

ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET

For immediate release: April 11, 2019

Media Contact: Jessica Moore, 970-925-7175 ext. 101, jessica@aspensantafeballet.com

ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET ANNOUNCES ITS 2019 SUMMER PERFORMANCE SERIES IN ASPEN, CO

ASFB's First-Ever Evening-Length Ballet • Guest Performances by Compagnie Hervé Koubi, Stars of American Ballet, Alonzo King LINES Ballet

Audience members who have grown accustomed to **Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's** typical program format of three ballets by three choreographers are in for a surprise this summer when ASFB premieres its first evening-length ballet: long-time collaborator **Nicolo Fonte's** *Beautiful Decay*. Originally created in 2013 for BalletX in Philadelphia, this haunting work in two parts juxtaposes daring athleticism and technical prowess against the reality of aging. Joining the dancers of ASFB are a septuagenarian couple performed by guest artists Hilary Cartwright and Gregg Bielemeier.

About *Beautiful Decay*, Fonte said he “kept thinking back to the feelings I experienced when looking at Mark Golebiowski’s series of 3D photographs of very much dead but still very vibrant flowers.” He continued, “the beauty evident in the decay was to me both noble and touching.” With an original set design by the Tony Award-winning Mimi Lien, and set to both the timeless music of Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons* and Max Richter’s reinterpretation of the same, ASFB will perform *Beautiful Decay* three times this summer: July 9, July 19, and August 24.

ASFB Presents brings three stellar companies to town for special one-night-only performances. Following their revelatory Aspen debut in the summer of 2017, **Compagnie Hervé Koubi**—an all-male troupe hailing from Algeria and Burkina Faso—returns to perform *Les Nuits Barbares ou Les Premiers Matin du Monde (The Barbarous Nights, or the First Dawns of the World)*. This work takes its inspiration from the story of the Mediterranean Basin and the blending of cultures that occurred in that geographic area throughout history. Choreographer Hervé Koubi says: “No matter if we are Algerian, Spanish, French, Greek, we are first and foremost Mediterranean and this feeling of belonging is much more ancient than the concept of nations.” On full display are the company’s signature acrobatics, blending street dance styles with hip-hop and modern dance (July 24).

Fan favorite **Stars of American Ballet** return for a one-night-only performance sure to thrill balletomanes and dance novices alike (Aug. 3). Hand-picked and directed by New York City Ballet principal Daniel Ulbricht, this group of elite dancers will perform a varied program featuring classics by George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins, as well as Christopher Wheeldon’s stunning *This Bitter Earth*. This year’s program also features an appearance by ballroom dancer

Denys Drozdyuk; some might recognize him as one half of DNA, the ballroom duo from the hit television competition *World of Dance*.

Known for their stunning physicality and ethereal beauty, the dancers of **Alonzo King LINES Ballet** bring a program of two ballets to Aspen (Aug. 10): *Handel* and *Common Ground*. Originally created for the Swedish Royal Ballet, *Handel* is master choreographer Alonzo King's exploration of the dramatic elegance of Baroque expression. The balance of thematic richness and simplicity that distinguishes Handel as a composer comes through in the clean, graceful lines of the dancers. Recently premiered in 2018, *Common Ground* is the result of a much anticipated collaboration with the renowned Kronos Quartet. This theatrical ballet is set to a suite of pieces from *Fifty for the Future: The Kronos Learning Repertoire*.

Tickets for all summer series performances go on sale to the public on Tuesday, May 21. 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 \$36-\$94.

All performances take place at the Aspen District Theater (235 High School Road).

Ticket prices and programs subject to change.

###

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet: *Beautiful Decay*

Tuesday, July 9 | 8pm

Friday, July 19 | 8pm

Saturday, August 24 | 8pm

Generously underwritten by Jessica and John Fullerton

Audiences are in for a surprise this summer when ASFB premieres its first-ever evening-length ballet: long-time collaborator **Nicolo Fonte's *Beautiful Decay***. Featuring an original set design by Tony Award-winner Mimi Lien, and the timeless music of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* and Max Richter's reinterpretation of the same, this haunting work juxtaposes daring athleticism against the reality of aging. Joining ASFB are guest artists Hilary Cartwright and Gregg Bielemeier—two septuagenarians with distinguished dance careers.

"...an evening of explosive, athletic dance that leaves the audience speechless after just the first act..." – The Dance Journal

Compagnie Hervé Koubi

Wednesday, July 24 | 8pm

Generously underwritten by Bebe Schweppe

Following their revelatory 2017 Aspen debut, **Compagnie Hervé Koubi**—an all-male ensemble from Algeria and Burkina Faso—returns to perform *Les Nuits Barbares ou Les Premiers Matin*

du Monde (The Barbarous Nights, or the First Dawns of the World). Drawing inspiration from the history of the Mediterranean Basin and the blending of cultures that occurred in that geographic area, marvel at the company's signature high-flying acrobatics that blend street dance styles with hip-hop and modern dance.

"...one feels whisked away to a far-off place and time, yet acutely senses the present moment.." – TheaterJones

Stars of American Ballet

Saturday, August 3 | 8pm

Generously underwritten by Les Dames d'Aspen

Fan favorite **Stars of American Ballet** return for a one-night-only performance sure to thrill balletomanes and dance novices alike. Hand-picked and directed by New York City Ballet principal Daniel Ulbricht, this group of elite ballet technicians will wow Aspen audiences with a glamorous evening of selected classics including George Balanchine's *Tarantella*, Jerome Robbins' *Andantino*, Christopher Wheeldon's stunning *This Bitter Earth*, and even some ballroom dancing!

"... 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

Alonzo King LINES Ballet

Saturday, August 10 | 8pm

Generously underwritten by Esther Pearlstone

Known for their stunning physicality and ethereal beauty, the dancers of **Alonzo King LINES Ballet** re-imagine the possibilities of ballet. In *Handel*, master dancemaker Alonzo King explores the elegance of Baroque expression, reflecting the thematic richness that distinguishes Handel as a composer in the graceful lines of the dancers. Recently premiered in 2018, *Common Ground* is the result of a much-anticipated collaboration with the renowned Kronos Quartet.

"The applause at the many curtain calls resounded into the night, as it will surely continue to for Lines and King..." – San Francisco Chronicle

###

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>