

# SMUIN

CONTEMPORARY BALLET

CELIA FUSHILLE / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## SMUIN HERALDS THE HOLIDAYS WITH ANNUAL FESTIVE SPECTACULAR “THE CHRISTMAS BALLET”

**Shows in Walnut Creek, Mountain View, Carmel, and San Francisco  
November 19 – December 24, 2022**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (4 October 2022) — Smuin’s joyful holiday tradition returns to spread yuletide cheer at theatres around the Bay with its signature showcase of classical and contemporary dances set to delightfully festive tunes. *Smuin’s The Christmas Ballet*, performing November 19 through December 24 in Walnut Creek, Mountain View, Carmel, and San Francisco, celebrates the holidays with two acts highlighting the best of both worlds: beautiful classical ballet set to beloved carols, and red-hot contemporary numbers set to pop favorites. Its 2022 edition will feature dances ranging from ballet, tap, and jazz, to swing and more, plus the unwrapping of two world premieres. Smuin’s yuletide spectacular was declared “sheer joy...the finest toast to the season” by the *San Francisco Chronicle*. *Smuin’s The Christmas Ballet* will tour the Bay Area, beginning with shows in Walnut Creek (November 19-20), continuing in Mountain View (December 1-4), Carmel (Dec 9-10), and wrapping up with San Francisco (December 14-24). Tickets (\$25-\$99) are available by calling the individual venues (*see below for details*) or visiting [www.smuinballet.org](http://www.smuinballet.org).

*Smuin’s The Christmas Ballet* premiered in 1995 and has long been a festive tradition for Bay Area dance lovers across the Bay Area. Along with a return to Michael Smuin’s original pieces, the company will unwrap new surprises from Smuin’s former Choreographer-in-Residence, Amy Seiwert, as well as Smuin alum Nicole Haskins. The first act, Classical Christmas, will unveil a new pas deux by Haskins set to a piece of music created from a prayer for Ukraine, in addition to traditional favorites such as Michael Smuin’s “Bach Magnificat,” “Wassail,” and “Licht bensch’n”. The Cool Christmas second act will feature the world premiere of an ensemble ballet by Seiwert as well as a spirited medley of contemporary festive numbers, such as Michael Smuin’s sultry

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“Christmas in New Orleans,” the spirited tap dance “Bells of Dublin,” the folk dance inspired “La Calandria,” and dancing conifers in “Droopy Little Christmas Tree.” And fans can rest easy, Smuin’s iconic “Santa Baby” featuring the “world’s longest feather boa” will be back.

**ABOUT SMUIN**

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 2022/2023 season is the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

**For Calendar Editors**

**WHAT:** Smuin’s joyful holiday tradition returns to spread yuletide cheer at theatres around the Bay with its signature showcase of classical and contemporary dances set to delightfully festive tunes. *Smuin’s The Christmas Ballet*, performing November 19 through December 24 in Walnut Creek, Mountain View, Carmel, and San Francisco, celebrates the holidays with two acts highlighting the best of both worlds: beautiful classical ballet set to beloved carols, and red-hot contemporary numbers set to pop favorites. Its 2022 edition will feature dances ranging from ballet, tap, and jazz, to swing and more, plus the unwrapping of two world premieres. Smuin’s yuletide spectacular was declared “sheer joy...the finest toast to the season” by the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

**SHOWS:**

<p><b>WALNUT CREEK:</b>  <b>November 19-20, 2022</b>  2pm &amp; 7:30pm Sat  2pm Sun</p>	<p>Leshner Center for the Arts  1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek  (925) 943-7469 or <a href="http://www.smuinballet.org">www.smuinballet.org</a>  Tickets (\$25-\$99)</p>
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<p><b>MOUNTAIN VIEW:</b>  <b>December 1-4, 2022</b>          7:30pm Thurs          7:30pm Fri          2pm &amp; 7:30 pm Sat          2pm Sun</p>	<p>Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts          500 Castro Street, Mountain View          (650) 903-6000 or <a href="http://www.smuinballet.org">www.smuinballet.org</a>          Tickets (\$25-\$99)</p>
<p><b>CARMEL:</b>  <b>December 9-10, 2022</b>          7:30pm Fri          2pm Sat</p>	<p>Sunset Center          San Carlos Street at 9th Avenue, Carmel          (831) 620-2048 or <a href="http://www.smuinballet.org">www.smuinballet.org</a>          Tickets (\$69-\$89)</p>
<p><b>SAN FRANCISCO:</b>  <b>December 14-24, 2022</b>          7:30pm Wed, Dec. 14          7:30pm Thurs, Dec. 15          7:30pm Fri, Dec. 16          2pm &amp; 7:30pm Sat, Dec. 17          2pm Sun, Dec. 18          7:30pm Tues, Dec. 20          2pm Wed, Dec. 21          7:30pm Thurs, Dec. 22          2pm &amp; 7:30pm Fri, Dec. 23          2pm Sat, Dec. 24</p>	<p>Yerba Buena Center for the Arts          700 Howard Street          (415) 912-1899 or <a href="http://www.smuinballet.org">www.smuinballet.org</a>          Tickets (\$25-\$99)</p>

Discounts 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](mailto:steph@cb-pr.com)

**PHOTOS:** Media may download high-res photos at <http://cbpr.co/press/smuinxmas22>