

SMUIN

CONTEMPORARY BALLET

CELIA FUSHILLE / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



DANCE SERIES 2

2022/23 Season

Dear Ballet Patron:

Welcome to Dance Series 2!

As we close our 29th season at Smuin, we are delighted to bring you an array of works that showcase the incredible range of our artists.

We are honored to introduce the work of Katarzyna Skarpetowska. In 2021, Kate workshopped with six Smuin dancers to create *Sextette*. It now enters our repertory with new lighting and costumes created for our main stage. I am drawn to Kate's innate musicality and the contemporary take she brings to Bach.

Following *Sextette* is *Dream*, a luscious pas de deux created by Michael Smuin. For this lyrical duet, Michael turned to the second movement of Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1 in E Minor, Op. 11. The ballet opens to a lengthy solo for the woman who is then joined by her partner for a romantic crescendo.

Val Caniparoli's riveting *Swipe* returns with choreography that matches the quirkiness and power of Gabriel Prokofiev's music. Val challenges the dancers artistically with movement that seems to stretch the possibilities of human form and endurance.

Closing our program is *French Kiss*, a world premiere by Amy Seiwert. Amy taps into her playful side as she explores French recordings by Pink Martini. Susan Roemer's colorful costumes bring life to an experience that is both chic and charming.

Thank you for joining us in the theater! We hope you enjoy this distinctly Smuin program!

Warmest wishes,



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SMUIN

CONTEMPORARY BALLET

CELIA FUSHILLE / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

DANCE SERIES 2

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Managing Director

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Company Manager & Wardrobe

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Ballet Master & Education Program Director

Amy London

Production Director

Kathryn T Graham

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Tessa Barbour
Ian Buchanan
Claire Buehler
Maggie Carey

Mengjun Chen
Ricardo Dyer
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for their generosity and support:



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SEXTETTE

World Premiere: July 24, 2021, NCI

Smuin Premiere: April 28, 2023

Choreography: Katarzyna Skarpetowska

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach

Costume Design: Susan Roemer

Lighting Design: Michael Oesch

Supporting sponsorship by the Hazinski and House Family Trust in memory of Angela House (1957 - 2022). Angela was beloved and admired in all her pursuits and an inspiration to many as a dancer, fitness instructor, schoolteacher, equestrian, and a devoted spouse and mother.

————— P A U S E —————

DREAM

World Premiere: November 3, 1999, Smuin Ballet

Choreography: Michael Smuin

Staged by: Celia Fushille

Music: Frédéric Chopin

Costume and Scenic Design: Michael Smuin with Jo Ellen Arntz

Original Lighting Design: Sara Linnie Slocum

Lighting Design Adaptation: Michael Oesch

Dream was originally commissioned by Cari Lenahan as a gift to her husband, Jack, in honor of their thirty-fifth wedding anniversary. "Chopin has always seemed to me the quintessential romantic composer. This andante from his first piano concerto is warm, moody, slightly mysterious, a little melancholy and deeply, passionately romantic." – Michael Smuin

Lead sponsorship of *Dream* is generously provided by Barbara Bessey.

————— I N T E R M I S S I O N —————

SWIPE

World Premiere: April 28, 2011, Richmond Ballet

Smuin Premiere: April 27, 2012

Choreography: Val Caniparoli

Staged by: Kristen Gallagher

Music: Gabriel Prokofiev

Costume Design: Sandra Woodall

Original Lighting Design: MK Stewart

Lighting Design Adaptation: Michael Oesch

Gabriel Prokofiev, the grandson of Sergei Prokofiev, is a London-based composer and producer of electro and hip-hop music. What gives his contemporary writing its unique edge is this background in dance music combined with his classical roots. Here in Swipe, movements for his String Quartet No. 2, as played by The Elysian Quartet, are coupled with remixes of the original score. – Val Caniparoli

INTERMISSION

FRENCH KISS

World Premiere: April 28, 2023

Choreography: Amy Seiwert

Music: Pink Martini

Costume Design: Susan Roemer

Lighting Design: Jim French

Lead sponsorship of *French Kiss* is generously provided by Edie Kirkwood.

COMPANY PROFILES

MICHAEL SMUIN | FOUNDER

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 of Smuin Contemporary Ballet 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, during her 25-year performing career, Fushille appeared on stages in the U.S. and Europe, on television, and in film. In addition to maintaining Michael Smuin's legacy, throughout her 15 years as Artistic Director, 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. In 2021 Fushille was invited to become a Trustee of the Smuin Board. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree (summa cum laude) from Saint Mary's College of California.

LORI LAQUA | MANAGING DIRECTOR

Lori Laqua brings 30+ years of experience to her role as Managing Director of Smuin Contemporary Ballet. Laqua oversaw the renovation of Smuin Center for Dance, the organization's permanent home, which joined the rehearsal studios and administrative offices under one roof for the first time. Laqua previously served as project manager for the design and construction of the ODC Dance Commons and the ODC Theater during her 20 years there. She is especially pleased to have kept Smuin dancing during the pandemic having utilized the CARES Act and grant programs to help retain employees and to present programming on new platforms. Laqua holds a PhD (ABD) and MArch in Architectural History from the University of Virginia, a MA in Art History from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and a BA in History and Art History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Laqua joined Smuin in 2017.

JO ELLEN ARNTZ | COMPANY MANAGER

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, performing in over 100 ballets. Arntz 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: *Eternal Idol*, *Q.a.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 Houglund, Choo-San Goh, and Jiri Kylián. As the inaugural Education Program Director for Smuin Center for Dance, she oversees its successful community engagement, outreach and faculty development.

KATHRYN T GRAHAM | PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

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 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.

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.

KATARZYNA SKARPETOWSKA | CHOREOGRAPHER

Born in Warsaw, Poland, Katarzyna Skarpetowska is an alumna of NYC High School of Performing Arts and The Juilliard School (BFA 1999). Kate was a member of Parsons Dance (1999-2006) and Lar Lubovitch Dance Company (2007-2014) where she now works as the company’s Repetiteur. In 2016, she was named *Dance Magazine*’s “25 to Watch” and in 2017 was nominated for a NY Dance and Performance Award, The Bessie. Choreographic commissions include Richmond Ballet, BalletX, Rochester City Ballet, Grand Rapids Ballet, Parsons Dance, Buglisi Dance Theater, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater II, National Choreographers Initiative, The Juilliard School, and Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, among others. She is a part time faculty member at University of California at Irvine. www.skarpetowska.com

VAL CANIPAROLI | CHOREOGRAPHER

Val Caniparoli’s Versatility has made him one of the most sought-after American choreographers internationally. Although he is most closely associated with San Francisco Ballet, his artistic home for more than 51 years, Caniparoli has contributed to the repertoires of more than 60 companies. He has also choreographed for the Chicago Lyric Opera, San Francisco Opera, Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Symphony, and American Conservatory Theater. *Lambarena*, one of his signature works, was featured on *Sesame Street* and was nominated for the Prix Benois de la Danse in 1997 for Best Choreography. His full evening-length ballets include *Lady of the Camellias*, five different productions of *The Nutcracker*, *Jekyll & Hyde* for Finnish National Ballet, and Val Caniparoli’s *A Cinderella Story*, to music by Richard Rodgers, for Royal Winnipeg Ballet.

JIM FRENCH | LIGHTING DESIGNER

Jim French designs lighting for the performing arts and live events, with work seen in twenty five countries around the globe. Highlights include over twenty-five world premieres for San Francisco Ballet, nine seasons as resident designer for Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, and long running collaborations with the choreographers Val Caniparoli, Dani Rowe, Pascal Riout, and Amy Seiwert. Favorite credits include Alonzo King Lines Ballet, Bandaloop, Finnish National Ballet, Joe Goode Performance Group, American Ballet Theatre, SF Jazz, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, SF Danceworks, Ballet West, and the 2018 Global Climate Action Summit. www.jimfrenchld.work

MICHAEL OESCH | LIGHTING DESIGNER

Michael is a professional lighting designer for dance, theatre, operas, and musicals. Since joining Smuin in 2004, he has designed the lighting for *The Christmas Ballet*, *The Turntable*, *Be Here Now*, *The Poetry of Being*, *Tutto Eccetto il Lavandino*, *Madness*, *Rack, & Honey*, *Oh*, *Inverted World*, and *Fly Me to the Moon*, as well as many more Smuin Ballet productions. He also designs lighting for other companies throughout the Bay area, where his designs have won a Theatre Bay Area award, Shelly Award, and have been nominated for BATCC Awards, and an Isadora Duncan Award. See more of his work at Michaeloesch.com

SUSAN ROEMER | COSTUME DESIGNER

Susan Roemer, a Bay Area-based costume designer, specializes in creative collaboration for dance under her own label S-Curve Apparel & Design. Prior to her career in costume design, Susan worked as a professional dancer across the country, most notably with Smuin Ballet. Since 2012, Roemer has designed and constructed costumes for SF Ballet, Smuin Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, Amy Seiwert’s Imagery, Ballet West, Ballet Memphis, AXIS Dance Company, Tulsa Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, BalletMet, Ballet Austin, and Singapore Dance Theatre, among others. Roemer was awarded an Isadora Duncan Award for Visual Design of Amy Seiwert’s *Wandering* in 2017. In 2020, Susan launched a retail brand, TangentFit, blending stage design with studio functionality. Her performance experience has informed her design perspective, blending fashion with the unique demands of dressing artists for stage.

ARTIST PROFILES



BRANDON ALEXANDER

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

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. Barbour joined Smuin in 2016.



IAN BUCHANAN

Ian Buchanan hails 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 Jirí Kylián, Stanton Welch, Ma Cong, Ben Stevenson, Wen Wei Wang, Azure Barton, Jean Grand-Maître, Julia Adam, Denise Clarke, and Leiland Charles. Buchanan joined Smuin in 2018.



CLAIRE BUEHLER

Claire Buehler is from Milwaukee, WI and trained at the Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy. She danced with Oklahoma City Ballet's Studio Company, Nashville Ballet II, and Minnesota Ballet before joining Smuin. Her favorite past performances include Cygnets in *Swan Lake* and Dew Drop in *The Nutcracker*, as well as contemporary works by Paul Vasterling, Gina Patterson, and Chris Stuart. Since joining Smuin in 2021, Claire has been featured in *Excelsis*, a new work by Rex Wheeler for *The Christmas Ballet*, and in Amy Seiwert's *Been Through Diamonds*.



MAGGIE CAREY

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 the 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

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 Boheme*. 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.



RICARDO DYER

Ricardo Dyer is a native of Panama based out of New York City. In 2011, he graduated from the dance department at The Governors School for the Arts in Norfolk, Virginia. He earned a degree in Dance Performance from Butler University where he performed extensively with Butler Ballet. After graduation, Dyer danced with Elements Contemporary Ballet, Charlottesville Ballet, and Ballet Memphis. Some of his favorite works performed include Balanchine's *Valse Fantaisie* and *Square Dance*, as well as Trey McIntyre's *Memphis Suite*. Dyer joined Smuin in 2019.



CASSIDY ISAACSON

Cassidy Isaacson, originally from Redmond, Washington, trained at Pacific Northwest Ballet before joining Grand Rapids Ballet Company 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.

ARTIST PROFILES



TESS LANE

Tess Lane trained at South Bay Ballet in Torrance, CA, performing Robert Kelly's *Summertime* at the International Ballet Competition in Jackson, MI. While apprenticing with Sacramento Ballet, she performed 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*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as well as Septime Webre's *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.



MARC LAPIERRE

Marc LaPierre began his early training at Ballet Etudes in Norwalk CT under the direction of Nanette Vallas, training closely with Christina Fagundes. He attended Ballet Academy East in New York City under the direction of Darla Hoover and at age 16, Marc furthered his training at The School of American Ballet. At Los Angeles Ballet he danced works by August Bournonville, George Balanchine, Aszure Barton and Alejandro Cerrudo. Two years later he joined Oregon Ballet Theatre as an apprentice and was promoted to the Company corps de ballet in his second season. At OBT, he danced works by Alvin Ailey, Ben Stevenson, Nicolo Fonte, Christopher Stowell, and Trey McIntyre. LaPierre joined Smuin in 2021.



TEREZ DEAN ORR

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 the 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 Jiri Kylian, 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. Dean Orr has been with Smuin since 2008.



LAUREN PSCHIRRER

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. With Ballet Memphis, Pschirrer performed works by Matthew Neenan and Gabrielle Lamb. 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*. Pschirrer joined Smuin in 2016.



ALISON RAMORAN

Alison Ramoran trained at South Bay Ballet (now called Ballet California) in Torrance, CA, with Diane Lauridsen. In 2017 she received the Daily Breeze “Making a Difference Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Arts” by the California Legislature Assembly at the Torrance Performing Arts Consortium. Upon graduating in 2018, she was given a contract with Oklahoma City Ballet. She was promoted to apprentice in 2020, and corps de ballet in 2021. While there, she performed featured roles in works by August Bournonville, Michael Pink, Septime Webre, Robert Mills, Ryan Nye, Nicolo Fonte, Jerome Robbins, and Jessica Lang. Ramoran joined Smuin in 2022.



YURI ROGERS

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, the 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.



JOÃO SAMPAIO

João Sampaio trained in classical ballet in his hometown of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil under Ana Palmieri and Romulo Ramos. He has won national and international dance competitions, including the Youth America Grand Prix and the World Ballet Competition. Sampaio joined Tulsa Ballet in 2014, where he performed featured roles in Jiri Kylian’s *Petite Mort*, Wayne McGregor’s *Infra*, Nacho Duato’s *Remanso*, Kurt Jooss’ *The Green Table*, Yuri Possokhov’s *Classical Symphony*, and Edwaard Liang’s *Romeo and Juliet* and *Age of Innocence*. In 2018, he joined Festival Ballet Providence, performing lead roles in George Balanchine’s *Serenade*, *Swan Lake*, and *The Nutcracker*. Sampaio joined Smuin in 2019.



BRENNAN WALL

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.

MUSIC CREDITS

SEXTETTE

Violin Concerto #1 in A Minor by Johann Sebastian Bach. Recording by Julia Fischer with Academy of St Martin in the Fields.

DREAM

Piano Concerto #1 by Frédéric Chopin, 2nd movement. Recording by Maria João Pires, piano, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Emmanuel Krivine, cond.

SWIPE

Gabriel Prokofiev, selections from “String Quartet No. 2 with Remixes,” performed by The Elysian Quartet, by arrangement with the composer

FRENCH KISS

“Le premiere bonheur du jour” (Franck Gérald and Jean Renard) from *Dream A Little Dream* (Pink Martini & the Von Trapps)

“Où est ma tête?”

(Pink Martini) from Non Ouais!
The French Songs of Pink Martini

“Ma solitude”

(Pink Martini) from Non Ouais!
The French Songs of Pink Martini

“Dansez-vous”

(Pink Martini) from Non Ouais!
The French Songs of Pink Martini

“Mon homme marié”

(Meow Meow, Thomas Lauderdale, and Pink Martini) from *Hotel Amour* (Meow Meow & Thomas Lauderdale)

“Fini la musique”

(Pink Martini) from *Je dis oui!*

“Le tout recommence”

(Jimmie Herrod & Pink Martini) from *Tomorrow*.

CREDITS

COSTUME CONSTRUCTION

Swipe: Sandra Woodall, CMC & design

Sextette: S-Curve Apparel & Design

French Kiss: S-Curve Apparel & Design

Dream: CMC & design

SPECIAL THANKS

Richard Binkoff, Bozkurt Erkman and San Mateo Piano, Ted Helminski, James Horio, Kelsey McFalls, Joan Pino

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We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list. For any corrections, please contact Coral Bell, Development Operations Manager, at cbell@smuinballet.org

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