DanceAspen Premieres 2022 Fall Show NEW HORIZONS

With Three New Dancers Joining The Company

Aspen's resident dance company continues to enrich the community with locally based dancers through curations of high-caliber performances

Aspen, CO (Sep. 13, 2022) Dance Aspen's contemporary dance performances of

'New Horizons,' will premiere on September 23 & 24 at 7:30 PM. DanceAspen Executive Director Laurel Jenny Winton states, "As we enter into the next phase of our developing company, we are excited to bring to the valley never before seen works that push the boundaries of the physical and artistic standards of dance today."

NEW HORIZONS

September 23 & 24, 2022

Just over a year after its official debut as a new company, DanceAspen is widening its scope of creative possibilities and looking for new horizons. With three new works by Danielle Rowe, Matthew Gilmore, and Kaya Wolsey, DanceAspen invites you on a journey through the next generation of contemporary dance.

Tickets are $55-$65 for reserved seating on sale at the Wheeler Opera House Box Office (970.920.5770/ aspenshowtix.com). The Wheeler Opera House is located at 320 E. Hyman Ave., Aspen, CO.

WINTER PROGRAM

March 17 & 18, 2023

DanceAspen's 'Winter Program,' will feature world-renowned choreographers, Yin Yue and Penny Saunders presented on March 17 & 18 at 7:30 PM. Join DanceAspen for a thrilling evening of dance with innovative choreography, unmatched athleticism, and emotional artistry. DanceAspen has quickly been established as a fresh voice and champion for new choreography in the dance world. This performance will feature a new creation set on the DanceAspen artists by world-renowned choreographers Yin Yue and Penny Saunders.

NEW DANCERS

Three new artists joined DanceAspen: Aaron Smyth, Blake Krapels, and Marian Faustino.

About DanceAspen
The Vision at Dance Aspen *is to create a thriving resident dance company that cultivates relationships among local artists and other arts organizations through the dedication and collaboration of high-caliber performing arts in Aspen and the greater Roaring Fork Community.*
The Mission at Dance Aspen *is to enrich the Roaring Fork Community through locally based curations of high-caliber dance. Through strengthening the local arts presence, we believe that our community will not only fully embody the cultural identity it has been known for but grow into a uniquely inspiring place to visit and live.*
History: *DanceAspen was founded in 2021. The global pandemic disbanded the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet performing company which had been an integral part of the Aspen community and an impactful presence in the global dance scene for 25 years. This was a major loss not only for the community but also for the artists, so the dancers banded together to fill the void left behind and create a new company. From here, DanceAspen was formed. In just a few short months after its inception, DanceAspen held its inaugural performance at the Wheeler Opera House on September 17, 2021. The show was a smashing success: The Pieces Fall sold out. This diverse show consisted of seven pieces created by choreographers from around the globe and highlighted the dancers' exquisite technique and powerful artistry. The story of DanceAspen quickly made its way through the dance world, inspiring choreographers to donate their pieces to the company to perform. As word got out in Aspen, the community support began to grow and DanceAspen was able to begin fundraising to pay the dancers and administrators for their time, talent, and efforts in putting together this fantastic show. One year later, the company performed at Vail Dance Festival. For more information about DanceAspen, visit www.danceaspen.org*

Images here: https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/C4wbZojpl0

New Horizons Program (Photo caption: DanceAspen Artist: Madeleine Scott. Photo: Wendy Wetmore)

Winter Program (Photo caption: DanceAspen Artists: Anthony Tiedeman and Kaya Wolsey.

Photo: Wendy Wetmore)

=====

Media Contact:

Lea Tucker, 303-641-4370, lea@lucyleatucker.net

For more information about DanceAspen, visit www.danceaspen.org

###

Spotlight: Aaron Smyth, Aspen Australian connection:

At 17, Aaron Smyth left his home in Australia to chase his dream to be a professional ballet dancer. Since then, he has been a company member with the American Ballet Theatre II In New York, The Royal Ballet in London (where he created a role in a collaboration with the National Gallery), and The Joffrey Ballet in Chicago as well as being an original cast member in London's West End production of An American In Paris has danced for royalty, the Obamas, and many other arts patrons as he travels the globe as a guest principal artist. He is also featured in the Netflix documentary First Position. He won the Gold Medal and audience choice award at the prestigious Genee International Ballet Competition and has won 5 X medals at other International Ballet Competitions. He recently received the Special Jury prize for Best Performer at the Shanghai International Ballet Competition. He is the founding director of his company Dance For Humanity. Also, he danced with Misty Copeland in the Disney film The Nutcracker and the Four Realms. Smyth recently finished performing in Billy Elliot the Musical as Older Billy in the 10th-anniversary tour of Australia.

Laurel Winton, executive director of Dance Aspen, speaks about her new colleague, Aaron Smyth: "In addition to his incredible talent, he has a unique entrepreneurial brain and a playful demeanor. I felt he was a good fit for the 'big dream' group that we are."

Aaron Smyth:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1nTUWBraP4&feature=youtu.be

https://www.thewonderfulworldofdance.com/aaron-smyth-disney-nutcracker-four-realms

https://goldcoastbeachparade.com.au/aaron-smyth/

Marian Faustino and Blake Krapels are the other two new dancers. According to Winton, "Both Marian and Blake are extremely talented and a joy to have in the studio."

Blake Krapels, a 2011 United States Presidential Scholar in the Arts, trained in New Jersey under the tutelage of Billy Larson and Jamie Salmon. In 2015 Blake graduated with a BFA in Dance from The Juilliard School, where he performed repertoire by William Forsythe, Merce Cunningham, Elliot Feld, Jose Limon, and Peter Chu. In addition to his core training, Blake participated in Summer Intensives at Nederlands Dans Theatre (2014 and 2016) and Springboard Danse Montreal (2013). After graduation, Blake danced with The Metropolitan

Opera, Keigwin & Company, GroundWorks Dance Theatre, Emery LeCrone Dance, Konverjdans, and most recently Ballet X (a contemporary dance company in Philadelphia.)

Marian Faustino received her formal dance training in the Philippines with the country's two premier dance companies: Ballet Manila and Ballet Philippines. As a student and later as a company artist, she toured with companies across the Philippines, Southeast Asia, Russia, and the United States. In 2012, Marian joined Ballet Nouveau Colorado and shortly became a pioneering member of the collaborative contemporary ballet company, Wonderbound. Throughout her career, Marian has had the honor of dancing works by Sidra Bell, Alvin Ailey, Ma Cong, Alan Hineline, Kevin Jenkins, Jayne Persch, Maurya Kerr, Tony Fabella, & Agnes Locsin. She has performed with The Lyric Opera of Chicago, Malashock Dance San Diego, The Lyric Opera of Kansas City. An experienced and dedicated dance educator, Marian graduated magna cum laude from the University of the Philippines with a Bachelor of Science in Child Development, holds certification in Progressing Ballet Technique, and Discover Dance Education for Preschool Age Children. She has also recently completed her 200-hour Yoga Teacher Training and the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet Teacher Training Program.