

ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET

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ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET ANNOUNCES ITS 2016-17 WINTER PERFORMANCE SERIES IN ASPEN, CO

Celebrating 20 Years of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet in 2016
Exclusive One-Night-Only Performance of Shadowland by Pilobolus
World Premiere by L.A. Choreographer Cherice Barton

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's 20th anniversary celebration continues into the holidays with the annual production of *The Nutcracker*. Featuring hundreds of young dancers from The School of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet locations throughout the Roaring Fork Valley, ASFB's take on this winter classic creates lifelong memories for ballet students and audiences alike. With four performances over the weekend of **December 10-11**, there are multiple opportunities to bring the family together for this magical theatrical experience.

Always looking to push the boundaries of contemporary ballet, ASFB's winter performances feature the world premiere of a new work by ASFB newcomer Cherice Barton (**February 18 & April 1**). The Los Angeles artist's much-lauded choreography for Katy Perry's Grammy Awards performance gained Barton worldwide attention, but her versatility in movement styles and background as a classical ballet dancer make her an excellent fit for the dynamic dancers of ASFB. Barton's premiere is a co-commission with the Valley Performing Arts Center in Northridge, CA, where ASFB is the dance company-in-residence for two more years. Also on the program are two works that received their company premieres this past summer: Alejandro Cerrudo's *Little mortal jump* and Jiří Kylián's *Sleepless*.

This year, ASFB will present a guest company during the winter season with a one-night-only performance of the groundbreaking *Shadowland by Pilobolus (March 2, 2017)*. Part shadow act, part dance, part circus, and part concert, *Shadowland* tells the story of a teenage girl, longing for independence, who sleeps, only to wake to something incredible lurking behind her bedroom wall – her shadow. And, she's off on a journey into *Shadowland*. Legendary modern dance is combined with high-energy, fast-paced multimedia, merging front-of-screen choreography with projected images to create a narrative with the fluid logic of a dream, powered by the grace of an acrobatic dance, which evinces surprise and joyous delight in a way that is uniquely Pilobolus. *Shadowland* was conceived in collaboration with Steven Banks, lead writer for *SpongeBob SquarePants*, with an original score by composer David Poe.

Tickets for all winter series performances go on sale to the public on **Tuesday, November 1, 2016**. Tickets will be available online at www.aspensantafeballet.com; by phone through Aspen

ShowTix at 970-920-5770; or in person at the Wheeler Opera House box office (320 E. Hyman Ave.). Ticket prices range from \$25-\$94.

All performances take place at the Aspen District Theater (335 High School Road).

Ticket prices and programs subject to change.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Nutcracker

December 10, 2016 at 2pm & 7:30pm

December 11, 2016 at 1pm & 5pm

Generously underwritten by Les Dames d'Aspen

Embrace the holiday spirit and enjoy the magic of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's *The Nutcracker*! Children of all ages will marvel at this whimsical interpretation of a seasonal classic. With ballet, flamenco, a Chinese ribbon dance, and even an aerialist, allow the cast of 60 dancers, actors, and circus artists to create lifelong memories for you and your loved ones.

"Aspen Santa Fe Ballet has brought joy and creative abandon to a holiday classic."

– Santa Fe New Mexican

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet

February 18, 2017

April 1, 2017

7:30pm

Generously underwritten by Bebe and David Schweppe

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet brings the heat this winter, as the company unveils the world premiere of a ballet by ASFB newcomer Cherice Barton. This Los Angeles-based artist's much-lauded choreography for Broadway and Las Vegas gained her worldwide attention, but her versatility in movement styles and background as a classical ballet dancer make her an excellent fit for the dynamic dancers of ASFB. Also on the program are Alejandro Cerrudo's magical *Little mortal jump* and master choreographer Jiří Kylián's haunting *Sleepless*.

"Aspen Santa Fe Ballet is ready for its Hollywood close-up."

- Los Angeles Times

Shadowland by Pilobolus

March 2, 2017

7:30pm

Generously underwritten by Melinda and Norman Payson

Created by famed dance company Pilobolus, *Shadowland* is a first-of-its-kind performance combining legendary modern dance with high-energy, fast-paced multimedia, merging front-of-

screen choreography with projected images and moving screens of different sizes and shapes. *Shadowland* has the fluid logic of a dream powered by the grace of an acrobatic dance, evincing surprise and joyous delight in a way that is uniquely Pilobolus.

“...an amazing spectacle of inventiveness which is unclassifiable and inspiring.”

– Le Parisien

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Aspen Santa Fe Ballet

Now in its 20th season, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's bold vision – top global choreographers, distinctive groundbreaking works, and virtuoso dancers – has fostered a jewel of a dance company in the American West and beyond. ASFB's unique pioneering spirit arises from a paired set of home cities: Aspen, nestled high in the Rocky Mountains, and Santa Fe, gracing the majestic Southwestern plateau.

Since its founding in 1996 by Bebe Schweppe, the company has served as a prestigious incubator and a showcase for choreographic invention to popular and critical acclaim. The performing troupe forms the core of a multifaceted arts organization with activities in both Aspen and Santa Fe. Repeat engagements at the Joyce Theater, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Kennedy Center, Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, the American Dance Festival and the Harris Theater for Music and Dance have built a national reputation. The company has also toured internationally to Brazil, Canada, France, Greece, Guatemala, Israel and Italy.

A respected arts presenter, ASFB curates high-quality dance programming for home audiences. Dance education is a priority, with well-established ballet schools training children and adults in both markets. An outreach program steeped in Mexico's rich folkloric culture fortifies community connections. Premier funders such as the National Endowment of the Arts, the Joyce Foundation, the Wolf Trap Foundation, Dance St. Louis and The Princess Grace Foundation have supported ASFB's growth. In 2010 the Joyce Theater Foundation conferred upon Artistic Director Tom Mossbrucker and Executive Director Jean-Philippe Malaty the Joyce Theater Award in honor of their pioneering and innovative model for American dance.

For dancer and full director bios, media, and more, visit www.aspensantafeballet.com