



**SMUIN CONTEMPORARY BALLET
LAUNCHES 30TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON WITH
“DANCE SERIES 1”**

**FEATURING THE WORLD PREMIERE OF “SALSA ‘TIL DAWN” BY
DARRELL GRAND MOULTRIE, THE HIGHLY ANTICIPATED RETURN OF
JAMES KUDELKA’S “THE MAN IN BLACK,” AND VAL CANIPAROLI’S
SPIRITED “TUTTO ECCETTO IL LAVANDINO”**

**Shows in Mountain View and San Francisco
Now through October 7, 2023**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (20 September 2023) — Celebrating three decades of bringing innovative dance to the Bay Area, Smuin will kick off its 30th season with the World Premiere of *Salsa ‘til Dawn* by one of America’s most sought-after choreographers, Darrell Grand Moultrie, set to an original Cuban jazz score by Grammy, Emmy, and Golden Globe Award winning composer Charles Fox. Also on the bill is James Kudelka’s *The Man in Black*, a contemporary ballet danced in cowboy boots to the music of Johnny Cash. Rounding out the program is San Francisco-based, internationally acclaimed choreographer Val Caniparoli’s playful *Tutto Eccetto il Lavandino* (*everything but the kitchen sink*), set to Vivaldi. **Smuin’s *Dance Series 1*** will tour the Bay Area, beginning with shows in Walnut Creek (September 15-16), continuing in Mountain View (September 21-24) and wrapping up with San Francisco (September 29 - October 7). Tickets (\$25-\$89) are available by calling the individual venues (*see below for details*) or visiting www.smuinballet.org.

In its thrilling season opener, Smuin presents the World Premiere of *Salsa ‘til Dawn* from **Darrell Grand Moultrie** set to a score by lauded composer **Charles Fox**. Moultrie’s impressive career has spanned theater, ballet, modern, and commercial dance genres, with work created for American Ballet Theatre, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and other leading companies around the world; individuals from Beyoncé (for her Mrs. Carter World Tour) to tap legend Savion Glover; and theatre productions. He returns to Smuin following the company’s performances of his work *Jazzin’* in 2013. *Salsa ‘til Dawn* will unite him with a fellow alum from NYC’s La Guardia Performing Arts High School: Grammy, Emmy, and Golden Globe Award winning composer Fox, who created the scores for Michael Smuin’s *Zorro!* (to be revived later this season) and *A Song for Dead Warriors* (presented by San Francisco Ballet and filmed for PBS’ *Dance in America*). Fox has created a moving Cuban jazz score for the premiere, composed of works performed in concert in Havana and Paris. Inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2004, Fox has composed music for hundreds of films from “Barbarella” and “Goodbye Columbus” to “Nine to Five,” as well as television shows,

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theatre productions, ballets, and for music artists, winning a Song of the Year Grammy for the Roberta Flack megahit “Killing Me Softly with His Song,” among many other honors. Fox is slated to perform one of his adagios live at select performances in Walnut Creek and San Francisco (*see below for full details*). *Salsa ‘til Dawn* also features the artwork of Douglas Melini, represented by Miles McEnery Gallery, whose paintings were enlarged as the set for Moultrie’s ballet by set designer Andrea Bechert.

Also on the program is the return of **James Kudelka**’s *The Man in Black*, an acclaimed work set to music covers by Johnny Cash choreographed for three men and one woman, danced in cowboy boots. This captivating piece is an ode to American working-class grit featuring complex choreography influenced by popular country-western dance styles including line, square, swing, and step dancing. *The Man in Black* utilizes six songs covered by Johnny Cash in his final years, including Trent Reznor’s “Hurt” and Gordon Lightfoot’s “If You Could Read My Mind.” Its company premiere with Smuin in fall 2019 was called “moving and powerful” by the *San Francisco Chronicle*. One of the world’s most versatile and innovative dance artists, Kudelka began his choreography career with The National Ballet of Canada in 1972. After a widely praised rework of *The Nutcracker*, Kudelka served as artistic director at The National Ballet for nine years.

Completing the program is a work created for Smuin by lauded choreographer **Val Caniparoli**. The playful *Tutto Eccetto il Lavandino* (*everything but the kitchen sink*) is a dynamic 11-part neoclassical work that embraces the music of Italian Baroque composer Antonio Vivaldi and celebrates the incredible athleticism and versatility of the Smuin dancers. Premiering in spring 2014 in honor of Smuin Ballet’s 20th Anniversary season, the *San Francisco Chronicle* praised its vigorous movement, noting the Smuin “dancers aced the balletic rigors.” Caniparoli has created a body of work that is rooted in classicism but influenced by all forms of movement: modern dance, ethnic dance, social dancing, and even ice skating. He has contributed to the repertoires of more than 45 dance companies, including Pacific Northwest Ballet, Boston Ballet, Northern Ballet Theatre, Pennsylvania Ballet, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Ballet West (Resident Choreographer 1993-97), Washington Ballet, Israel Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Singapore Dance Theatre, Atlanta Ballet, State Theatre Ballet of South Africa, and Tulsa Ballet. Caniparoli is most closely associated with San Francisco Ballet, his artistic home for more than 50 years, where he began his career under the co-artistic directorship of Lew Christensen and Michael Smuin.

For 30 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. At the conclusion of the 2023-2024 season, Fushille will step away from her role as Artistic Director and Seiwert will continue to lead Smuin in bold and creative ways for the next decade and beyond. For more information, visit smuinballet.org.

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FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: Celebrating three decades of bringing innovative dance to the Bay Area, Smuin will kick off its 30th season with the World Premiere of *Salsa 'til Dawn* by one of America's most sought-after choreographers, Darrell Grand Moultrie, set to an original Cuban jazz score by Grammy, Emmy, and Golden Globe Award winning composer Charles Fox. Also on the bill is James Kudelka's *The Man in Black*, a contemporary ballet danced in cowboy boots to the music of Johnny Cash. Rounding out the program is San Francisco-based, internationally acclaimed choreographer Val Caniparoli's playful *Tutto Eccetto il Lavandino (everything but the kitchen sink)*, set to Vivaldi.

TICKETS: For tickets (\$25-\$89) or more information, the public may call 415-912-1899 or visit smuinballet.org.

DATES & LOCATIONS:

MOUNTAIN VIEW: September 21-24, 2023 7:30pm Thurs, Sept. 21 7:30pm Fri, Sept. 22 2pm & 7:30pm Sat, Sept. 23 2pm Sun, Sept. 24	Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts 500 Castro Street, Mountain View (650) 903-6000 or www.smuinballet.org Tickets (\$25-\$84)
SAN FRANCISCO: September 29-October 7, 2023 7:30pm Fri, Sept. 29* 2pm Sat, Sept. 30 7:30pm Sat, Sept. 30* 2pm Sun, Oct. 1 7:30pm Thurs, Oct. 5 7:30pm Fri, Oct. 6 7:30pm Sat, Oct. 7 *Charles Fox will perform an adagio live at these performances.	Cowell Theater 2 Marina Blvd, San Francisco (415) 912-1899 or www.smuinballet.org Tickets (\$25-\$89)

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/30danceseries1/>