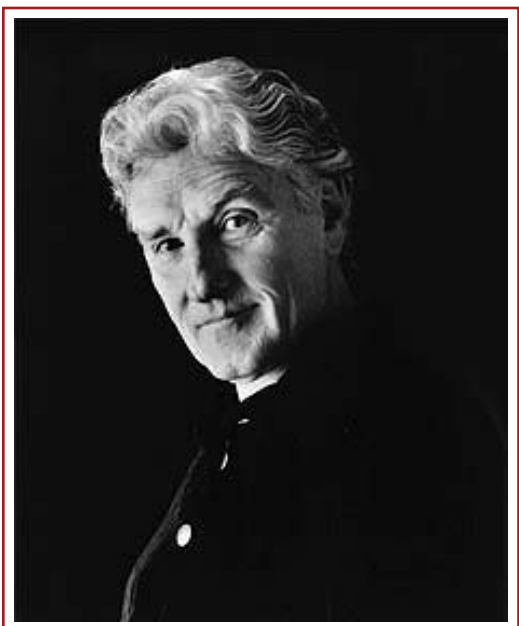


An American Master

M I C H A E L S M U I N

October 13, 1938 – April 23, 2007



Michael Smuin is a legend.

Mr. Smuin was born on October 13, 1938 in Missoula, Montana. He studied tap dancing as a child and caught the dance fever for good when his mother took him to see the touring Ballet Russe at the University of Montana. In 1953 at the age of 15, Mr. Smuin moved to Salt Lake City on a dance scholarship at the University of Utah. In 1957, San Francisco Ballet director Lew Christensen recruited the 18-year-old Michael who moved to San Francisco and received his high school degree from Galileo High School. Mr. Smuin's academic education continued at San Francisco State University and later at the Art Students League of New York as his artistic career began to take flight.

Michael Smuin's career spanned from captivating performances to thrilling choreography, from classically brilliant pieces to theatrically enthralling productions. During his career, Mr. Smuin was a Principal Dancer and Choreographer for American Ballet Theatre and San Francisco Ballet and later focused on more theatrical dance with numerous Broadway performances, an international tour with Paula Tracy and many television and film appearances. Mr. Smuin returned to San Francisco in 1973 as Co-Director of San Francisco Ballet serving until 1985. At SFB Mr. Smuin was instrumental in raising the company's profile in the international arts community with his staging of a performance at the White House and his contributions to *Dance in America* programs for PBS meanwhile serving as co-chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts dance panel between 1979 and 1981. Later Mr. Smuin directed American Ballet Theatre's 50th Anniversary Gala

and choreographed the 1997 film release of *Return of the Jedi, Special Edition* before founding Smuin Ballet in 1994 to realize his vision of creating ballet works accessible to all.

Mr. Smuin's Broadway credits include *Sophisticated Ladies* (Director/Choreographer: two Tony nominations), *Anything Goes* (Choreographer: Tony, Drama Desk and Fred Astaire Awards), *Shogun* (Director/Choreographer) and *Cançiones de mi Padre* (Director/Choreographer). Mr. Smuin's feature film credits include *Rumble Fish*, *Cotton Club*, *Dracula*, *Fletch*, *Wolf*, *Angie*, *The Joy Luck Club*, *Golden Gate*, and *A Walk in the Clouds*. His television credits include *Ira Gershwin at 100: a Celebration at Carnegie Hall* as well as the Emmy Award-winning pieces *The Tempest* and *A Song for Dead Warriors*.

Mr. Smuin's ballets are currently in the repertoires of major dance companies around the country including Washington Ballet and Dance Theatre of Harlem. While at the helm Smuin Ballet for 14 years, Mr. Smuin created 40 new works for his company alone. Michael Smuin passed away on April 23, 2007 leaving behind a powerful legacy and vision of Smuin Ballet as the ultimate dancer's company.

"Michael's legacy will continue – one dancer at a time
– with the focus on individuality and passion."

-Patti Hume, Board Chair of Smuin Ballet