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Play Ball(et) With Sports Spectacular!

BalletMet salutes America's favorite pastimes in a production that's fun for the whole family

Note: Sports Spectacular at-a-glance Fact Sheet located on final page of this release

COLUMBUS, OH—While the Buckeyes pack the Horseshoe with scarlet and gray...score a touchdown with the BalletMet Columbus team and its action-packed play on favorite pastimes, *Sports Spectacular*, **October 11-14**, with a home field advantage at the **Capitol Theatre**. Kicking off this season's Family Series, the all-star lineup includes three lively repertory favorites and two world premieres.

Three *Sports Spectacular* choreographers were also featured this August in BalletMet's incredibly successful 30th anniversary event, *30x30*, which sold out every performance and was dubbed "a treasure chest of intriguing, often innovative ballets" by *The Columbus Dispatch's* Barbara Zuck. Their works for *Sports Spectacular* are:

- **Harrison McEldowney's *Dance Sport***, a witty satire on competitive sports and professional dance complete with hilarious play-by-play commentary,
- The Ohio State University Professor **Susan Hadley's *Across the Field (Second Down)*** a reinvented tribute to OSU and American traditions, set to OSU Marching Band favorites including the OSU fight song, and
- A **world premiere** work by **BalletMet Company dancer Adam Hundt** set to a mix of music by **Radiohead**.

Rounding out the bill are:

- ***Badinage***, a playful and athletic piece by former BalletMet Artistic Director **John McFall**, and
- ***Big League Dream***, a **world premiere** work by choreographer **Maria Glimcher**.

Get the entire family in the game with *Sports Spectacular!*

DANCE SPORT-HARRISON MCELLOWNEY

DANCE SPORT is a fun, rollicking satire on competitive sports and the marathon aspects of professional dance. Last performed by BalletMet in 2002, *Dance Sport* comes equipped with athletic uniforms, referees, instant replays, slow motion, and hilarious play-by-play commentary. Two sections added to the original work for BalletMet focus on the style and grace of synchronized swimming and the most popular Olympic sport, curling. *The Chicago Sun-Times* called *Dance Sport* "an irresistible exercise in clowning and technical prowess."

—More—

HARRISON MCELLOWNEY'S works have received much enthusiasm from BalletMet audiences including *Between My Legs* (in 2007's 30x30), *Group Therapy Part Deux*, *Jazz Me*, *Call It Off*, *Group Therapy* and *Dance Sport*. His contributions to BalletMet's *Jazz Moves* thrilled audiences. McEldowney has created works for such companies as Hubbard Street and Louisville Ballet, presented large-scale productions at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics Closing Ceremonies and Carnegie Hall's Celebration of *125 Years of Musical Theatre*, and contributed to the Sam Mendes film *Road to Perdition* and CBS's *Early Edition*. He is the Creative Director for Concentrix Corp, where he creates and directs shows for Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines.

ACROSS THE FIELD (SECOND DOWN)-SUSAN HADLEY

ACROSS THE FIELD (SECOND DOWN), looks at traditions at OSU and in American culture at large. The work celebrates the pluralism, tolerance, and rich diversity that are the greatest strengths of The Ohio State University and of our nation. The spirited work features familiar OSU Marching Band tunes that incite Buckeye Fever including the OSU fight song *Across the Field*, *Carmen Ohio*, *America the Beautiful* and more.

SUSAN HADLEY was a principal dancer with the Mark Morris Dance Group and danced such works as *L'Allegro* and *Mythologies*. She was Rehearsal Director for *White Oak Dance Project*, Mark Morris' *The Office* and *Platee*. Hadley has created for companies including Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Ballet Memphis and OSU Dance and Drums Downtown. Her works with BalletMet include *Fallen* (in 2007's 30x30), *Whodunit?*, *Commonplace*, *Evening Air* and *Trail of Broken Hearts*. A GCAC Artistic Excellence award finalist, Hadley is a Professor in The Ohio State University Dance Department and received the 2002 Colleges of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teaching Award and the 2006 OSU Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching.

BADINAGE-JOHN MCFALL

Premiered on the San Francisco Ballet in 1982, **BADINAGE** is a tongue-in-cheek competition between men and women. The athletic work, which combines modern dance styles and gestures, is set to the powerful music of Igor Stravinsky. Of BalletMet's reprise of *Badinage* in 1990, Barbara Zuck of *The Columbus Dispatch* said the choreography was "taut, direct and witty."

JOHN MCFALL took the helm as BalletMet's second Artistic Director from 1986 to 1994; during his tenure, he added 14 of his own ballets to the repertoire, including *Telia*, *Underbelly* and *Jook*. Before coming to BalletMet, McFall created works for American Ballet Theatre, The National Ballet of Canada, Hubbard Street Dance Company, Atlanta Ballet and the Dance Theatre of Harlem. McFall has led the Atlanta Ballet as Artistic Director for 13 years.

WORLD PREMIERE: BIG LEAGUE DREAM-MARIA GLIMCHER

BIG LEAGUE DREAM chronicles a little boy's dream of becoming a major league baseball player and is set to well-loved music from the inspiring film *Rocky*. Sharing the starring role in the contemporary work are BalletMet dancers Lynorris Evans and James Pierce, III, while students of the BalletMet Dance Academy will also perform.

MARIA GLIMCHER returns with her third work for BalletMet, following *From the Essence of My Being* and *Heart Strings*. Glimcher teaches at The Ohio State University, Otterbein College, and the BalletMet Dance Academy, where she is the Artistic Director of YouthMet. Born in Baku, Azerbaijan and a graduate of the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, Glimcher danced with Syncopated Inc., Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Ballet Hispanico, and Columbus Dance Theatre and was a guest with BalletMet. As well as working with such choreographers as Dwight Rhoden, Donald McKayle and Ron Brown, Glimcher has choreographed for companies including Dayton Contemporary Dance Company II, Columbus Dance Theatre, YouthMet and OSU Drums Downtown.

WORLD PREMIERE: KID A-O.K.-ADAM HUNDT

Adam Hundt's world premiere work *KID A-O.K.* is driven by the compelling lyrics of the English band, Radiohead, whose unique fusion of rock and electronic music has earned global popularity for more than a decade. With a cast of five men and one woman, Hundt's piece examines on several levels the relationships of men with one another and with women. Deeply introspective, the work studies the American culture through the athleticism of dance.

Now in his fourth season with BalletMet, **ADAM HUNDT** has danced with Ballet Pacifica, American Repertory Ballet, and Hubbard Street 2, and as a guest with the Dominic Walsh Dance Theater. A native of Dayton, Hundt has choreographed for Ballet Pacifica and received a fellowship from the Columbus Choreography Project in 2006. In 2007 Hundt received a Fellowship Initiative Grant from the New York Choreographic Institute. He has taught for the Lou Conte Dance Studio, Princeton Ballet School, BalletMet and the International Contemporary Dance Festival. Hundt was a featured choreographer in BalletMet's successful *30x30*.

SIDELINE EXTRAS AT THE THEATRE

MARCHING BAND TUNES | Before every performance and during intermission
Inspire your team spirit with the Ohio Dominican Marching Band live in the theatre.

PLAYBALL (Interactive Games) | Before every performance and during intermission
Enjoy Xbox 360° games in the lobby. Sponsored by Rogue Media.

NBC 4 SPORTS NIGHT | October 11 and 13

Meet NBC 4 sportscasters Jerod Smalley (Oct. 11) and Omar Ruiz (Oct. 13).

POST-PERFORMANCE TALKS | October 11 and 13, following the performance
Dancers and guest artists will discuss behind-the-scenes aspects of *Sports Spectacular*.

October 11: Choreographer and BalletMet Company dancer Adam Hundt

October 13: Choreographer Maria Glimcher and BalletMet Company dancer Lynorris Evans

MASCOT NIGHT AT THE BALLET | October 13, 30 minutes before curtain

Meet and get a picture prior to the performance with favorite team mascots including the Columbus Blue Jackets' Stinger and more!

SIDELINE EXTRA OFF SITE

30TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBIT | October 1-31 | Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery

View stunning and memorable images from BalletMet's 30 years of artistic excellence.

SHOWTIMES & TICKETS

Thursday, October 11 | 7:30pm

Saturday, October 13 | 8pm

Friday, October 12 | 8pm

Sunday, October 14 | 2pm*

Senior Dress Rehearsal (For ballet lovers ages 55 and up): 11am October 11. Tickets are \$13. Senior Dress Rehearsal is sponsored by WMNI.

*Free audio description is available for the 2pm October 14 performance. Reservations are required through BalletMet (614.229.4848).

Tickets are \$25 - \$44 and available through the BalletMet Box Office (614.229.4848), www.balletmet.org, CAPA (614.469.0939) or Ticketmaster (614.431.3600). Group discounts available through BalletMet (614.229.4860x174). MetPass member tickets are \$13 - \$22.50.

College 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. *Sports Spectacular* media partner is CD101. *Sports Spectacular* Senior Dress Rehearsal is sponsored by WMNI.

SPORTS SPECTACULAR AT-A-GLANCE FACT SHEET

- **WHAT:** Play ball with BalletMet Columbus' tribute to America's favorite pastimes. Works include Harrison McEldowney's *Dance Sport*, a witty satire on competitive sports and professional dance, Susan Hadley's rousing tribute to OSU and American traditions, *Across the Field (Second Down)*, and *Badinage*, a playfully athletic piece by former BalletMet Artistic Director John McFall. Rounding out the program is a new work by Maria Glimcher and a world premiere by BalletMet Company dancer Adam Hundt set to the music of Radiohead.
- **WHEN: October 11-14, 2007**
 - Thursday, October 11, 7:30pm; Friday, October 12, 8pm; Saturday, October 13, 8pm; Sunday, October 14, 2pm
 - Free audio description is available for the 2pm October 14 performance. Reservations required through BalletMet, 614.229.4848.
- **WHERE:** Capitol Theatre
- **TICKETS: \$25 - \$44**, available through the BalletMet Box Office (614.229.4848), www.balletmet.org, CAPA (614.469.0939) or Ticketmaster (614.431.3600).
- **SPECIAL PERFORMANCE: Senior Dress Rehearsal** (For ages 55 and up)
 - Thursday, October 11, 11am. Tickets: \$13
- **SIDELINE EXTRAS AT THE THEATRE**
 - **Ohio Dominican Marching Band**
 - Before every performance and during intermission
 - **Playball: Xbox 360° games**
 - Before every performance and during intermission
 - **NBC4 Sportscasters Meet-and-Greet**
 - October 11 (Jerod Smalley) and October 13 (Omar Ruiz)
 - **Mascot Night**
 - October 13, 30 minutes before the performance
 - **Post-Performance Talks**
 - October 11 and 13 following the performance
 - Dancers and guest artists discuss the making of *Sports Spectacular*
- **SIDELINE EXTRA OFF SITE**
 - **30th Anniversary Exhibit**
 - October 1-31, Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery

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 132 company premieres to its repertoire and produced 109 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 more information, call 614.229.4848 or visit www.balletmet.org.