Available via streaming Mar 1-31	<b>February 4-13, 2022</b> 7:30pm Fri Feb 4 2pm & 7:30pm Sat Feb 5 2pm Sun Feb 6 7:30pm Fri Feb 11 2pm & 7:30pm Sat Feb 12 2pm Sun Feb 12		<b>February 18-19, 2022</b> 7:30pm Fri Feb 18 2pm Sat Feb 19	<b>February 24-27, 2022</b> 7:30pm Thurs Feb 24 7:30pm Fri Feb 25 2pm & 7:30pm Sat Feb 26 2pm Sun Feb 27	
<b><u>Dance Series 2: P.S. Forever Smuin</u></b> <i>Confessions</i> by Val Caniparoli <i>Renaissance</i> by Amy Seiwert World Premieres by Tessa Barbour & Brennan Wall	Available via streaming June 1-30		<b>April 29-May 8, 2022</b> 7:30pm Fri Apr 29 2pm & 7:30pm Sat Apr 30 2pm Sun May 1 7:30pm Thurs May 5 7:30pm Fri May 6 2pm & 7:30pm Sat May 7 2pm Sun May 8		<b>May 19-22, 2022</b> 7:30pm Thurs May 19 7:30pm Fri May 20 2pm & 7:30pm Sat May 21 2pm Sun May 22	<b>May 27-28, 2022</b> 7:30pm Fri May 27 2pm Sat May 28

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