



SMUIN HONORS FOUNDER WITH SINATRA AND ZORRO BALLETS IN “CELEBRATING MICHAEL SMUIN”

Blue Shield of California Theater at YBCA
February 29 – March 3, 2024

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (18 January 2024) — **Smuin Contemporary Ballet** celebrates its 30th anniversary with *Celebrating Michael Smuin*, a special added program honoring its dynamic late founder. A consummate ballet choreographer, as well as a Tony Award-winning Broadway dancemaker, Smuin was equally renowned for his incandescent, heartbreaking ballets, his magnetic storytelling, and his bold, athletic, audience-pleasing choreography that expanded the boundaries of traditional ballet. Two of Smuin’s beloved works will take the stage: the bold *Zorro!*, returning to the stage for the first time since 2006, and *Fly Me to the Moon*, a warm and witty tribute to Sinatra, revived for its 20th anniversary. *Celebrating Michael Smuin* will be presented in five performances only, **February 29 – March 3, 2024** (see below for full schedule) at the Blue Shield of California Theater at YBCA (700 Howard St, San Francisco). For tickets (\$25-\$99) and more information, the public may call **415-912-1899** or visit smuinballet.org.

This one-week-only program will showcase Michael Smuin’s inimitable pizzazz with *Zorro!*, the “sword fighting, whip cracking spectacular” (*Talkin’ Broadway*) story ballet about the adventures of a beleaguered movie theater usher who longs to emulate the swashbuckling masked California folk hero. Set to a captivating original score by Grammy, Emmy, and Golden Globe Award-winning composer Charles Fox, and featuring fight choreography by fencing master Richard Lane, the *San Francisco Chronicle* declared this piece “delicious. Irrepressible. Broadway meets ballet in the greatest terms.” Paired with *Zorro!* is Michael Smuin’s joyful tribute to Ol’ Blue Eyes, “Fly Me to the Moon.” Performed against a twinkling backdrop of glowing stars, the ballet brings to life an array of warm and witty Sinatra favorites including “I’ve Got You Under My Skin,” the funny and charming “I Won’t Dance,” the brash and brassy

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“That’s Life,” and many more, culminating in a full chorus, high kicking “New York, New York” finale.

ABOUT SMUIN

For 30 years Smuin has pushed the boundaries of contemporary ballet, incorporating diverse dance styles and musical genres. Smuin creates art that is original and evocative, engaging and delighting audiences with works of 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 Associate Artistic Director Amy Seiwert will continue to lead Smuin in bold and creative ways for the next decade and beyond. For more information, visit smuinballet.org.

Daily Newspaper sponsor for Smuin’s 2023/2024 season is the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: **Smuin Contemporary Ballet** celebrates its 30th anniversary with *Celebrating Michael Smuin*, a special added program honoring its dynamic late founder. A consummate ballet choreographer, as well as a Tony Award-winning Broadway dancemaker, Smuin was equally renowned for his incandescent, heartbreaking ballets, his magnetic storytelling, and his bold, athletic, audience-pleasing choreography that expanded the boundaries of traditional ballet. Two of Smuin’s beloved works will take the stage: the bold *Zorro!*, returning to the stage for the first time since 2006, and *Fly Me to the Moon*, a warm and witty tribute to Sinatra, revived for its 20th anniversary.

WHEN: **February 29 – March 3, 2024**
7:30pm Thurs, Feb. 29
7:30pm Fri, Mar. 1
2pm & 7:30pm Sat, Mar. 2
2pm Sun, Mar. 3

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WHERE: Blue Shield of California Theater at YBCA, 700 Howard St., San Francisco

COST: Tickets (\$25-\$99) are available by calling 415-912-1899 or visiting smuinballet.org.

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PHOTOS: Media may download high-res photos at:
<https://cbpr.co/press/celebratingmichael/>

