SMUIN

CONTEMPORARY BALLET

CELIA FUSHILLE / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

SMUIN ANNOUNCES 2022/23 SEASON

FEATURING A WORLD PREMIERE BY CUBAN CHOREOGRAPHER OSNEL DELGADO, A COMPANY PREMIERE BY KATE SKARPETOWSKA, AND WORKS BY VAL CANIPAROLI, AMY SEIWERT, MORE

PERFORMANCES RUN SEPTEMBER 16, 2022 TO MAY 28, 2023 IN SAN FRANCISCO, WALNUT CREEK, MOUNTAIN VIEW, AND CARMEL

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (14 June 2022) — From premieres by international choreographers to new surprises in its fiercely festive holiday program, **Smuin Contemporary Ballet** promises a stellar lineup for its 22/23 season. The company's 29th season features a World Premiere by acclaimed Cuban choreographer Osnel Delgado, a jazzy *Take Five* by Rex Wheeler set to the music of Dave Brubeck, and *Requiem for a Rose* from renowned choreographer Annabelle Lopez Ochoa. Two new works created by female choreographers will lead Smuin's spring program—a world premiere by Amy Seiwert, and a company premiere by rising dancemaker Katarzyna (Kate) Skarpetowska—in addition to Michael Smuin's striking *Dream* and Val Caniparoli's ingenious *Swipe*. **Smuin's *The Christmas Ballet*** returns for the holiday season, touring the Bay Area with its signature collection of festive classics and inventive premieres. Smuin's programs will be presented in San Francisco, Walnut Creek, Mountain View, and Carmel. After a three-year hiatus, Smuin's ***Choreography Showcase*** also makes its triumphant return to live performances at the Smuin Center for Dance, offering audiences a treasure trove of world premieres created by Company artists. For subscriptions ($90-$215) or more information, the public may call **(415) 912-1899** or visit **www.smuinballet.org**. Single tickets go on sale in August.

Smuin's 22/23 season, unveiled by Artistic Director Celia Fushille, launches in September 2022 with ***Dance Series 1***. This invigorating program will introduce Cuban choreographer Osnel Delgado to the Bay Area with a vibrant world premiere. Also on the bill is Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's wildly acclaimed *Requiem for a Rose*, whose return has been eagerly awaited by dance fans since its West Coast premiere by Smuin five years ago. Audience will also get a jazzy look at *Take Five* set to music by Dave Brubeck by Rex Wheeler, the former Smuin dancer who made international headlines in 2022 as Lady Camden on "RuPaul's Drag Race." Smuin's popular ***The Christmas Ballet*** returns for the holiday season, performed once again at theatres in Walnut Creek, Mountain View, San Francisco, and Carmel. Smuin's ***Choreography Showcase***, an opportunity for audiences to experience world premieres choreographed by Company artists, will return to live performances at the Smuin Center for Dance after two years. In the spring, ***Dance Series 2*** will close out Smuin's 29th season with a world premiere by Bay Area choreographer (and former Smuin dancer and choreographer-in-residence) Amy Seiwert, as well as the company premiere of rising dancemaker Kate

MEDIA CONTACT: STEPH KEAY, CARLA BEFERA & CO.
PHONE: 650.687.7830 EMAIL: STEPH@CB-PR.COM

Skarpetowska's *Sextette*, Michael Smuin's evocative *Dream*, and Val Caniparoli's playful *Swipe*.

Dance Series 1

World Premiere by Osnel Delgado
Requiem for a Rose by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa
Take Five by Rex Wheeler

Smuin presents a World Premiere by brilliant Cuban choreographer Osnel Delgado, to be set on the Smuin company artists. Artistic Director Celia Fushille glimpsed Delgado's work in Cuba ten years ago and has labored ever since to bring his work to San Francisco audiences—a collaboration originally scheduled for 2020 but derailed by the pandemic. Delgado's work expresses the passion, cultural blending, and uncertainty that define life in Cuba and beyond, with inspiration drawn from the country's rich and varied dance traditions—from Afro-Cuban rhythms to beloved Cuban ballet culture, to its vibrant modern dance scene. Also on the bill is Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's *Requiem for a Rose*, called "Intriguing. Brilliant. A meditation on the nature of love," by the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Set to what many consider to be Schubert's most romantic string adagio, from the Quintet in C, *Requiem for a Rose* examines the difference between the ephemeral nature of romance and the enduring devotion of love. Finally, the music of jazz legend Dave Brubeck will come alive in *Take Five* by former Company member Rex Wheeler, who recently gained fame as the first runner-up on the 2022 season of "RuPaul's Drag Race." An exuberant tribute to the jazz icon, Wheeler's piece offers a charming and colorful set of inventive and surprising movements to match the landmark jazz standard.

Dates and Locations

September 16-18, 2022: Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View
September 23-October 2, 2022: Cowell Theater, 2 Marina Blvd., San Francisco
October 7-8, 2022: Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek

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*. The LGBTQ+ Night performance of Smuin's irrepressible holiday classic will also return December 20, featuring a twist on the annual holiday tradition with delightful surprises that add camp, culture, and miles of cheer to *The Christmas Ballet*.

Dates and Locations

November 19-20, 2022: Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek
December 1-4, 2022: Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View
December 9-10, 2022: Sunset Center, San Carlos Street at 9th Ave., Carmel-by-the-Sea
December 14-24, 2022: Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 700 Howard St., San Francisco

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Choreography Showcase

Smuin continues its inspiring tradition of encouraging company dancers to explore their creativity in its ***Choreography Showcase***, an opportunity for audiences to experience a treasure trove of stunning world premieres ranging from humorous to heartfelt. The program returns to live performances after two years, presented in the intimate setting of Smuin's home base in Potrero Hill.

Dates and Locations

February 22-26, 2023: Smuin Center for Dance, 1830 17 St, San Francisco

Dance Series 2

World Premiere by Amy Seiwert
Sextette by Kate Skarpetowska
Dream by Michael Smuin
Swipe by Val Caniparoli

Smuin's season finale is headlined by soaring works that highlight the company's artistry and depth of talent, including two new works created by women. Smuin will unveil the newest World Premiere by Amy Seiwert, as well as the company premiere of *Sextette* by Kate Skarpetowska, a choreographer named one of "25 to Watch" by *Dance Magazine*. Originally choreographed on Smuin artists for the National Choreographers Initiative in 2021, the whimsical piece is set to Johann Sebastian Bach's "Violin Concerto No. 1 in A Minor." This impressive mixed repertory program continues with Michael Smuin's stirring *Dream*, a pas de deux set to "Romanza" from Chopin's "Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11." Originally commissioned as an anniversary gift by a devoted Smuin patron, *Dream* will be seen for the first time in two decades. Rounding out the bill is Val Caniparoli's *Swipe*, a highly technical piece for four men and three women set to a remix of "String Quartet No. 2" by Gabriel Prokofiev, grandson of Sergei Prokofiev. A classically trained composer known for electronic and hip-hop music, Prokofiev's music compliments the pulsing energy of Caniparoli's blend of classical and contemporary movement.

Dates and Locations

April 28-29, 2023: Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek
May 5-14, 2023: Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 700 Howard St., San Francisco
May 25-28, 2023: Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View

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.

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FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: From premieres by international choreographers to new surprises in its fiercely festive holiday program, **Smuin Contemporary Ballet** promises a stellar lineup for its 22/23 season. The company's 29th season features a World Premiere by acclaimed Cuban choreographer Osnel Delgado, a jazzy *Take Five* by Rex Wheeler set to the music of Dave Brubeck, and *Requiem for a Rose* from renowned choreographer Annabelle Lopez Ochoa. Two new works created by female choreographers will lead Smuin's spring program—a world premiere by Amy Seiwert, and a company premiere by rising dancemaker Katarzyna (Kate) Skarpetowska—in addition to Michael Smuin's striking *Dream* and Val Caniparoli's ingenious *Swipe*. **Smuin's *The Christmas Ballet*** returns for the holiday season, touring the Bay Area with its signature collection of festive classics and inventive premieres. Smuin's programs will be presented in San Francisco, Walnut Creek, Mountain View, and Carmel. After a three-year hiatus, Smuin's ***Choreography Showcase*** also makes its triumphant return to live performances at the Smuin Center for Dance, offering audiences a treasure trove of world premieres created by Company artists.

TICKETS: For subscriptions ($90-$215) or more information, the public may call **(415) 912-1899** or visit **www.smuinballet.org**. Single tickets ($25-$99) will be available beginning in August. Discounts are available for students and groups of 10 or more.

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

PHOTOS: **For high-res photos, please visit:** http://cbpr.co/press/smuin22-23/

Venue Info	**San Francisco**: Cowell Theater (2 Marina Blvd) **Tickets:** (415) 912-1899 or smuinballet.org	**San Francisco:** Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater (700 Howard St) **Tickets:** (415) 912-1899 or smuinballet.org	**Walnut Creek:** Lesher Center for the Arts (1601 Civic Drive) **Tickets:** (925) 943-7469 or smuinballet.org	**Mountain View:** Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts (500 Castro Street) **Tickets:** (650) 903-6000 or smuinballet.org	**Carmel:** Sunset Center (San Carlos Street at 9th Ave) **Tickets:** (831) 620-2048 or smuinballet.org
Dance Series 1 World Premiere *by Osnel Delgado* ***Requiem for a Rose*** *by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa* ***Take Five*** *by Rex Wheeler*	**September 23-October 2, 2022** 7:30pm Fri Sept 23 2pm & 7:30pm Sat Sept 24 2pm Sun Sept 25 7:30pm Fri Sept 30 2pm & 7:30pm Sat Oct 1 2pm Sun Oct 2		**October 7-8, 2022** 7:30pm Fri Oct 7 2pm Sat Oct 8	**September 16-18, 2022** 7:30pm Fri Sept 16 2pm & 7:30pm Sat Sept 17 2pm Sun Sept 18	
The Christmas Ballet		**December 14-24, 2022** 7:30pm Wed Dec 14 7:30pm Thu Dec 15 7:30pm Fri Dec 16 2pm & 7:30pm Sat Dec 17 2pm Sun Dec 18 7:30pm Tues Dec 20 *(LGBTQ Night)* 2pm Wed Dec 21 7:30pm Thurs Dec 22 2pm & 7:30pm Fri Dec 23 2pm Sun Dec 24	**November 19-20, 2022** 2pm & 7:30pm Fri Nov 19 2pm Sat Nov 20	**December 1-4, 2022** 7:30pm Thurs Dec 1 7:30pm Fri Dec 2 2pm & 7:30pm Sat Dec 3 2pm Sun Dec 4	**December 9-10, 2022** 7:30pm Fri Dec 9 2pm Sat Dec 10
Dance Series 2 World Premiere by Amy Seiwert ***Sextette*** by Kate Skarpetowska ***Dream*** by Michael Smuin ***Swipe*** by Val Caniparoli		**May 5-14, 2023** 7:30pm Fri May 5 2pm & 7:30pm Sat May 6 2pm Sun May 7 7:30pm Thurs May 11 7:30pm Fri May 12 2pm & 7:30pm Sat May 13 2pm Sun May 14	**April 28-29, 2023** 7:30pm Fri Apr 28 2pm Sat Apr 29	**May 25-28, 2023** 7:30pm Thurs May 25 7:30pm Fri May 26 2pm & 7:30pm Sat May 27 2pm Sun May 28	

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