

SMUIN

SMUIN BALLET

MICHAEL SMUIN, FOUNDER · CELIA FUSHILLE, DIRECTOR

SMUIN BALLET ANNOUNCES 2009-2010 SEASON

SEASON INCLUDES SINATRA TRIBUTE *FLY ME TO THE MOON*, JIRÍ KYRIÁN'S *PETITE MORT*,
WORLD PREMIERE BY AMY SEIWERT, AND SMUIN BALLET'S ACCLAIMED *CHRISTMAS BALLET*

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. (July 30, 2009) – The Bay Area's own internationally acclaimed dance company, **Smuin Ballet**, announces a stunning and provocative 2009-2010 season, including Michael Smuin's stylish Sinatra tribute-in-dance *Fly Me to the Moon*; an exciting world premiere from Choreographer-in-Residence **Amy Seiwert**; and the area's first look at the acclaimed *Petite Mort*, a brilliant blend of postmodern dance and swordplay set to Mozart, by one of the world's most fascinating and renowned choreographers, Jirí Kylián; in addition to Bay Area favorite *The Christmas Ballet*, among others. Programs will be presented in San Francisco, Mountain View, Cupertino, Walnut Creek, and Carmel, between October 2009 and June 2010. For subscriptions (\$45, \$111, and \$141) to the three-program series the public may call **(415) 556-5000** or visit the Smuin Ballet website at www.smuinballet.org. Single tickets (\$18, \$40, and \$55) go on sale at the end of August.

AMY SEIWERT *WORLD PREMIERE*

MICHAEL SMUIN'S *MEDEA*

FLY ME TO THE MOON, A SINATRA CELEBRATION

PALACE OF FINE ARTS THEATRE, SAN FRANCISCO: October 2-10, 2009

Smuin Ballet begins its 2009-2010 season with an exciting *World Premiere* by Smuin Ballet Choreographer-in-Residence, **Amy Seiwert**. Seiwert's *World Premiere* is accompanied by music from Grammy Award-winning group Kronos Quartet's album *Pieces of Africa*, which reached number one on Billboard's Top World Albums chart. Recognized by the dance and entertainment worlds alike, Seiwert's work is steadily joining the repertoires of companies across the U.S. The program continues with Michael Smuin's *Medea*, a ballet of spellbinding theatrical power, weaving a story of passion, jealousy, and bloodthirsty revenge. Also on the program is a tribute-in-dance to

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the Chairman of the Board with ***Fly Me to the Moon***, paying homage to the songs made famous by Frank Sinatra. “When Sinatra sings, you naturally want to dance,” said choreographer Michael Smuin. ***Fly Me to the Moon*** is the embodiment of the smooth and stylish melodies that have inspired generations, including his renditions of “The Way You Look Tonight,” “That’s Life,” “The Lady is a Tramp,” and many more. This program will be repeated at the **Leshner Center for the Arts**, Walnut Creek, Feb 5-6, 2010; at the **Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts**, Feb 24-28, 2010; and at the **Sunset Center, Carmel**, March 5-6, 2010.

THE CHRISTMAS BALLET, 2009 EDITION

YERBA BUENA CENTER FOR THE ARTS, SAN FRANCISCO: December 16-27, 2009

The Bay Area’s enormously popular holiday tradition, ***The Christmas Ballet***, makes its annual sassy return, marrying endlessly beautiful classical performances with charming, humorous, and sexy dance pieces to create a magical treat for audiences of all ages. This year ***The Christmas Ballet*** will include new choreography from Amy Seiwert and Robert Sund to accompany the cherished traditional numbers. Smuin Ballet’s lauded holiday celebration offers something for everyone, a veritable potpourri of ballet, tap, swing, and a wealth of other dances drawn from holiday traditions from around the world. ***The Christmas Ballet*** will also play at the **Leshner Center for the Arts**, Walnut Creek: Nov 27-28, 2009; **Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts**: Dec 9-13, 2009; and at the **Sunset Center**, Carmel: Dec 4-5, 2009.

BREATHTAKING PETITE MORT

MICHAEL SMUIN’S SONGS OF MAHLER

RAUCOUS COMEDY FRENCH TWIST

YERBA BUENA CENTER FOR THE ARTS, SAN FRANCISCO: May 7-16, 2010

European choreographer Jiri Kylian’s breathtaking ***Petite Mort***, which pairs six men and six women with six fencing foils, set to two of Mozart’s most beautiful piano concertos, marks a significant collaboration for Smuin Ballet. Smuin Ballet will be the first Bay Area company to perform this jewel by Kylian, one of the most inventive and daring choreographers at work today and for many years the driving force behind Nederlands Dans Theater. A visual stunner, ***Petite Mort*** encompasses Kylian’s trademark grace and inventiveness in a roundelay in which aggression, sexuality,

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vulnerability, tenderness, and harmony all play a part. Continuing the program program is Michael Smuin's *Songs of Mahler*. A vivid ballet that flows through a range of emotions from playful to dramatic and passionate, *Songs of Mahler* highlights the artists' classical technique and sensitivity to dramatic texture. Rounding out what will be a stunning is rising star choreographer Ma Cong's fast and flirtatious piece *French Twist*, inspired by the "Tom and Jerry" cartoons, and set to five musical selections by French composer Hugues Le Bars. Currently a principal dancer at Tulsa Ballet, Cong - named one of Dance Magazine's "Top 25 to Watch" in 2006 – created *French Twist* at the National Choreographers Initiative last summer. This program will be repeated at the **Leshner Center for the Arts**, Walnut Creek, May 21-22, 2010; at the **Flint Center**, Cupertino, May 29-30, 2010; and at the **Sunset Center**, Carmel, June 4-5, 2010.

Debuting in San Francisco in 1994, **Smuin Ballet** immediately established itself as one of the Bay Area's most eagerly watched performing arts companies, as "one of this country's most entertaining, original ballet troupes" (*Dance Magazine*), and as a company of international acclaim, performing to sold-out houses on European tours. Michael Smuin's singular philosophy to create pieces which merge the diverse vocabularies of classical ballet and contemporary dance has served as the company's touchstone since its beginning. Ballets such as the lavish and ebullient *Dancin' with Gershwin*, and September 11th inspired *Stabat Mater* which explores grief and loss, showcase the artistic maturity of both the venerable company of dancers and the choreographic master who led them. Michael Smuin unexpectedly passed away in 2007, but he had already begun a legacy of developing and encouraging a new generation of choreographic visionaries, whose work he was proud to showcase. The company continues under the direction of his long-time leading dancer and former associate director, Celia Fushille, who is dedicated to maintaining Michael Smuin's vision and the company's international reputation for presenting accessible and innovative repertoire. The company has continued to highlight works created by Smuin, both for his own company and for other ballet companies, as well as bringing to the Bay Area works by exciting choreographers from around the world.

All programs are subject to change.

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FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: The Bay Area's own internationally acclaimed dance company, **Smuin Ballet**, announces a stunning and provocative 2009-2010 season, including Michael Smuin's stylish Sinatra tribute-in-dance ***Fly Me to the Moon***; an exciting world premiere from Choreographer-in-Residence **Amy Seiwert**; and the area's first look at the acclaimed ***Petite Mort***, a brilliant blend of postmodern dance and swordplay set to Mozart, by one of the world's most fascinating and renowned choreographers, Jirí Kylián; in addition to Bay Area favorite ***The Christmas Ballet***, among others. Programs will be presented in San Francisco, Mountain View, Cupertino, Walnut Creek, and Carmel, between October 2009 and June 2010.

WHERE: Palace of Fine Arts Theatre
3301 Lyon Street (at Bay Street), San Francisco
Tickets: **(415) 978-2787** or **www.ybca.org**

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater Building
700 Howard Street (between Third and Fourth Streets), San Francisco
Tickets: **(415) 978-2787** or **www.ybca.org**

Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts
500 Castro Street (at Mercy Street), Mountain View
Tickets: **(650) 903-6000** or **www.mvcpa.com**

Flint Center
21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino
Ticket information TBA

Leshner Center for the Arts
1601 Civic Drive (at Locust Street), Walnut Creek
Tickets: **(925) 943-7469** or **www.dlrca.org**

Sunset Center
San Carlos Street between 8th and 10th Streets, Carmel
Tickets: **(831) 620-2048** or **www.sunsetcenter.org**

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SCHEDULE:

	<i>World Premiere Medea Fly Me to the Moon</i>	<i>The Christmas Ballet</i>	<i>Petite Mort Songs of Mahler French Twist</i>
San Francisco: Palace of Fine Arts Theatre	Oct. 2-10, 2009		
San Francisco: Yerba Buena Center for the Arts		Dec 16-27, 2009	May 7-16, 2010
Walnut Creek: Leshner Center for the Arts	Feb 5-6, 2010	Nov 27-28, 2009	May 21-22, 2010
Mountain View: Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts	Feb 24-28 2010	Dec 9-13, 2009	
Cupertino: Flint Center			May 29-30, 2010
Carmel: Sunset Center	March 5-6, 2010	Dec 4-5, 2009	June 4-5, 2010

TICKETS: For subscriptions, (\$45, \$111, and \$141), the public can call **(415) 556-5000**, send a FAX to **(415) 495-2317**, or visit the Smuin Ballet website at **www.smuinballet.org**. Discounts are available for seniors and students.

Single tickets (\$18, \$40 and \$55) go on sale at the end of August, and are available through the respective theaters. Discounts are available for seniors, students, and groups of 10 or more.

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PHOTOS: Media may download hi-res photos at: www.cb-pr.com/press/smuin2009.html