

dance

# A send-off, the Big Apple and a big tour for Aspen Santa Fe Ballet

Ballet company will perform in Aspen on Saturday night

Andrew Travers  
The Aspen Times

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet will give its only local contemporary dance performance of the winter season Saturday night, bringing back three recent audience favorites to the stage of the Aspen District Theatre.

But the locally based company isn't resting on its laurels in a season that included just this one-night contemporary dance show and the December run of "The Nutcracker." It is embarking on an ambitious spring tour that places the company center stage on the international dance scene.

After this weekend's Aspen performance of Fernando Melo's "Dream Play," Jorma Elo's "1st Flash" and Alexander Ekman's "Tuplet," the company will set out on an international tour that includes a prestigious five-show run at the Joyce Theater in Manhattan and a multi-stop tour through Israel.

The New York run, with performances at the Joyce running March 20 to 24, marks the company's ninth time on the most prestigious stage in contemporary dance.

"It's pretty remarkable and unique for any company based outside of New York," Aspen Santa Fe executive director Jean-Philippe Malaty said of the company's regular appearances at the Joyce over the past 18 years.



ROSALIE O'CONNOR/COURTESY PHOTO

Alexander Ekman's "Tuplet."

Though the company has dual homes in Aspen and Santa Fe, New York is key to its artistic and financial success.

"It is the world capital of dance," Malaty said. "It's where we recruit a lot of our dancers and it's where many of our

patrons have their primary residences."

Performing at the Joyce also draws the eyeballs of national dance presenters who book the company on tour, it's where many of the world's top choreographers are introduced to Aspen Santa Fe's unique

style and it's where some of the company's major founders — like the Shubert Foundation — check in with its progress.

Artistic director Tom Mossbrucker will

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NALA

Nala is an adorable eight-month-old, grey, domestic short-haired female. She is a great kitty who arrived here with her buddy, Georgie. They are both friendly and good with everybody—kids, dogs and other cats!



GEORGIE

Georgie is an adorable six-month-old, black and white, domestic short-haired female. She is a great kitty who arrived here with her buddy, Nala. They are both friendly and good with everybody—kids, dogs and other cats!



BK

BK is a 6-year-old, domestic short-haired tabby. A new arrival, he is a little aloof at first but is coming around. He was a barn kitty and could continue that lifestyle but would also be quite happy sharing your home.



CHARLIE

Happy, friendly, active, athletic, 2-year-old German Shepherd mix who gets along well with people and most female dogs. He does not like cats.



SUN

Sun is a really cute, funky-looking, 2.5-year-old Australian Shepherd/Pit Bull mix. She gets along with people and other dogs. Sun must have a responsible household because she is initially wary of strangers, and she can be protective of her food with other dogs. Unfortunately she is not good with cats. Once you have earned her trust, Sun



BUBBA

Bubba is an 8-year-old, grey, domestic medium-haired male. He likes to be brushed and sit on your lap while you watch TV. He comes when his name is called. Bubba would do best in a home with constant companionship.



ALLIE

Beautiful, athletic, 9-year-old Black Lab/Pit Bull mix. Happy, friendly, affectionate + energetic. Awesome with all people, but aggressive with cats and other dogs. Been at shelter a long time.



CALLIE

Callie is a beautiful, 9-year-old Pit Bull mix who gets along great with people. She gets along well with most dogs, but will require a knowledgeable, responsible home.



SAM

9-year-old Pit Bull mix. Has been at the shelter for 7.5 years. Great with all people, including kids, but aggressive with most dogs, including all females. However Sam often accepts large, stable, male dogs.



REMY

Remy is a sensitive, loyal, 2.5-year-old Cattle Dog mix who is loose and playful with her family, but wary of strangers. Remy will require an active, responsible home in order to set her up for success.



Exercise your heart...

Walk a dog or cuddle a cat at the Aspen Animal Shelter.



ZEN

Zen is a three-year-old Border Collie/Australian Cattle Dog mix who is initially a bit reserved and would do well in a responsible, knowledgeable home.



BANDIT + THOR

From National Mill Dog Rescue, brothers Bandit and Thor are gorgeous, happy, gentle, 1-year-old, male Siberian Huskys. Due to their breed, they will not be trustworthy off leash. Thor is still wary of people he doesn't know while Bandit is the more outgoing of the two. They have come a long way in terms of their shyness! They will continue to be more comfortable around people with the socialization we are giving them at the shelter. These are great dogs!

BALLET

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also teach master classes at the Juilliard School while the company is in the city, scouting for future talent.

“It’s an important week for us,” Malaty explained.

The New York run comes after regional stops in Scottsdale, Arizona, and Fort Collins and a one-night stand in Purchase, New York — home to the esteemed dance conservatory of State University of New York at Purchase.

After a matinee at the Joyce on March 24, the company will board a plane to Tel Aviv for a tour of Israel that runs through early April and includes a four-day run in Tel Aviv, stops in Jerusalem and in Yagur, a kibbutz in northern Israel.

“Between New York and Tel Aviv, it’s a major tour,” Malaty said. “This tour is big for us on so many levels,”

Malaty noted that, in terms of placing the company on the international dance scene, the Israel shows are as important as the performances at the Joyce. The country is an epicenter of progressive 21st-century dance, epitomized in the work of Ohad Naharin (subject of the film “Mr. Gaga,” which won the 2016 Best Documentary award at Aspen Filmfest; local dance audiences may remember Naharin’s work from Hubbard Street Dance’s performed here last summer).

While the tour is a boon to the company’s international reputation and a key to its future, it’s also an artistic challenge for its dancers. They’re preparing a robust and diverse repertoire for this late winter



ASPEN TIMES FILE

Fernando Melo’s inventive multimedia production “Dream Play” is one of three works to be performed by Aspen Santa Fe Ballet on Saturday night.

and spring run. In addition to the three pieces they will perform this weekend in Aspen, the upcoming shows include performances of Jorma Elo’s “Half/Cut/Split” with live accompaniment from pianist Joyce Yang, Cayetano Soto’s “Huma Rojo,” Alejandro Cerrudo’s “Silent Ghost” and Nicolo Fante’s “Where We Left Off.”

To reinforce its ranks for the physically and artistically demanding tour, the 10-dancer company is bringing in a handful of Aspen Santa Fe alumni. Among them is Samantha Klanac Campanile, who retired in

IF YOU GO ...

**What:** Aspen Santa Fe Ballet

**Where:** Aspen District Theatre

**When:** Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

**How much:** \$36 to \$94

**Tickets:** Wheeler Opera House box office; [aspenshowtix.com](http://aspenshowtix.com)

**More info:** The program features Alexander Ekman’s “Tuplet,” Fernando Melo’s “Dream Play” and Jorma Elo’s “1st Flash.”

2016 after 14 years with Aspen Santa Fe when she helped define the company’s elegant athleticism and who is now the mother to a 19-month-old.

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