

SMUIN

CONTEMPORARY BALLET

CELIA FUSHILLE / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

SMUIN CONTEMPORARY BALLET PRESENTS “DANCE SERIES 1: LOVE, SMUIN” FEATURING A COMPANY PREMIERE, PLAYFUL TRIBUTE TO PATSY CLINE, AND MORE

You Are Here (Company Premiere) by Gina Patterson

Dear Miss Cline by Amy Seiwert

Been Through Diamonds by Amy Seiwert

**Shows in San Francisco, Walnut Creek, and Mountain View
February 4-27, 2022**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (12 January 2022) — **Smuin Contemporary Ballet** launches the new year with *Dance Series 1: Love Smuin*, a diverse program featuring the Company Premiere of internationally acclaimed choreographer Gina Patterson’s poignant *You Are Here*, plus two lauded works by former Smuin Choreographer-in-Residence Amy Seiwert: a charming tribute to country legend Patsy Cline in *Dear Miss Cline*, and *Been Through Diamonds*, a neo-classical look at relationships between four couples showcasing Seiwert’s geometrically inventive movement. This program will also be offered as a virtual on-demand streaming option in March, following the conclusion of live performances. *Dance Series 1: Love, Smuin* will tour the Bay Area beginning with shows in **San Francisco (February 4-13)**, continuing in **Walnut Creek (February 18-19)** and **Mountain View (February 24-27)**. Tickets (\$25-\$99) are available by calling the individual venues (*see below for details*) or visiting www.smuinballet.org.

Gina Patterson’s *You Are Here* is a moving work inspired by loss and perseverance set to the music of Italian pianist Ludovico Einaudi. It received its world premiere with Cincinnati Ballet, where it was called “forceful and swirling...an endless series of surprises” by the *Cincinnati Enquirer*. Patterson has been hailed as a choreographer of “startling originality” by *Backstage Magazine*. *Dance Magazine* raved of her work, “Patterson has a voice, that ever-elusive thing, and whatever the

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future of ballet may be, choreographers like her will always have a place in it.” She has created more than 100 choreographies for companies, universities, and international audiences including thirteen full-evening productions, such as the Emmy Award-winning “Liquid Roads” for MADCO, an original adaptation of “Romeo and Juliet” for CoDa21 in Puerto Rico, and a unique “Hansel and Gretel” created for the Ballet of The Croatian National Theatre Ivan pl. Zajc in Rijeka. Patterson’s work encompasses concept and direction, collaborating across disciplines with creations that are non-linear and interactive, employing multi-sensory triggers and innovations in use of story, space, and venue. A recently awarded Bogliasco Fellowship in Italy follows accolades that include a Choo San Goh Award and a nomination for an Isadora Duncan Dance Award.

Two favorites from **Amy Seiwert**, Smuin’s former Choreographer-in-Residence, will also be revived for *Dance Series 1*. The charming *Dear Miss Cline*, a suite of lighthearted works in tribute to the celebrated country singer Patsy Cline, was praised by the *San Francisco Examiner* for its “playful but challenging partnering,” describing the dancers as “effortless: men and women tumble, somersault and swing with acrobatic aplomb.” Seiwert’s *Been Through Diamonds*, her debut work as Smuin’s Choreographer-in-Residence, also returns. Set to Mozart’s “String Quintet in C Minor,” geometrically inspired movement is showcased in this neo-classical look at relationships between four couples. Seiwert was mentored by Michael Smuin for eight of her nine years as a dancer at the company. Artistic Director Celia Fushille named her Smuin’s first Choreographer-in-Residence upon her retirement from dancing in 2008. As a choreographer, Seiwert has pushed the boundaries of dance, collaborating with artists of other disciplines and experimenting with all of its various forms and expressions from a classical base, making her an invaluable voice in the Bay Area dance community. Her signature choreography has been described by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as “keeping founder Michael Smuin’s legacy of unabashed showmanship alive!”

Following the live performances, this program will be offered as a virtual on-demand streaming option, available during the month of March.

ABOUT SMUIN

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For more than 25 years Smuin has pushed the boundaries of contemporary ballet within a distinctly American style, 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. Artistic Director since 2007, Celia Fushille has celebrated 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.

Daily Newspaper sponsor for Smuin's 2021/2022 season is the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

For Calendar Editors

WHAT: **Smuin Contemporary Ballet** launches the new year with *Dance Series 1: Love Smuin*, a diverse program featuring the Company Premiere of internationally acclaimed choreographer Gina Patterson's poignant *You Are Here*, plus two lauded works by former Smuin Choreographer-in-Residence Amy Seiwert: a charming tribute to country legend Patsy Cline in *Dear Miss Cline*, and *Been Through Diamonds*, a neo-classical look at relationships between four couples showcasing Seiwert's geometrically inventive movement. *This program will also be offered as a virtual on-demand streaming option in March, following the conclusion of live performances.*

SHOWS:

SAN FRANCISCO: February 4-13, 2022 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. 13	Cowell Theater 2 Marina Blvd, San Francisco (415) 912-1899 or www.smuinballet.org Tickets (\$25-\$99)
WALNUT CREEK: February 18-19, 2022 7:30pm Fri 2pm Sat	Leshner Center for the Arts 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek (925) 943-7469 or www.smuinballet.org Tickets (\$25-\$99)

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MOUNTAIN VIEW: February 24-27, 2022 7:30pm Thurs 7:30pm Fri 2pm & 7:30 pm Sat 2pm Sun	Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts 500 Castro Street, Mountain View (650) 903-6000 or www.smuinballet.org Tickets (\$25-\$99)
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Discounts available for students and groups of 10 or more.

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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/2022danceseries1>