

SMUIN BALLET

Celia Fushille, Artistic & Executive Director

SMUIN BALLET PUTS THE “S” IN SWING WITH FLY ME TO THE MOON – A TRIBUTE TO FRANK SINATRA PROGRAM ALSO INCLUDES ACCLAIMED “SOON THESE TWO WORLDS” AND “MEDEA”

IN WALNUT CREEK, MOUNTAIN VIEW, AND CARMEL

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (December 21, 2009) -- The Bay Area’s own internationally acclaimed dance company **Smuin Ballet** is chasing away the winter darkness with a stirring line-up that includes a rollicking tribute-in-dance to the Chairman of the Board with *Fly Me to the Moon*, paying homage to the songs made famous by Frank Sinatra. The program also includes, Choreographer in Residence Amy Seiwert’s newest work, *Soon These Two Worlds* and Michael Smuin’s thrilling *Medea*, a dramatic ballet fraught with passion. These three acts offer a lively evening filled with Smuin Ballet’s irrepressible charm and unmistakable flair **February 5-6** at the **Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek**, **February 25-28** at the **Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts**, and **March 5-6** at the **Sunset Center in Carmel**. Single tickets (\$18, \$41, and \$56) are available through the respective theaters or by visiting www.smuinballet.org.

The evening begins with the exciting new *Soon These Two Worlds* by Smuin Ballet Choreographer-in-Residence, **Amy Seiwert**. This vivid and effervescent ballet recently made its world premiere in San Francisco and was heralded by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as “a genuinely upbeat diversion that molds solidly structured energy with a fresh, sunny disposition.” Seiwert’s *Soon These Two Worlds* is set to music from the Grammy Award-winning Kronos Quartet’s *Pieces of Africa*, which reached number one on Billboard’s Top World Albums chart. A former dancer with Smuin Ballet, Seiwert has been choreographing since 1999 and has won numerous awards and critical accolades. “[Seiwert] has one of the Bay Area’s most intriguing voices... fresh, mysterious, and mesmerizing.” (*San Francisco Bay Guardian*)

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Smuin Fall Program Release

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Next on the bill is Michael Smuin's *Medea*, a ballet of spellbinding theatrical power, weaving a story of passion, jealousy, and bloodthirsty revenge. Focusing on the five main characters of the Medea myth, it is set to a suite from Samuel Barber's *Medea*, originally composed for Martha Graham's 1946 ballet. Michael Smuin's gift for dramatic narrative details the complex, treacherous relationships between the characters. *Dance Magazine* raves that *Medea* is "timeless, a brutally clear piece of pure dance storytelling that makes perfect use of Samuel Barber's chillingly economical score. . . the work is positively bloodcurdling."

The evening concludes with *Fly Me to the Moon*, Michael Smuin's tribute to Frank Sinatra. This blend of ballet and popular dance is the embodiment of the smooth and stylish melodies that have inspired generations, including his renditions of "I've Got You Under My Skin," "That's Life," and "The Lady is a Tramp." "When Sinatra sings, you naturally want to dance," said choreographer Michael Smuin. Performed against a twinkling backdrop of a glowing night sky, the ballet highlights warm and witty favorites such as "You and the Night and the Music"; the funny and charming "I Won't Dance"; and culminates in a full chorus, high-kicking "New York, New York." Infused with Michael Smuin's signature Broadway pizzazz, this "A-Number One, top of the heap" ballet inspires audiences to shake their little town blues, stand up, and cheer.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: The Bay Area's own internationally acclaimed dance company **Smuin Ballet** is chasing away the winter darkness with a stirring line-up that includes a rollicking tribute-in-dance to the Chairman of the Board with *Fly Me to the Moon*, paying homage to the songs made famous by Frank Sinatra. Infused with Michael Smuin's signature Broadway pizzazz, this "A-Number One, top of the heap" ballet inspires audiences to shake their little town blues, stand up, and cheer. The program also includes *Soon These Two Worlds*, Choreographer in Residence Amy Seiwert's newest work. This vivid and effervescent ballet recently made its world premiere in San Francisco and was heralded by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as "a genuinely upbeat diversion that molds solidly structured energy with a fresh, sunny disposition." *Soon These Two Worlds* 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. The program continues with Michael Smuin's *Medea*, a ballet of spellbinding theatrical power, weaving a story of passion, jealousy, and bloodthirsty revenge. These three acts offer a lively evening filled with Smuin Ballet's irrepressible charm and unmistakable flair.

WALNUT CREEK

WHERE: **Leshar Center for the Arts**
1601 Civic Drive (at Locust Street), Walnut Creek

WHEN: **February 5-6, 2010**
Friday, February 5 at 8pm
Saturday, February 6 at 2pm and 8pm

TICKETS: For tickets (\$18, \$41, and \$56), the public can call the Leshar Center for the Arts at **(925) 943-7469** or visit **www.smuinballet.org**.

MOUNTAIN VIEW

WHERE: **Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts**
500 Castro Street (at Mercy Street), Mountain View

WHEN: **February 24-28, 2010**
Wed-Fri, February 24-26, at 8pm
Sat, February 27, at 2pm & 8pm
Sun, February 28, at 2pm

TICKETS: For tickets (\$18, \$41, and \$56), the public can call the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts at **(650) 903-6000** or visit **www.smuinballet.org**.

CARMEL

WHERE: **Sunset Center**
San Carlos Street between 8th and 10th Streets, Carmel

WHEN: **March 5-6, 2010**
Friday, March 5 at 8pm
Saturday, March 6 at 2pm & 8pm

TICKETS: For tickets (\$18, \$41, and \$56), the public can call the Sunset Center at **(831) 620-2048** or visit **www.smuinballet.org**.

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PHOTOS: For high res photos, please visit **http://www.cb-pr.com/press/smuin_winter2010.html**