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BALLET AUSTIN CELEBRATES VALENTINE'S WEEKEND WITH A BOLD TRIO OF DANCE WORKS

THREE MESMIRIZING DANCES - INCLUDING A WORLD PREMIERE

AUSTIN, Texas (January 30, 2024) – Ballet Austin treats audiences to ***TRIAD: Three Bold Dances*** this Valentine's Weekend, **February 16-18**. Enjoy George Balanchine's neoclassical ballet, ***Concerto Barocco***, Amy Seiwert's contemporary dance work, ***Renaissance***, and the exciting, fun-filled **WORLD PREMIERE** of Artistic Director Stephen Mills' ***BUBBLEGUM!*** This decadent collection includes three performances at the Long Center for the Performing Arts.

CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S WEEKEND WITH BALLET AUSTIN

Indulge in a Valentine's Weekend treat, courtesy of Ballet Austin! Join us for cocktails and "mocktails" uniquely themed to this production, entertaining pre-show activities, and an evening of unforgettable dance.

Elevate your theater experience by attending ***TRIAD*** on **Friday, February 16** for ***Opening Night at Ballet Austin***, featuring special offerings and experiences to celebrate the first performance of each production. ***Opening Night*** invites audiences to enjoy the perfect Valentine's, GALentine's, or PALentine's night out.

Crafted specially for ***Opening Night***, our "***TRIAD Cocktail Experience***" includes three unique cocktails or "mocktails" representing each dance work and a pre-show charcuterie board. One themed cocktail will be served before each accompanying performance, inviting guests to fully immerse themselves in the experience of the evening.

THREE BOLD DANCES, ONE EXCITING EVENT

Assembled by Stephen Mills, Ballet Austin's Sarah & Ernest Butler Family Fund Artistic Director, this collection showcases both the beauty and athleticism of dance.

Concerto Barocco

Choreography: George Balanchine

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach's Concerto in D minor for Two Violins, B.W.V.

Live Accompaniment: Austin Symphony Orchestra

Run-time: 18 minutes

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Renaissance

Choreography: Amy Seiwert

Commissioned and performed by Smuin Contemporary Ballet in 2019

Music: Selections by Kitka Women's Vocal Ensemble

Run-time: 24 minutes

BUBBLEGUM - WORLD PREMIERE

Choreography: Stephen Mills

Music: Selections from Bitter:Sweet, Pentatonix, Kylie Minogue, Antonio Vivaldi, and Ori Lichtik

Run-time: 22 minutes

Total Run-time: 1 hour 45 minutes, including two 20-minute intermissions

Dates: Friday, February 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 18 at 3:00 p.m.

TICKETS ON SALE

Tickets are **on sale now** and range from **\$15-\$99**. Visit balletaustin.org to reserve seats online, or contact Ballet Austin's Ticketing Services Team by calling **512.476.2163**, weekdays from noon to 5 p.m. CT for personalized assistance.

ABOUT STEPHEN MILLS

Sarah & Ernest Butler Family Fund Artistic Director

Known for his innovative and collaborative choreographic projects, Stephen Mills has created over 60 premieres for Ballet Austin and has works in the repertoires of companies across the United States and around the world. His inaugural season as artistic director in 2000 attracted national attention with his world-premiere production of *Hamlet*, hailed by Dance Magazine as "... sleek and sophisticated." The Washington Post recognized Ballet Austin as "one of the nation's best kept ballet secrets" in 2004 after Mills' world premiere of *The Taming of the Shrew*, commissioned by and performed at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. The Company's first Kennedy Center invitation in January of 2002 was to perform Mills' *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Ballet Austin presented a variety of Mills' works at The Joyce Theater (NYC) in 2005 and returned to the Kennedy Center in collaboration with The Suzanne Farrell Ballet in 2008 and for the Ballet Across America Festival in 2013. In 2005 after two years of extensive research, Mills led a communitywide human rights collaboration that culminated in the world premiere work *Light / The Holocaust & Humanity Project (Light)*. In 2006 *Light* was awarded the Audrey & Raymond Maislin Humanitarian Award by the Anti-Defamation League. The work made its international debut in September 2013, with

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performances in three cities across Israel and is the subject of the award-winning documentary film, *FINDING LIGHT*. In October 2016, Mills led the company through a 16-city tour of the People's Republic of China, concluding in China's largest city, Shanghai.

In 1998, Mills won the choreographic honor of representing the United States with his work, *Ashes*, at the Rencontres Chorégraphiques Internationales de Seine Saint-Denis in Paris. In 2004, his work *One/the body's grace* won the Steinberg Award, the top honor at le Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur International Choreographic Competition in Montreal. Mills' ballets are in the repertoires of Hong Kong Ballet, Ballet Augsburg, American Ballet Theatre Studio Company, Atlanta Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet, The Washington Ballet, Cuballet in Havana, Cuba, BalletMet Columbus, Dayton Ballet, Sarasota Ballet, Ballet Pacifica, Dallas Black Dance Theater, Louisville Ballet, Nashville Ballet, Colorado Ballet, Texas Ballet Theater, The Sacramento Ballet, Eugene Ballet, Oklahoma City Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre and Dance Kaleidoscope. He has worked in collaboration with such luminaries as the eight-time Grammy Award-winning band Asleep at the Wheel, Shawn Colvin, visual artists Natalie Frank and Trenton Doyle Hancock, internationally renowned flamenco artist José Greco II, and composer Graham Reynolds. In 2020, Mills collaborated with filmmaker, producer, and former company artist Paul Michael Bloodgood to create the dance film *Preludes/Beginnings* for which he received a 2021 Lone Star EMMY® Award.

As a dancer, Mills performed with the world-renowned Harkness Ballet, The American Dance Machine under the direction of Lee Theodore, Cincinnati Ballet, and Indianapolis Ballet Theatre before becoming a part of Ballet Austin. Mills danced principal roles in the Balanchine repertoire, as well as works by ChooSan Goh, John Butler, Ohad Naharin, Vicente Nebrada, Domy Reiter-Soffer and Mark Dendy. In addition to his work as a choreographer, Mills is a master teacher committed to developing dancers. His invitations to teach include Jacob's Pillow, Goucher College, Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts in Dallas, The Virginia School of the Arts, The New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts, Stephens College, Point Park University in Pittsburgh, Boca Ballet Theater, School of American Ballet, The Suzanne Farrell Ballet, Butler Ballet, Lyon Opera Ballet, and NW Professional Dance Project.

Mills is a member of the national dance service organization Dance/USA and served both in leadership roles and on the national Board of Trustees for the organization. In 2013, he became a Fellow of the Chief Executive Program of National Arts Strategies.

ABOUT BALLET AUSTIN

As distinctive and dynamic as the city it calls home, Ballet Austin welcomes audiences near and far to participate in its "classically innovative" vision for the creation of original artworks, classical ballet instruction, and life-long health and wellness through dance and fitness. With a rich history spanning six decades, acclaimed productions, a commitment to creating access to programs, and a large, classical ballet academy, the organization is poised for an even greater future. From

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their home at the Butler Dance Education Center in downtown Austin, Ballet Austin and Stephen Mills, Ballet Austin's Sarah & Ernest Butler Family Fund artistic director, actively engage the community, dancers, and audiences alike. *The New York Times* proclaims Ballet Austin "a company with big ambitions" originating work that is "absorbing." For additional information on Ballet Austin and to purchase tickets and classes, visit balletaustin.org.

ABOUT OUR SPONSORS

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Arrange interviews, access high-resolution images and videos, by contacting **Sarah Pace** at **512.476.9151 ex. 118**, or via e-mail at sarah.pace@balletaustin.org. Did you know Ballet Austin is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization? [Learn more.](#)

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