

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Diablo Ballet announces its 23rd Season!

Featuring works by Christopher Wheeldon, Sean Kelly, Trey McIntyre and a world premiere by Robert Dekkers.

(July 27, 2016) WALNUT CREEK --- Diablo Ballet is thrilled to announce its 23rd season featuring works by Tony award-winning choreographer Christopher Wheeldon, Val Caniparoli, Sally Streets, Trey McIntyre and a highly anticipated World Premiere from Resident Choreographer Robert Dekkers. The Company will also present its annual holiday ballet, *A Swingin' Holiday*, by Sean Kelly performed by the Diablo Ballet Swing Orchestra under the musical direction of Greg Sudmeier.

Our 2016-17 season opens with **A Swingin' Holiday and More** November 11-13, 2016 at the Del Valle Theatre in Walnut Creek. This holiday show featuring three uniquely stunning ballets: *A Swingin' Holiday* (by Broadway choreographer Sean Kelly, currently Associate Director of *American in Paris*), performed live by the Diablo Ballet Swing Orchestra; the Company's premiere of Lew Christensen's classical *Airs de Ballet*, originally created for San Francisco Ballet and the whimsical *Happy Ending* (by Resident Choreographer Robert Dekkers), set to the popular music of Pogo.

Diablo Ballet's season continues with **Body & Soul** February 3 - 4, 2017 at the Del Valle Theatre in Walnut Creek. This soulful program features the romantic duet from *Mercurial Manoeuvres* by Broadway's "American in Paris" Tony award-winning choreographer Christopher Wheeldon; the classically spirited 2nd Act Pas de Deux from *Don Quixote*; and the Diablo Ballet premiere of *When in Doubt* (by Robert Dekkers), an ensemble piece driven by spoken word and set to Jacob Wolkenhauer's hypnotic score. After the performance you are invited to stay for a Q & A with the dancers and choreographers, followed by a dessert and coffee reception where you can meet and mingle with the dancers.

On March 23, 2017 the company celebrates its **23rd Anniversary Celebration Performance** with a one-night only performance at the Leshher Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek, featuring *Three to Tango* (by Diablo Ballet's Artistic Advisor and dance legend Sally Streets), which was originally choreographed for the Company's inaugural season in 1994. The evening also offers the glorious pas de deux and coda from *Raymonda*, and an exciting *World Premiere Film* (by award-winning filmmaker Walter Yamazaki), set to a new score by Justin Levitt. The program finale features the return of the spellbinding *Carnival of the Imagination*, by Robert Dekkers. Following the performance will be a Gala reception, wine tasting and a delicious dinner with the dancers at Scott's Garden, walking distance from the Leshher Center.

The season concludes with **Celebrated Masters** May 5 - 6, 2017 returning to the Del Valle Theatre and features the charming and playful duet from *Gustav's Rooster* by master dance maker Val Caniparoli; the exquisite *The Blue Boy* (by Trey McIntyre), set to the achingly lovely second movement of Beethoven's first piano concerto; and a highly anticipated *World Premiere*, choreographed by Robert Dekkers. After the performance you are invited to stay for a Q & A with the dancers and choreographers, followed by a dessert and coffee reception where you can meet and mingle with the dancers.

A Swingin' Holiday and More performs November 11 at 8:00 p.m., November 12 at 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. and November 13 at 2:00 p.m. Location: Del Valle Theatre, 1963 Tice Valley Boulevard, Walnut Creek

Body & Soul performs February 3 at 8:00 p.m. and February 4 at 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. Location: Del Valle Theatre, 1963 Tice Valley Boulevard, Walnut Creek

23rd Anniversary Celebration Performance performs March 23 at 6:30 p.m. Location: Leshher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek

Celebrated Masters performs May 5 at 8:00 p.m. and May 6 at 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. Location: Del Valle Theatre, 1963 Tice Valley Boulevard, Walnut Creek

Season Subscriptions are available. Please call Diablo Ballet at (925) 943-1175 for information or to subscribe.

Single tickets go on sale in September and are \$27.00-59.00. For tickets, call 925-943-SHOW (7469) or visit www.lesherartscenter.org. For more information visit www.diabloballet.org.

About Diablo Ballet

For 22 years, Diablo Ballet has been the award-winning, professional dance company for Contra Costa County. Presenting acclaimed classical and contemporary ballets, the company is committed to exposing youth to the arts through its renowned PEEK Outreach Program, which has reached over 65,000 under-served school children in Alameda and Contra Costa counties since 1995. In 2015 and again this year, Diablo Ballet was one of a handful of state-wide organizations to receive funding from the California Arts Council to bring its PEEK Extension Program to teenagers incarcerated in the Juvenile Justice system.

This November, our 2016-17 season opens with *A Swingin' Holiday* by Broadway choreographer Sean Kelly, performed live by the Diablo Ballet Swing Orchestra, the company premiere of Lew Christensen's classical *Airs de Ballet*, which was created for the San Francisco Ballet and the playful *Happy Ending* by Resident Choreographer Robert Dekkers and set to the popular music of Pogo. The season also offers the romantic Pas de Deux from *Mercurial Manoeuvres* by Broadway's *American in Paris* choreographer Christopher Wheeldon, the exquisite *The Blue Boy* by Trey McIntyre, the playful duet from *Gustav's Rooster* by master dance maker Val Caniparoli, and the Diablo Ballet premiere of *When in Doubt* by Robert Dekkers, set to Jacob Wolkenhauer's hypnotic score. Our 23rd Anniversary Celebration at the Leshner Center will feature *Three to Tango* by Diablo Ballet's Artistic Advisor and dance legend Sally Streets, the glorious pas de deux and coda from *Raymonda*, an exciting *World Premiere* film by award-winning filmmaker, Walter Yamazaki, and the spellbinding *Carnival of the Imagination* by Robert Dekkers.

Show Information:

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