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## BalletMet Red Hot in Cool Show

*BalletMet breaks it down with innovative works last seen in New York City*

**COLUMBUS, OH**—Beat the chill of the season with hot works from BalletMet Columbus in *Cool Nights, Hot Dance*, Nov. 7-15 in the intimate BalletMet Performance Space, 322 Mt. Vernon Ave. The show features two works that wowed New York City audiences during BalletMet’s fall engagement at the prestigious Joyce Theater.

Darrell Grand Moultrie’s *¡Square Off!* and Stanton Welch’s *Play*—were critically acclaimed during BalletMet’s performance at the Joyce Theater Sept. 30 - Oct. 5. Francis Mason, editor of *Ballet Review* and a dance critic since 1950, called BalletMet’s return to the Big Apple “miraculous...they ought to change their name to Ballet International and go round the world.” During his notable career, Mason worked with ballet pioneer George Balanchine.

### **COOL NIGHTS, HOT DANCE PROGRAM**

#### ***¡SQUARE OFF!* / DARRELL GRAND MOULTRIE**

Darrell Grand Moultrie’s wildly exuberant *¡Square Off!* “delightfully holds together with sheer fun...The Company mix of insouciance and classical reverence is best brought out here,” said ExploreDance.com of its New York debut. *Backstage* calls the work, set to rousing music by Karl Jenkins and Kenji Bunch, “a wonderfully energetic ensemble piece.”

Born and raised in Harlem, Darrell Grand Moultrie earned his bachelor’s degree from the Juilliard School, and received the Martha Hill prize for outstanding achievement and leadership. He is a recipient of the esteemed Princess Grace Award for Choreography and is currently dancing in *Billy Elliot*, a new musical that opened on Broadway this fall.

#### ***PLAY* / STANTON WELCH**

The audience favorite *Play* is set to the pulsating beats of Moby’s Grammy-nominated album of the same name. The work draws from a flurry of everyday movement, meshing hip-hop with modern ballet to suggest chance encounters and spiritual alienation on frenzied urban streets. Of BalletMet’s debut performance at the Joyce Theater in 2004, *The New York Times* said: “Most compelling about Stanton Welch’s *Play*, and indeed about the BalletMet itself, is that...one witnesses an ensemble in which the strength of each and every character stands out, creating a unity within the very chaos suggested by the piece.”

Born and raised in Australia, Stanton Welch was Artistic Associate of BalletMet Columbus and is currently Artistic Director of Houston Ballet since 2003. One of the most sought after choreographers of his generation, he has created works for such companies as Houston Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, and The Australian Ballet.

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dare to be moved.

Welch's *Play* premiered in BalletMet's *Evolution: Mozart to Moby*. Other works Welch choreographed on BalletMet include the world premieres of *Don Quixote* and *Firebird* and the Company premieres of *Maninyas*, *A Time To Dance*, *Blue* and *Orange*. He choreographed *Return* for 2007's *30x30*.

### **OTHELLO / JOHN BUTLER**

This rare restaging of Butler's powerful *pas de trois* *Othello* is funded by the Ohio Arts Council with support from the National Endowment for the Arts American Masterpieces program. *Othello* premiered in 1976 by La Scala Ballet and portrays the dramatic tale of Desdemona, Othello and Iago, exploring timeless themes of love, jealousy and betrayal. Noted Butler repetiteur Lawrence Rhodes traveled to Columbus in August to set *Othello* on the BalletMet Company. During his dance career, Rhodes served as Butler's muse and was his first choice to perform the role of Iago following the La Scala premiere.

John Butler (1918-1993) studied at the Graham School and at the School of American Ballet. He danced with the Martha Graham Dance Company and appeared in musicals and on television. In 1944 he appeared on Broadway dancing the lead role of Dream Curly in Agnes de Mille's *Oklahoma!* ballet. He founded his own company in 1955. He was best known as a choreographer, both prolific and well traveled, and was one of the first dancemakers to marry classical ballet and modern dance. He choreographed for Broadway, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet and more. A noted teacher, Butler counted Lar Lubovitch and Glen Tetley among his pupils.

Repetiteur Lawrence Rhodes studied at the Ballet Russe School and danced with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. In 1960, he became a principal dancer at the Joffrey Ballet. In 1964, Rhodes became a principal dancer with the Harkness Ballet and was voted artistic director four years later. After his role as teacher and chairman of the New York University Dance Department, Rhodes spent a decade as artistic director of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal. Rhodes is now in his sixth season as director of the Juilliard School Dance Division.

### **ROCKABETTY / ADAM HUNDT**

Company dancer Adam Hundt's *Rockabetty* is a charmingly lighthearted series of dances set to classic 1950s Rockabilly tunes and dedicated to the women in Hundt's life: his mother, grandmothers and sister. "Women were queens in that era," Hundt explains. "I wanted to embody and renew that sense of chivalry." The work combines Hundt's contemporary choreographic style with familiar 1950s dances including the Twist and the Stroll. *The Columbus Dispatch* says the pieces "capture the energy and innocence of that era."

Now in his fifth season as a dancer with BalletMet, Dayton native Adam Hundt has choreographed for BalletMet, Ballet Pacifica and DanceWorks Chicago and in 2006 was a fellowship recipient from the Greater Columbus Arts Council's Columbus Choreography Project. He has danced as a member of Ballet Pacifica, American Repertory Ballet, and in 2007, received a Fellowship Initiative Grant from the New York Choreographic Institute.

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### **YELLOW WOOD / WILLIAM SOLEAU**

The poignant *Yellow Wood* is set to the moving piano music of Janacek and uses imagery of autumn to explore themes of destiny. The ballet was inspired by Robert Frost's *The Road Not Taken*, which begins "two roads diverged in a yellow wood and sorry I could not travel both." *Yellow Wood* "offers lovely lyrical moments" says *The Columbus Dispatch*.

William Soleau has created over 70 ballets on companies around the world. As the resident choreographer and principal dancer for Finis Jhung's Chamber Ballet U.S.A. and Dennis Wayne's DANCERS in the 1980's, he established himself as an emerging choreographer. Soleau toured as a dancer to over 30 countries while working with such choreographers as Alvin Ailey, Anthony Tudor and Norman Walker. His works are in the repertoires of The Icelandic Ballet, Ballet de Montreal and the Louisville Ballet, among others. Soleau received the Choo San-Goh Award for Choreography in 2006 and presently serves as Executive Director for the John Butler Foundation, dedicated to preserving and protecting the works of this American Choreographer.

### **SHOWTIMES**

<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
Nov. 7, 8pm Nov. 14, 8pm	Nov. 8, 8pm Nov. 15, 8pm	Nov. 9, 1 & 5:30pm

### **TICKETS**

Tickets are \$30 and are available through balletmet.org, Ticketmaster (614.431.3600, ticketmaster.com) and CAPA (614.469.0939). Tickets for MetPass members are \$15 for select performances. MetPass members and BalletMet Member-Subscribers should contact the BalletMet Box Office (614.229.4848) for tickets. College students with ID can purchase **\$10 Student Rush** performance tickets at the theater beginning two hours prior to showtime. Students age 13-18 can purchase **\$5 High Five** vouchers at any Kroger Ticketmaster location. **Group discounts** are available at 614.229.4848.

### **SPONSOR SUPPORT**

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BalletMet Columbus, renowned for its versatility and innovative repertory, ranks among the nation's 15 largest dance companies, and its Dance Academy ranks among the five largest professional dance-training centers. Since its inception in 1978, BalletMet has added 142 company premieres to its repertoire and produced 117 world premieres. It has also developed DanceReach, a series of educational and outreach programs that serve 40,000 people annually, as well as a scholarship program that provides full tuition for talented minority and underserved youth.

Visit [www.balletmet.org](http://www.balletmet.org) for choreographer interviews about the works.