

ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET

For immediate release: March 28, 2017 (Updated 4/11/17)

Media Contact: Jessica Moore, 970-925-7175, jessica@aspensantafeballet.com

ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET ANNOUNCES ITS 2017 SUMMER PERFORMANCE SERIES IN ASPEN, CO

Three Guest Companies • World Premiere by Brazilian Choreographer Fernando Melo

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's 2017 summer season paints a thrilling picture of the diverse landscape of dance around the world. Audiences in Aspen will be swept away by *What the Day Owes to the Night* (*Ce Que le Jour Doit à la Nuit*) by **Compagnie Hervé Koubi (July 26)**. Choreographed by the French-Algerian Hervé Koubi and performed by 12 men hailing from Algeria and Burkina Faso, this hour-long work fuses elements of hip-hop, acrobatics, street and modern dance. In a similar melding of influences, the score blends traditional Sufi music alongside J.S. Bach and Hamza El Din & the Kronos Quartet to create an emotionally intense, almost ritualistic performance.

In a performance that's sure to leave audiences talking, **Compagnie Marie Chouinard** from Montréal will present two ballets in Aspen, both choreographed by company namesake, Marie Chouinard (**Aug. 4**). Performed with live accompaniment, Chouinard's 1999 work, *24 Preludes by Chopin*, plays with the very structure of Chopin's preludes to create a jubilant, yet solemn work that reveals new facets of this iconic music. Considered one of her most important creations, *The Rite of Spring* (1993) reexamines Stravinsky's unforgettable score in an avant-garde visual spectacle.

After a sold-out Aspen debut in 2014, **Stars of American Ballet** returns for a one-night-only performance sure to thrill balletomanes and dance novices alike (**Aug. 12**). Hand-picked and directed by New York City Ballet principal Daniel Ulbricht, this group of elite dancers from New York City Ballet and American Ballet Theatre will perform a varied program featuring works by Ulysses Dove, George Balanchine and Kenneth MacMillan.

After making a splash in the winter of 2016 with *Re:play*—his critically-acclaimed **Aspen Santa Fe Ballet** choreographic debut—**Brazilian choreographer Fernando Melo** returns to ASFB this summer to create a second ballet, as yet untitled. Now a resident of Sweden, Melo is an in-demand choreographer for dance and opera companies across the European continent. While the theme of his works varies, Melo remains interested in “the production and communication of meaning through a performance.” He explains: “In every piece I create, I attempt to convey significance and to appeal and connect with human emotions.”

ASFB will also perform *Eudaemonia* by Los Angeles-based choreographer Cherice Barton, which recently premiered in February 2017. *Eudaemonia* is a co-commission with the Valley Performing Arts Center (VPAC) in Northridge, CA, where ASFB is the dance company-in-residence for two more years. Of Barton's work, VPAC Executive Director Thor Steingraber says: "There is something uniquely Hollywood about Cherice's aesthetic and her approach to dance and performance." The third ballet to be performed is TBD. Aspen Santa Fe Ballet will perform this program three times (**July 8, 20, & Aug. 18**).

Tickets for all summer series performances go on sale to the public in late May. 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.

###

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet

July 8, July 20 & Aug. 18, 2017

8pm

Generously underwritten by Les Dames d'Aspen

After making a splash in 2016 with his critically-acclaimed Aspen Santa Fe Ballet choreographic debut, Brazilian choreographer Fernando Melo returns this summer with a second world premiere ballet that blends video projection with stirring movement. Sharing the program is Los Angeles-based choreographer Cherice Barton's *Eudaemonia*, a recent ASFB premiere that explores the search for happiness. Let this diverse evening leave you mesmerized, uplifted, and entertained!

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

- Los Angeles Times

Compagnie Hervé Koubi

July 26, 2017

8pm

Generously underwritten by Bebe and David Schweppe

Be swept away by this company of 12 outstanding men from Algeria and Burkina Faso, as they deliver a jaw-dropping performance packed with backflips, head spins, and a transcending emotional intensity. Created by French-Algerian choreographer Hervé Koubi, *What the Day Owes to the Night (Ce Que le Jour Doit à la Nuit)* is danced to an eclectic score including Johann Sebastian Bach, Hamza El Din & the Kronos Quartet, and traditional Sufi music.

"A stunning fusion of acrobatics, gymnastics, b-boying, modern dance, and ballet."

- The Washington Post

Compagnie Marie Chouinard

Aug. 4, 2017

8pm

Generously underwritten by Esther Pearlstone

In a performance that's sure to leave audiences talking, this celebrated Montréal ensemble will present two significant ballets by company namesake, Marie Chouinard. Performed with live accompaniment, Chouinard's *24 Preludes by Chopin* plays with the very structure of Chopin's preludes to create a jubilant, yet solemn work that reveals new facets of this iconic music.

Considered one of her most important creations, *The Rite of Spring* reexamines Stravinsky's unforgettable score in an avant-garde visual spectacle.

(This performance contains partial nudity).

“Chouinard’s Rite of Spring is 55 minutes of choreographic brilliance performed with blazing energy by an extraordinary cast of seven dancers.”

- The Toronto Star

Stars of American Ballet

Aug. 12, 2017

8pm

Generously underwritten by Carolyn Powers

Hailed by *Dance Magazine* as “one of the best male ballet dancers,” Stars of American Ballet Director Daniel Ulbricht joins an elite, all-star ensemble of artists he handpicked from New York City Ballet and American Ballet Theatre. Together, these phenomenal ballet technicians will wow Aspen audiences with a glamorous evening of selected works including *Red Angels* by Ulysses Dove, the iconic *Apollo* by George Balanchine, selections from Kenneth MacMillan's *Romeo & Juliet*, and more.

“... an intoxicating evening even for the non-dancers in the audience, because the performers truly put their charisma at the service of art.”

- The Pittsburgh Tribune

###

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet

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.

High-resolution images available upon request.

Video clips and web-resolution images available for download on our media page here: <http://www.aspensantafeballet.com/asfb/media.html>