

# SMUIN

CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN BALLET  
CELIA FUSHILLE, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## SMUIN DANCERS CREATE ORIGINAL WORKS ON COMPANY MEMBERS IN “SMUIN’S 2018 CHOREOGRAPHY SHOWCASE” February 16-17, 2018

San Francisco, CA (8 January 2018) ó Smuin dancers will step into the spotlight as choreographers during **Smuin’s 2018 Choreography Showcase**, utilizing fellow company members to bring their original ideas to life on stage in fresh new dances. This fascinating showcase of never-before-seen piecesó equal parts bold, lively, and curiousó will be followed by a Q&A session, during which audience members can discuss the artistic process with the dancers and choreographers. The eighth edition of Smuin’s *Choreography Showcase* will be presented **7:30pm February 16, and 2pm February 17** at the **Cowell Theater** in Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture, 2 Marina Blvd, San Francisco. Tickets (\$33-\$48) and information are available at [www.smuinballet.org](http://www.smuinballet.org) or by calling (415) 912-1899.

In this lively showcase, **Smuin** continues its tradition of supporting and developing breakthrough choreographic voices from within its company. Among the dancers who will be setting new works are accomplished choreographers Nicole Haskins, Ben Needham-Wood, and Rex Wheeler; all of whom have previously premiered their works on Smuin’s mainstage to critical acclaim. Haskins was awarded the Fellowship Grant at the New York Choreographic Institute in 2011, and her choreography has been presented at the Los Angeles Dance Invitational, the McCallum Theater’s Dancing Under The Stars Choreographic Competition, and numerous Regional Dance America Festivals. Needham-Wood won the Northern California Area Emmy Award in 2016 for his co-creation of *BaseBallet*, a highly acclaimed dance documentary short, which was also featured at the National Museum of Dance and Hall of Fame. Wheeler has created works for organizations across the world, including Sacramento Ballet, Ballet Academy East, and Slovak National Ballet, among many others. He was also hand-selected as one of three choreographers to participate in the 2016 New York Choreographic Institute, where he collaborated with Juilliard composer Jared Miller.

For more than 20 years, Smuin has pushed the boundaries of contemporary ballet within a distinctly American style, engaging and delighting audiences with uncommon physicality and expression. Founded in San Francisco in 1994 by Tony and Emmy award-winning choreographer Michael Smuin, the company is committed to creating work that merges the diverse vocabularies of classical ballet and contemporary dance. As Artistic Director since 2007, Celia Fushille has maintained Michael Smuin's legacy while enriching the company's impressive repertoire by collaborating with inventive choreographers from around the world, commissioning world premieres, and bringing new contemporary choreographic voices to the Smuin stage.

Daily Newspaper and Online Media sponsor for Smuin's 2017/2018 season is the San Francisco Chronicle/SFGate.com.

**For Calendar Editors:**

**WHAT:** Smuin dancers will step into the spotlight as choreographers during **Smuin's 2018 Choreography Showcase**, utilizing fellow company members to bring their original ideas to life on stage in fresh new dances. This fascinating showcase of never-before-seen pieces—equal parts bold, lively, and curious—will be followed by a Q&A session, during which audience members can discuss the artistic process with the dancers and choreographers.

**WHEN:** 7:30pm Friday, February 16\*  
2:00pm Saturday, February 17  
\*Post Show Reception Opening Night

**WHERE:** **Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture**  
2 Marina Blvd, San Francisco

**TICKETS:** Tickets (\$33-\$48) and information available at [www.smuinballet.org](http://www.smuinballet.org) or by calling (415) 912-1899.

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**PHOTOS:** Media may download high-res photos at:

<http://www.cb-pr.com/press/smuin2018choreographyshowcase.html>

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