

SMUIN

CONTEMPORARY BALLET

CELIA FUSHILLE / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

EIGHT COMPANY ARTISTS PRESENT ORIGINAL WORKS IN SMUIN'S CHOREOGRAPHY SHOWCASE PLUS Q & A SESSIONS AND LIVE STREAM

February 22-26, 2023

San Francisco, CA (30 January 2023) – **Smuin Contemporary Ballet** continues its tradition of encouraging Company dancers to explore their creativity in its **Choreography Showcase**, a thrilling opportunity for audiences to experience never-before-seen world premieres ranging from humorous to heartfelt. Performed at the Smuin Center for Dance, these intimate performances give a glimpse of the rising choreographic talents within the Company. Eight Smuin artists will step into the spotlight this season, creating new works set on their fellow Company members who will bring these premieres to life on stage. Select performances will be followed by a Q&A session (*see below for full details*), during which audience members can discuss the artistic process with the performers and choreographers. The Smuin artists who will be setting new works in the 2023 edition of the Showcase are Tessa Barbour, Ian Buchanan, Claire Buehler, Maggie Carey, Ricardo Dyer, Cassidy Isaacson, Yuri Rogers, and Brennan Wall. Smuin's **Choreography Showcase** will be presented **February 22-26** at the **Smuin Center for Dance**, 1830 17 Street, San Francisco. The performances on Friday, February 24 and Sunday, February 26 will also be available via live streaming. Tickets for in-person performances (\$35-\$55) and information are available at smuinballet.org or by calling (415) 912-1899. Live streaming tickets (\$25) are available online at smuinballet.org.

Smuin's ever-popular **Choreography Showcase** returns to once again put the artistic reins into the hands of its dancers. The idea was originated by Company founder Michael Smuin, known for fostering the creative voices of its artists by setting aside the time and resources for them to spread their choreographic wings. In 2008, Artistic Director Celia Fushille formalized the

tradition by launching the Company's first-ever Showcase. Since then, the opportunity has repeated annually or biennially, with several of the works developed in the Showcase process enjoying mainstage premieres at Smuin. In these intimate, in-house performances presented in Smuin's home base, dancers unveil new works created on one another, and also collaborate on lighting, stagecraft, and costumes. The showcase will offer a variety of dance styles and unique musical selections.

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 Contemporary Ballet** continues its tradition of encouraging Company dancers to explore their creativity in its **Choreography Showcase**, a thrilling opportunity for audiences to experience never-before-seen world premieres ranging from humorous to heartfelt. Performed at the Smuin Center for Dance, these intimate performances give a glimpse of the rising choreographic talents within the Company. Eight Smuin artists will step into the spotlight this season, creating new works set on their fellow Company members who will bring these premieres to life on stage. Select performances will be followed by a Q&A session, during which audience members can discuss the artistic process with the performers and choreographers. The Smuin artists who will be setting new works in the 2023 edition of the Showcase are Tessa Barbour, Ian Buchanan, Claire Buehler, Maggie Carey, Ricardo Dyer, Cassidy Isaacson, Yuri Rogers, and Brennan Wall. The performances on Friday, February 24 and Sunday, February 26 will also be available via live streaming.

WHEN: **February 22-26, 2023**
7pm, Wednesday, February 22 (*post-show Q&A*)

2pm & 7pm, Thursday, February 23
7pm, Friday, February 24 (*also available live streamed, post-show Q&A*)
2pm & 7pm, Saturday, February 25 (*post-show Q&A following 2pm performance only*)
2pm, Sunday, February 26 (*also available live streamed, post-show Q&A*)

WHERE: **Smuin Center for Dance**
1830 17 Street, San Francisco

TICKETS: Tickets for the in-person performances (\$35-\$55) and information are available at smuinballet.org or by calling **(415) 912-1899**.

Live streaming tickets (\$25) are available online at smuinballet.org.

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PHOTOS: For high-res photos, please visit:
<http://www.cbpr.co/press/smuinshowcase23>