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## BalletMet Offers Marathon of Movement with **30x30**

*30 choreographers, 30 new works, 30 hours*

**COLUMBUS, OH**—BalletMet Columbus kicks off its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an ambitious event, bringing a diverse group of choreographers from across North America to Columbus for **30x30, August 6-26** at the intimate and casual **BalletMet Performance Space**.

The groundbreaking marathon of movement takes audiences through the creative process with three different experiences: rehearsals, showcases and performances. *30x30* displays the versatility of the BalletMet Company and the vision of 30 extraordinary choreographers.

August 6-10, six choreographers each day will create one new work each. Audiences are invited to bring a lunch and catch a sneak peek during afternoon open rehearsals. At informal showcases each evening, audiences can view the works created that day. At performances August 23-26, audiences will see all 30 new works in one spectacular presentation.

“*30x30* affirms BalletMet’s commitment to new work and our Company dancers’ reputation for versatility,” said BalletMet Artistic Director Gerard Charles. “It is an exploration of choreographic diversity and a great opportunity for all artists involved that will produce unparalleled artistic collaborations.”

*30x30* is partially sponsored by the Greater Columbus Arts Council and presented in association with the Wexner Center for the Arts.

### **CHOREOGRAPHERS**

*30x30* choreographers hail from across the country and Canada, each with a distinctive movement style, from ballet to Broadway to hip-hop. Many have decades of experience; others are emerging in the field, having recently established their own pioneering troupes.

Four BalletMet Company dancers will take the choreographic reigns including Princess Grace award winner **Jimmy Orrante, Justin Gibbs, Dmitri Suslov** and **Adam Hundt**.

- **Across the Map:** Choreographers come from throughout the United States and Canada including New York City, Chicago, St. Louis, Houston and San Francisco. Native countries represented include England, China, Australia and Canada.
- **Styles and Spaces:** Influences include theatre, modern, ballet and hip-hop. The choreographers have worked in film and stage for dance, theatre and mixed media.
- **The Accolades:** Choreographers have won countless awards collectively including a Bessie, several Ruth Page Awards, several Choo-San Goh Awards and three Princess Grace Awards. Five choreographers have been listed in *Dance Magazine’s* ‘25 to Watch,’ an annual list of new and noteworthy artists.

**--More--**

dare to be moved.

Internationally known and respected choreographers participating in the project include:

- **James Kudelka**, one of North America's foremost dance artists. Resident Choreographer and former Artistic Director of The National Ballet of Canada, Kudelka has choreographed more than 70 ballets around the world.
- Acclaimed Australian choreographer **Stanton Welch**, Artistic Director of Houston Ballet. The former BalletMet Artistic Associate created the BalletMet repertory favorite *Play* and full-length works including *Carmina Burana* and *Don Quixote*.
- NEA Choreographer's Fellowship recipient **Nai-Ni Chen**, Artistic Director of a self-titled Company that blends American modern dance with Asian art. Chen served on ambassadorial cultural missions as a traditional dancer in the Republic of China.
- **Victor Quijada**, Artistic Director of Rubberbanddance Group, which explores dance and theatre through a fusion of breakdance, hip-hop and ballet. Quijada was introduced to dance on the streets and later worked with Twyla Tharp and other esteemed artists.

Emerging choreographers taking part in 30x30 include:

- **Alex Ketley**, founder and Artistic Director of The Foundry and former dancer with San Francisco Ballet and Alonzo King's LINES Ballet. His work has received the Choo-San Goh Award and the Princess Grace Award for Choreography.
- **Amy Seiwert**, Company dancer with Smuin Ballet and Director of the contemporary ballet company im-ij-re. She has been named one of '25 to Watch' by *Dance Magazine*.
- **Dominic Walsh**, Artistic Director of the Dominic Walsh Dance Theater, a contemporary ballet company that encourages artistic collaborations.

Additionally, many choreographers have Ohio ties, including two Artistic Directors of northeastern Ohio companies: Verb Ballet's **Hernando Cortez** and GroundWorks Dancetheater's **David Shimotakahara**. In 2005, **Cortez** was voted one of Cleveland's 'Most Interesting People' by *Cleveland Magazine*. **Shimotakahara** performed with and was Rehearsal Assistant for the Ohio Ballet, and his work with GroundWorks was listed in *Dance Magazine's* '25 to Watch.' Two choreographers teach in The Ohio State University Department of Dance: **Melanie Bales** and **Susan Hadley**, former Mark Morris Dance Group dancer and frequent choreographer for BalletMet, among other companies. Also, two choreographers have Cincinnati roots: **Devon Carney** is Ballet Master of the Cincinnati Ballet and **Seiwert** hails from that city.

**CHOREOGRAPHERS: COMPLETE LIST**

Melanie Bales	Susan Hadley	Gina Patterson
Devon Carney	Adam Hougland	Victor Quijada
Nai Ni Chen	Adam Hundt	Amy Seiwert
Ma Cong	Stella Kane	David Shimotakahara
Hernando Cortez	Alex Ketley	William Soleau
Thaddeus Davis	James Kudelka	Dmitri Suslov
Randy Duncan	Graham Lustig	Michael Uthoff
Brian Enos	Molly Lynch	Dominic Walsh
Justin Gibbs	Harrison McEldowney	Stanton Welch
Tom Gold	Jimmy Orrante	(30 <sup>th</sup> TBD)

## **SHOWTIMES**

### **REHEARSALS**

Mon. – Fri., Aug. 6 – 10 | 12 – 1pm

### **SHOWCASES**

Mon. – Fri., Aug. 6 – 10 | 5:30 – 6:30pm

### **PERFORMANCES**

Thurs., Aug. 23 | 7:30pm

Fri., Aug. 24 | 8pm

Sat., Aug. 25 | 8pm

Sun., Aug. 26 | 2pm\* and 7pm

*\*Free audio description available for this performance. Reservations required at 614.229.4848.*

## **TICKETS**

**Rehearsals:** Free | **Showcases:** \$10, single showcase | **Performances:** \$25, single performance  
**Passport** (includes all rehearsals, showcases and one final performance): \$60

*All events feature general admission seating.*

Tickets to 30x30 go on sale July 5 and are available through the BalletMet Box Office (614.229.4848), [www.balletmet.org](http://www.balletmet.org), CAPA (614.469.0939) or Ticketmaster (614.431.3600). Group discounts available through BalletMet (614.229.4848). Students with ID can purchase \$10 Student Rush 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.

## **SPONSOR SUPPORT**

BalletMet Columbus receives support for its annual performance season from The Columbus Foundation, the Greater Columbus Arts Council, the Ohio Arts Council, Classical 89.7 WOSU-FM, NBC 4, Time Warner Cable and Pepsi. 30x30 is partially sponsored by the Greater Columbus Arts Council and presented in association with the Wexner Center for the Arts.

With an annual budget of \$5 million, BalletMet Columbus 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 102 company premieres to its repertoire and produced 79 world premieres. It has also developed DanceReach, a series of educational and outreach programs that serve 40,000 people annually, as well as a Community Outreach Scholarship program that provides full tuition for talented minority and underserved youth.

**For tickets, call 614.229.4848.**

**For choreographer biographies, visit [www.balletmet.org](http://www.balletmet.org).**

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