

SMUIN

CONTEMPORARY BALLET

AMY SEIWERT / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

SMUIN'S ANNUAL GALA CELEBRATES 31ST SEASON

The Galleria at San Francisco Design Center
5:30pm, Saturday, March 22

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (31 January 2024) — **Smuin Contemporary Ballet** celebrates its 31st season with **Smuin's Annual Gala**. This year's edition commemorates Artistic Director Amy Seiwert's inaugural season and will be hosted by co-chairs **John Konstin** and **Lee D. Baxter**, along with Smuin's Board of Trustees and the Friends of Smuin Host Committee. Arts, community, philanthropic, and civic leaders of San Francisco will mingle with Smuin artistic staff and artists at this grand fête honoring the company's achievements at the forefront of contemporary ballet for more than three decades. Beginning with a cocktail reception, the evening will include a gourmet dinner by McCall's Catering, and specially curated performances by Smuin artists. Guests will also enjoy a thrilling live auction featuring one-of-a-kind gifts and experiences. **Smuin's Annual Gala** takes place **5:30pm, Saturday, March 22, 2025**, at **The Galleria at San Francisco Design Center**, 101 Henry Adams Street, San Francisco. For tickets (\$600 - \$1,100 per person, \$6,000 - \$11,000 per table) and more information, the public may visit <https://bit.ly/SmuinGala2025>. For more information on sponsorship opportunities, the public may contact Alicia Tos, Director of Development, at 415-556-5000 x100 or atos@smuinballet.org.

The 2025 edition of Smuin's Annual Gala will celebrate Artistic Director **Amy Seiwert's** inaugural season. Seiwert took the helm of Smuin in July 2024, following her appointment as Smuin's Associate Artistic Director in April 2023. A former Smuin dancer, she was named the company's first choreographer-in-residence by Smuin Artistic Director Emerita Celia Fushille in 2008, a post she held for a decade. A multiple-time Isadora Duncan Award nominee, her choreographic works have been supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, The Kennedy Center, The Joyce Theater, The Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, San Francisco Arts Commission, San Francisco Grants for the Arts, and others. Seiwert's dances are in the repertory of companies nationwide

including Atlanta Ballet, AXIS Dance, Ballet Austin, BalletMet, BalletX, Cincinnati Ballet, Colorado Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, Oakland Ballet, ODC/Dance, Opera Parallèle, Robert Moses KIN, and Washington Ballet.

Live auction items will include rare and memorable experiences including walk-on roles in Smuin's annual "The Christmas Ballet" production. A favorite year after year, delectable cakes baked by company artists will also be auctioned off to a lucky few in the audience. Funds raised at Smuin's Annual Gala will support the company in staging its innovative productions around the Bay Area and its thrilling future under Seiwert's leadership. "Every day at Smuin Contemporary Ballet, we pay tribute to the inspiring and innovative legacy of Michael Smuin," said Seiwert. "As the premier destination for contemporary ballet on the West Coast, we serve as a vibrant hub for pioneering works that push the boundaries of dance. Our stage is not just a space for performances; it is a sanctuary for creativity and exploration, where artistic expression flourishes."

ABOUT SMUIN

Smuin Contemporary Ballet thrives on diverse views and dance styles to create art that is original, evocative, and entertaining. Founded in San Francisco in 1994 by Tony and Emmy Award-winning choreographer Michael Smuin, the company is committed to sharing its passion for dance through performances, classes, and community engagement. From 2007-2024, Artistic Director Emerita Celia Fushille sustained Michael Smuin's legacy while enriching the company's repertoire by collaborating with choreographers from around the world, commissioning world premieres, and bringing new choreographic voices to the Smuin stage. Now at the helm, Artistic Director Amy Seiwert continues to lead Smuin in bold and creative ways.

Daily Newspaper sponsor for Smuin's 2024/2025 season is the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: **Smuin Contemporary Ballet** celebrates its 31st season with **Smuin's Annual Gala**. Hosted by co-chairs **John Konstin** and **Lee D. Baxter**, along with Smuin's Board of Trustees and the Friends of Smuin Host Committee, this year's edition commemorates Artistic Director Amy Seiwert's inaugural season. Arts, community, philanthropic, and civic leaders of San Francisco will mingle with Smuin artistic staff and artists at this grand fête honoring the company's achievements at the forefront of

contemporary ballet for more than three decades. Beginning with a cocktail reception, the evening will include a gourmet dinner by McCall's Catering, and specially curated performances by Smuin artists. Guests will also enjoy a thrilling live auction featuring one-of-a-kind gifts and experiences, including cakes baked by the dancers, and the ever-popular walk-on roles in Smuin's annual "The Christmas Ballet" production.

WHEN: 5:30pm, Saturday, March 22, 2025

WHERE: The Galleria at San Francisco Design Center
101 Henry Adams Street, San Francisco

TICKETS: Tables of 10: \$6,000, \$8,500, \$11,000
Individual tickets: \$600, \$850, \$1,100

To purchase tickets, the public may visit <https://bit.ly/SmuinGala2025>

For more information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact Alicia Tos, Director of Development, at 415-556-5000 x100 or atos@smuinballet.org.

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PHOTOS: Media may download high-res photos at <https://cbpr.co/press/smuingala2025/>