

SMUIN

CONTEMPORARY BALLET

CELIA FUSHILLE / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

ANNUAL GALA

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2022

THE GALLERIA, SAN FRANCISCO

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Tess Lane & Max van der Sterre
Photo by Chris Hardy

SMUIN

CONTEMPORARY BALLET

CELIA FUSHILLE / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FEB 4-27
2022

DANCE SERIES 1

Love, Smuin



Welcome to Smuin!

With Dance Series 1—Love, Smuin, we present three distinct ballets with a focus on relationships. Thanks to Valentine's Day, we think of February as the month when love is celebrated. The ballets on this program look at human connections in all their complexity.

Dance for the sheer joy of dancing is fabulous. Having a story or through-line to give meaning and impetus to an artist's movements adds another element to the performance experience. In planning this program, I wanted to explore relationships and human touch in dance—especially after the prolonged limiting of physical contact brought on by the pandemic.

Amy Seiwert's *Been Through Diamonds* was the first work she created after I named her Choreographer-in-Residence at Smuin in 2008. Seiwert's love of ballet and classical technique is evident in this dynamic and technically challenging piece set to a Mozart score. In a snapshot of life, four couples experience a range of emotions, from light hopefulness to brooding melancholy to effervescent joy, as they search for their ideal mate.

It gives me great pleasure to at last introduce the work of choreographer Gina Patterson to our audience and our artists. Patterson's movement is a true synthesis of classical and contemporary techniques. While the four women in the piece dance en pointe, the entire cast engages in movements seen outside classical ballet—from floorwork to off-balance partnering—giving a clear example of what contemporary ballet can be. Set to a score by Italian composer Ludovico Einaudi, *You Are Here* examines our experience of another, whether they are with us physically or exist only in our memory.

Closing our program is Amy Seiwert's *Dear Miss Cline* set to an iconic soundtrack of songs by the legendary Patsy Cline. At once playful, romantic, and exuberant, Seiwert's storytelling through both the lyrics and her choreography comes together in a charming display that many have called her most 'Smuin-esque'!

Thank you for joining us as we celebrate the work of two strong, intelligent, and creative women, dancemakers with unique voices. We are honored to have them on our stage. Enjoy the performance!

Celia Fushille

Celia Fushille
Artistic Director

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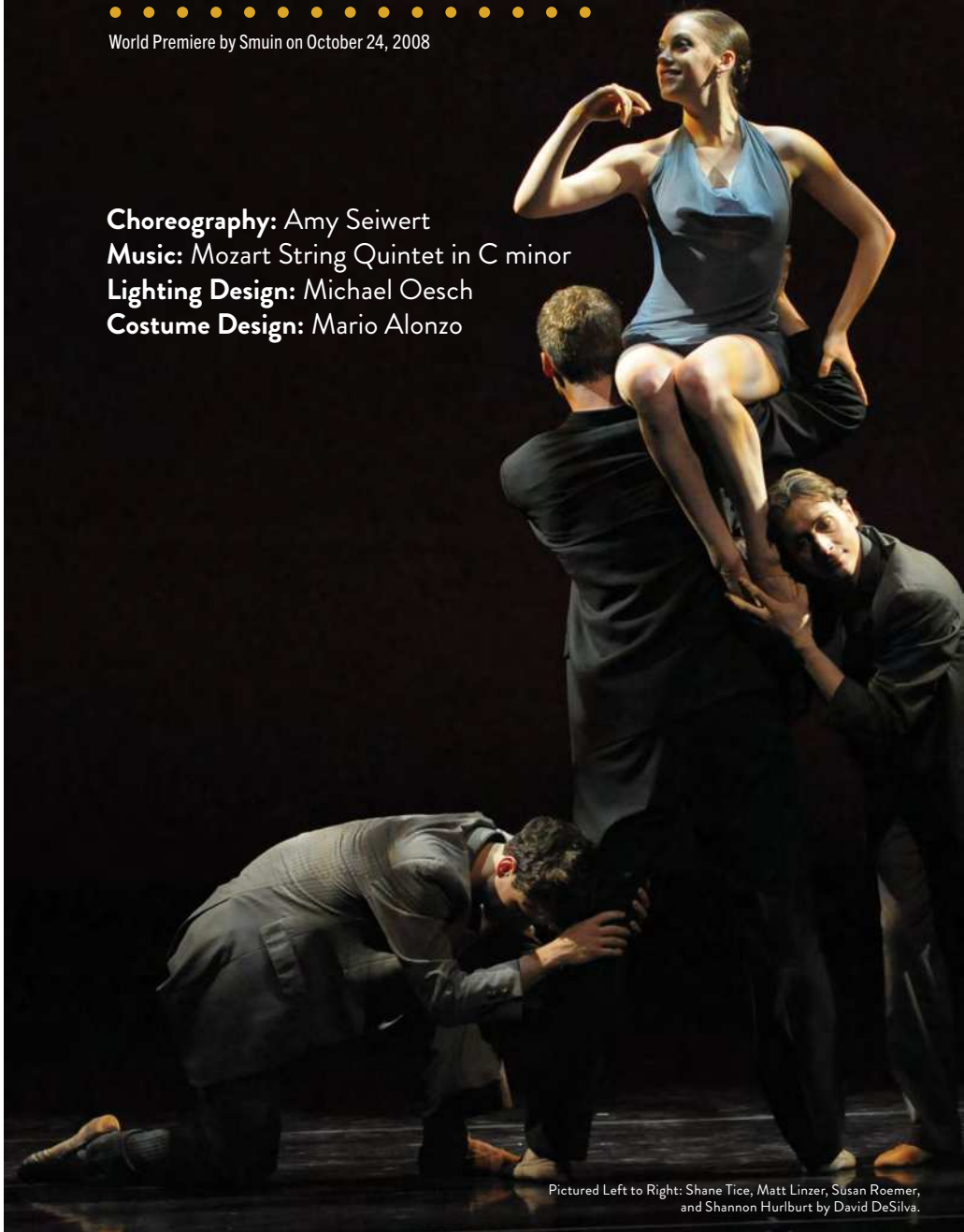
Cover photo (left to right): Terez Dean Orr and Christian Squires. Photo by David DeSilva.

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BEEN THROUGH DIAMONDS

World Premiere by Smuin on October 24, 2008

Choreography: Amy Seiwert
Music: Mozart String Quintet in C minor
Lighting Design: Michael Oesch
Costume Design: Mario Alonzo



Pictured Left to Right: Shane Tice, Matt Linzer, Susan Roemer, and Shannon Hurlburt by David DeSilva.

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YOU ARE HERE

World Premiere by Cincinnati Ballet on September 12, 2013

Premiere by Smuin on February 4, 2022

Choreography: Gina Patterson

Music: Ludovico Einaudi

Album: In a Time Lapse

Tracks: Experience, Sarabande, Brothers, Orbits

Costume Design: Christine Darch

Costumes courtesy of Cincinnati Ballet

Lighting Design: Trad A. Burns

Lighting Adaptation: Michael Oesch

With gratitude to Lead Sponsor Lynn Spittler



i am here
you, there
and in the end, and in some ways ~ always
i am alone in my experience of you ~ entwined in memory,
thoughts in flight
dancing with shadows ~ endless sky
time gently rocks, gently, rocks
until darkness falls away
and silence whispers
you are
here

Photo courtesy of Cincinnati Ballet

DEAR MISS CLINE

World Premiere by Smuin on September 23, 2011

Choreography: Amy Seiwert
Music: recorded by Patsy Cline
Lighting and Visual Design: Brian Jones
Lighting Adaptation: Michael Oesch
Costumes: Jo Ellen Arntz with Amy Seiwert
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P.S. Forever Smuin

Confessions by Val Caniparoli

Renaissance by Amy Seiwert

Showcase by Smuin works by Artists
Tessa Barbour and Brennan Wall



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Ben Needham-Wood and Terez Dean Orr, Photo by Chris Hardy

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Brandon Alexander & Cassidy Isaacson
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BRANDON ALEXANDER, originally from Houston, Texas, received his training with Lori Amare and Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy. He has danced with the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago, Rochester City Ballet, Teater Vanemuine Ballet in Estonia, and Ballet Hagen in Germany. During his career he has danced works by Cayetano Soto, Itzik Galili, Riccardo De Nigris, Sir Frederick Ashton, Sir Kenneth MacMillan, Giorgio Madia, Jamey Leverett, and Silas Stubbs, among others. Alexander joined Smuin in 2020.



TESSA BARBOUR, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, trained at Alwin School of the Dance before studying abroad in Warrington, England, on a scholarship awarded to her at the Cecchetti International Competition. She has danced with New Mexico Ballet, Connecticut Ballet, and San Diego Ballet. Her favorite past performances include *Man in Black* by James Kudelka and *Indigo* by Stanton Welch. Since joining Smuin in 2016, Barbour has performed works by Val Caniparoli, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Trey McIntyre, Helen Pickett, and Amy Seiwert.



IAN BUCHANAN is from Fairfax, California, where he trained with Dance Theatre Seven. He has danced with Houston Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theatre, Tulsa Ballet, Rochester City Ballet, and Alberta Ballet. Buchanan has performed works by Jiří Kylián, Stanton Welch, Ma Cong, Ben Stevenson, Wen Wei Wang, Aszure Barton, Jean Grand-Maitre, Julia Adam, Denise Clarke, and Leiland Charles. Buchanan joined Smuin in 2018.



CLAIRE BUEHLER is from Milwaukee, WI, and trained at the Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy. She has danced with the Studio Company at Oklahoma City Ballet, Nashville Ballet II, and Minnesota Ballet before joining Smuin in 2021 as an apprentice. Some of Claire's favorite past performances and roles include Gina Patterson's *72 Steps*, Winter in Paul Vasterling's *Seasons*, Blue Bird in Karl Von Rabenau's *Sleeping Beauty*, and Cygnets in Robert Mills' *Swan Lake*. Claire has also been featured in works by Chris Stuart, Charlotte Boyd-Christensen, and Mollie Sansone.

AMY SEIWERT | CHOREOGRAPHER

Amy Seiwert worked with her mentor Michael Smuin for eight of her nine years as a dancer with Smuin. As the *San Francisco Guardian* wrote, "She quite possibly is the Bay Area's most original dance thinker." Named one of "25 to Watch" by Dance Magazine, her first full evening of choreography was named one of the "Top 10" dance events of 2007 by the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Her work is in the repertory of Washington, Atlanta, Oakland, Sacramento, Colorado, Louisville, Cincinnati, Carolina, Oklahoma City, Dayton, Milwaukee, and American Repertory Ballets, as well as Smuin, BalletMet, AXIS Dance, Robert Moses' KIN, and Ballet Austin. From July 2018-2020, Seiwert was Artistic Director of Sacramento Ballet.

GINA PATTERSON | CHOREOGRAPHER

Gina Patterson has been hailed as a choreographer of "startling originality" by Backstage Magazine. She has created more than 100 choreographies for companies, universities, and international audiences. Her thirteen full-evening productions include Emmy-winning *Liquid Roads* for MADCO, an original adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet* for CoDa21 in Puerto Rico, and *Hansel and Gretel* for the Ballet of Croatian National Theatre Ivan pl. Zajc. Patterson danced for Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Ballet Austin, Ballet Florida, and as a guest artist around the world. A 2021 Bogliasco Fellow, Ms. Patterson advocates for empathy and compassion as a creative artist searching to uncover the voice within that is authentic and vulnerable.

LEGACY CIRCLE

Consider sharing your passion for contemporary ballet with future generations. By naming Smuin as a beneficiary in your estate plans and joining our Legacy Circle, your planned gift transforms your passion into a lasting investment in Smuin's future. We are deeply grateful to the following individuals:

Anonymous	Beverly & Tom Gorley*	William Oman & Larry Crummer
Jan & Dennis Adair	Marguerite E. Griffith*	Mary Jo Pace*
William Bason*	Milan Milton Holdorf*	AnMarie Roache
Bruce Braden	Mary Greer & Joie Hubbert*	Fred Saunders &
James Brennock	Diane & Rob Johnson	Charles Kredensor
Patricia & Richard Campbell	Karen Kadushin	Dorothy Saxe
Mary Canning	Carol & Alan Kaganov	Barbara Schurhoff
Marilyn Charm	Joanna & Danny Kemper	Hal Segelstat
Clara Degen*	John Lazlo & Robin Raborn	Ralph D. Sikes
George Doubleday II*	Dr. Richard & Sharonjean Leeds	Jeanette Sperry*
Edmund Eger* & Lynn Spitler	Cliff Leventhal	Jan Spielberger
Teren D. Ellison	Jan Loomis	Bert & LeAnne Steinberg
Frederic Freund*	David Meders	Susan & Michael Steinberg
Emily & Russell Fudge	David & Violaine M'Raihi	Lauri Vaughan*
Celia Fushille	Heidi Munzinger & John Shott	Rosemary Welde
Rudolph Glauser*		

*DECEASED

MICHAEL SMUIN | FOUNDER & CHOREOGRAPHER

An American master, the late Michael Smuin began his career as a dancer performing with San Francisco Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, and on Broadway. A Tony and Emmy award-winning choreographer, Smuin brought a signature style to his work on stage, in film, and on television. A maverick, he fearlessly blended the theatrical with classical and popular styles, combining elements drawn from his vast stage experience. Smuin's works continue to dazzle and entertain contemporary audiences. His company, Smuin, was founded in 1994 to showcase his creative versatility and unique vision. The Company maintains his legacy today.

CELIA FUSHILLE | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

As Artistic Director since 2007, Celia Fushille has been leading the artistic vision of the Company and increasing its reputation as San Francisco's premier contemporary ballet company. A founding member of Smuin, Fushille performed on stages in the U.S. and Europe, on television, and in film. In addition to maintaining Smuin's legacy, she has commissioned more than 20 premieres and added the work of 15 choreographers new to the Smuin audience. From 2008-2014, Fushille also served as Executive Director of the Company. Fushille sits on the board of Dance/USA and is Chair of the Artistic Directors' Council. She holds a BA (summa cum laude) from Saint Mary's College of California.

LORI LAQUA | MANAGING DIRECTOR

Lori Laqua joined Smuin following five years as Executive Director at Z Space, where she guided the organization through significant growth in programming and budget. Over the course of her 20 years at ODC, Laqua played a major role in the institution's transformation. As Managing Director, she also served as project manager for the design and construction of the ODC Dance Commons and the ODC Theater. Laqua holds a PhD (ABD) and a MArch in Architectural History from the University of Virginia, and a MA in Art History from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

JO ELLEN ARNTZ | COMPANY MANAGER & WARDROBE

Jo Ellen Arntz moved to San Francisco after receiving her BFA in dance from Creighton University. She danced with San Francisco Ballet from 1981-1991 and has taught dance in the Bay Area since 1977. She began at Smuin as Wardrobe Supervisor in 1996 and became Company Manager shortly thereafter. Working with Michael Smuin at San Francisco Ballet and later his own company prepared her for the multiple hats she wears in the organization today.

AMY LONDON | BALLET MASTER & EDUCATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Amy London trained in Albuquerque, New Mexico, with Karen Alwin and Shauna Bereska. She danced with Hartford Ballet, Diablo Ballet, and Smuin. Her favorite Smuin roles included: *The Eternal Idol*, *Q.o.V.*, and *Hearts Suite*. She has served on faculty for schools throughout the Bay Area and as Artistic Coordinator at Marin Ballet, where she has choreographed more than 20 works. As Ballet Master, she enjoys preserving Michael Smuin's legacy, as well as being the caretaker of the works of Val Caniparoli, Trey McIntyre, Amy Seiwert, Ma Cong, Helen Pickett, Adam Hougland, Choo-San Goh, and Jiří Kylián.

KATHRYN T. GRAHAM | PRODUCTION DIRECTOR & STAGE MANAGER

KT Graham joined Smuin in 1997 after working as Production Stage Manager and Lighting Designer for Lewitzky Dance Company in Los Angeles, as well as Technical & Lighting Director for The Washington Ballet in Washington, D.C., with whom she toured extensively both nationally and internationally. She also engages in freelance projects and has particularly enjoyed serving as Production Stage Manager for Amy Seiwert's Imagery, Dances from the Heart benefits for The Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation, and for the National Dance/USA showcase in 2012.



STÉPHANO CANDREVA was born and raised in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where he trained in ballet at Escola de Dança Alice Arja. He started his career performing with Brazilian professional companies Cisne Negro Cia de Dança and Teatro Sesiminas. Stéphano has danced in the U.S. with City Ballet of San Diego, California Ballet, The Suzanne Farrell Ballet, and Atlanta Ballet, performing works by Septime Webre, Stanton Welch, George Balanchine, David Craigson, and many more. Candreva joined Smuin in 2021.



MAGGIE CAREY of Dayton, Ohio, received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Dance Performance from Butler University, where she performed works by choreographers including George Balanchine, Nacho Duato, and Paul Taylor. Upon graduating, Carey performed as a guest artist with Dayton Ballet. She spent two years with the Cincinnati Ballet Second Company, performing works by Victoria Morgan, George Balanchine, Ohad Naharin, and working with choreographers such as Garrett Smith, Nicolo Fonte, and Jennifer Archibald. Carey joined Smuin in 2018.



MENGJUN CHEN, a native of Wenzhou, China, trained at the Beijing Dance Academy and Joffrey Ballet Academy of Dance. After receiving his Bachelor of Fine Arts from Beijing Dance Academy, he joined Milwaukee Ballet where he performed major roles in *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Nutcracker*, *Don Quixote*, *Cinderella*, *Dracula*, and *La Bohème*. Chen also performed contemporary works by Matthew Neenan, Gabrielle Lamb, Ma Cong, Amy Seiwert, and Val Caniparoli. In 2014, he was a finalist in the USA International Ballet Competition. Chen joined Smuin in 2015.



CASSIDY ISAACSON, originally from Redmond, Washington, trained at Pacific Northwest Ballet before joining Grand Rapids Ballet at age 16. Some favorite works performed during her eight years at Grand Rapids Ballet include Trey McIntyre's *Wild Sweet Love*, Alejandro Cerrudo's *Extremely Close*, Penny Saunders' *In Frame*, and Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's *Written and Forgotten*. Isaacson joined Smuin in 2019.



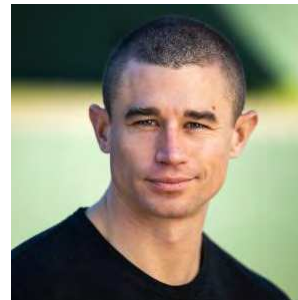
TESS LANE trained at South Bay Ballet in Torrance, CA. She then apprenticed with Sacramento Ballet, performing works by George Balanchine, Ron Cunningham, and Lila York. Lane joined California Ballet Company in 2013 and was featured in *Swan Lake*, *Giselle*, *Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Peter Pan*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *Fluctuating Hemlines*. She also danced in the National Choreographers Initiative in 2017 and 2018. Lane joined Smuin in 2018.



YURI ROGERS began his training with the Academy of Ballet San Francisco under the direction of Richard Gibson and Zory Karah. He then had the opportunity to continue his training and perform with the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago, Grand Rapids Ballet, and BalletMet in Columbus, Ohio. Rogers has performed works by Lar Lubovitch, Leiland Charles, and Edwaard Liang. Rogers joined Smuin in 2021.



MARC LAPIERRE began his early training at Ballet Etudes in Norwalk, CT, under the direction of Nanette Vallas. While there, he trained closely with Christina Fagundes. He then attended Ballet Academy East in New York City under the direction of Darla Hoover and, at age 16, furthered his training at The School of American Ballet. He went on to dance with Los Angeles Ballet and then Oregon Ballet Theatre. During his time with OBT, he danced works by Alvin Ailey, Ben Stevenson, Nicolo Fonte, Christopher Stowell, and Trey McIntyre. LaPierre joined Smuin in 2021.



MAX VAN DER STERRE, a San Francisco native, trained with Damara Bennett, Henry Berg, and the School of American Ballet before joining New York City Ballet in 2005. While there, he performed works by Jerome Robbins, Christopher Wheeldon, and George Balanchine. At the New York Choreographic Institute, he collaborated with Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Edwaard Liang, Albert Evans, and many more. With Alabama Ballet he performed works by Jiří Kylián, Twyla Tharp, Agnes de Mille, Frederick Ashton, and George Balanchine. Van der Sterre joined Smuin in 2018.



TEREZ DEAN ORR, originally from Hudson Valley, New York, received her training at the prestigious School of American Ballet, the official school of the New York City Ballet. In 2005, she joined State Street Ballet of Santa Barbara, dancing a wide range of contemporary and classical works. Dean Orr joined Smuin in 2008 and has been featured in works by Jiří Kylián, Trey McIntyre, Val Caniparoli, Helen Pickett, Amy Seiwert, Ma Cong, Adam Hougland, and Michael Smuin. While dancing full time, she received her BA through the Saint Mary's College LEAP program.



BRENNAN WALL, originally from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, studied at Los Angeles Ballet Academy. She danced with Silicon Valley Ballet (previously Ballet San Jose) as a trainee before joining The New Ballet's Studio Company. In 2017, Wall joined Ballet de Monterrey under director José Manuel Carreño. She performed in Luis Serrano's *La Bayadere*, *Swan Lake*, and *Don Quijote*, and danced soloist roles in *The Nutcracker*, Alberto Méndez's *Phantom of the Opera*, and Diego Landin's *Shorthand of Emotion*. Wall joined Smuin in 2019.



LAUREN PSCHIRRER graduated from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and apprenticed at Rochester City Ballet and the Joffrey Ballet. While with the Joffrey, she danced works by Sir Frederick Ashton, Michael Pink, and George Balanchine. She also originated roles during the National Choreographers Initiative in 2015, 2017, and 2018. Pschirrer joined Smuin in 2016 and has performed in works by Val Caniparoli and Helen Pickett, and featured roles in Amy Seiwert's *Broken Open* and *Falling Up*.