

Tinned Out

LIFESTYLE • ARTS • ENTERTAINMENT

JULY 5 - JULY 11, 2018

En Pointe



All rise for a uniquely special summer of dance

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The AAM's Andrea
and James Gordon Roof-Deck Café

637 East Hyman Avenue
Aspen, CO 81611
aspenartmuseum.org

SO

Tuesday–Saturday
Coffee & Croissants: 10–11:30 AM
Lunch: 11:30 AM–2:30 PM
Beverages & Snacks: 2:30–5 PM
Sunday
Beverages & Pastries: 11 AM–5 PM

Must-see Choreography

If you're a dance fan in Aspen, get ready. This Saturday night, July 7, is your blink-and-you'll-miss-it moment for the summer. Why? Because it's the one time this season the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet is going to perform as just the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet. The esteemed company's dancers will return to the Aspen District Theatre later in the season for an encore collaboration with pianist Joyce Yang and the Aspen Music Festival & School, but as far as straightforward ASFB productions go, Saturday night is the one and only this summer.

Thankfully, you, as an astute local dance observer, got your tickets weeks ago, didn't you? Now you're in for a treat, courtesy of a three-performance program that, as far as star power goes, rivals anything ASFB has ever done.

Perhaps recognizing a need to go big for the occasion, artistic director Tom Mossbrucker and executive director Jean-Philippe Malaty commissioned a new work, "Passion Samples," from choreographer Bryan Arias, a rising star on the New York and national dance scenes, to go along with "Sleepless" by Czech legend Jiří Kylián and "Tuplet" by Swedish sensation Alexander Ekman, currently one of the biggest names in dance, with his pieces performed around the world.

"It's interesting," said Mossbrucker. "On the program we have Jiří Kylián, who's really an iconic figure, and then we have Bryan Arias, who's a relative newcomer, and then you have Alexander Ekman, who's really at the top, the very pinnacle of his career as a choreographer."

That unique opportunity to see works from renowned artists at three stages of their careers – from world-premiering whiz kid to megastar to icon – only adds to Saturday night's singular allure, but it hardly makes it the only highlight of ASFB's summer. In fact, in two weeks, on July 20-21, there may come an even bigger moment when the acclaimed Hubbard Street Dance Chicago troupe stops in on its celebratory 40th anniversary tour.

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet opens its season in one-of-a-kind style

BY TODD HARTLEY, TIME OUT WRITER



"Tuplet" by Alexander Ekman
Photo by Rhys Cozens

Among the HSDC members taking the stage those two nights to perform works by contemporary dance master Ohad Naharin and Canadian choreographer Crystal Pite will be former ASFB dancer Craig Black, who accepted an offer to move to Chicago following five years in Aspen. His homecoming is sure to be an emotional moment for Black and his friends in town.

"I think it's going to be great for everybody," said Mossbrucker, "Of course, we were sad to see him leave, but we were very proud that he went to such a prestigious company."

Later this month, on July 28, Connecticut-based dance company Pilobolus, no strangers to the Aspen stage, will return for two performances. In addition to their regular show at 8 p.m., the troupe's dancers will take to the stage at 4 p.m. for Dance For Kids! Their performance, entitled "Pilobolus is a Fungus," will take young audiences on an hour-long journey through nature in new and unexpected ways.

The ASFB summer season wraps up Aug. 10-11 when the music festival and Yang get back together with the company's dancers for their critically acclaimed "An Evening With Pianist Joyce Yang," which debuted last winter and has since been performed in Los Angeles and Orange County, Calif., to rave reviews.

"It's been one of the most rewarding projects, I think, of our company's history," said Mossbrucker, "working with someone of her caliber and just the way that the collaborative process was with her and the dancers. She explained to us that she has been playing some of these pieces for many, many years, and after working with the company she sees the work in a completely different way, and it's really changed the way she plays. It was the same for our dancers."

It'll be a fine coda for a big season that starts in two days with a singular event that you'll never have the chance to see again. Are you ready?

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