

DANCE

CHOREOGRAPHER Bryan Arias has been working with the dancers of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet for the past month, finalizing his new ballet, “Passion Samples,” which the company will premiere on Saturday, July 7, at the Aspen District Theatre.

A former dancer with Nederlands Dans Theater and Kidd Pivot, Arias — recipient of the 2017 Princess Grace Choreography Fellowship Award — is emerging as an in-demand choreographic voice. He has mostly exhibited his works with companies in Europe, making Aspen Santa Fe one of the first companies in the U.S. to commission his work.

Arias’ “Passion Samples” is joined on the evening program by Jiri Kylian’s “Sleepless” and Aspen Santa Fe’s staging of Alexander Ekman’s famed tour-de-force “Tuplet.” It’s an inventive work that employs the dancers’ bodies as percussion instruments in a soundscape integrated with jazz and original electronic music — creating a unique visual and aural effect exploring rhythm.

Tickets start at \$36, available at the Wheeler Opera House box office and aspenshowtix.com.

The one-night performance opens the summer season at Aspen Santa Fe, which will host guest companies Hubbard Street Dance Chicago (July 20-21) and Pilobolus (July 28) before closing with An Evening with Pianist Joyce Yang (Aug. 10-11).

Pick up the Weekend section of The Aspen Times on Friday, July 6, for more on the program and an interview with Arias.



Aspen Santa Fe Ballet’s Anna Gerberich in “Sleepless,” one of three ballets on the program July 7.

CURRENT EVENTS

POPULAR MUSIC



Big Sam’s Funky Nation will headline The Temporary at Willits on Saturday, July 7.

STRAIGHT FROM NEW ORLEANS to Willits, the hard-rocking, funky brass band sound of Big Sam’s Funky Nation is coming to the Temporary.

A New Orleans mainstay and one of the best live bands on the road today, Big Sam and his crew will headline the club on Saturday, July 7.

Tickets are \$22 in advance and \$27 on Saturday, available at tacaw.org.

Pick up The Aspen Times this week for more on the show and an interview with Big Sam.



Playwright Lucas Hnath was in Aspen last month for the Aspen Fringe Festival, which will stage “The Christians” on July 5 and 8.

THEATER

AS IT CELEBRATES its 10th anniversary, the Aspen Fringe Festival is staging two special performances of Lucas Hnath’s “The Christians” on Thursday, July 5, and Sunday, July 8, at the Aspen Chapel.

The play, portraying a pastor in a crisis of faith, will star local actor and preacher Dan Bosko.

Tickets are \$25, available at the Wheeler Opera House box office and aspenshowtix.com.

Go to aspentimes.com for more on “The Christians” and a Q&A with Hnath.

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