



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Editors: Images are available upon request.

**Aspen Santa Fe Ballet makes a rare Philadelphia appearance with
three Philadelphia Premieres
for NextMove Dance, May 3-7**

(Philadelphia, PA) Aspen Santa Fe Ballet (ASFB) wraps up the 2016-2017 NextMove season with three Philadelphia premieres showcasing the Company's technical prowess and range of moods and styles, May 3-7, Prince Theater, 1412 Chestnut Street. The Company's newest commissioned work is *Eudaemonia* by Cherice Barton, choreographer for Broadway's *Spiderman: Turn Off the Dark* and *America's Got Talent*. The program also includes two works by Spanish-born choreographers Cayetano Soto's *Huma Rojo* (2016) and Alejandro Cerrudo's *Silent Ghost* (2015). Under the artistic direction of Tom Mossbrucker, ASFB, a contemporary ballet company, mixes American athleticism with European sophistication.

Performances take place Wednesday, May 3 at 7:30pm; Thursday, May 4 at 7:30pm; Friday, May 5 at 8:00pm; Saturday, May 6 at 2:00pm and 8:00 pm; and Sunday, May 7 at 3:00pm. Tickets are \$20–\$60 and can be purchased in person at the Prince Theater box office, by phone 215-422-4580 or online at <http://princetheater.org/next-move>.

Eudaemonia (translates from Greek as "happiness") is Canadian choreographer Cherice Barton's first work created for the Company. Set to music by Nick Cave & Warren Ellis, Jimmy Durante, Michael Jurin, Chronomad, Diana Kazakova and David Darling, the dance explores, through a series of vignettes, one's search for happiness by examining issues such as self-love, self-worth, forgiveness, perfectionism, and motherhood. The main character, danced by the Pete Leo Walker, represents the very idea of happiness.

Alejandro Cerrudo's *Silent Ghost* set to ambient music by Dustin Hamman, King Creosote & Jon Hopkins, Ólafur Arnalds, and Nils Frahm, reflects on tenderness, memories and loss. Filled with powerful imagery, this full ensemble work is Madrid-born Cerrudo's second work for ASFB. "They (the dancers) are open to anything. And that is a valuable thing. It takes the pressure off the choreographer and encourages you to go for it, to try new things, to not play it safe," Cerrudo notes."

The program closes with the flamboyant and humorous *Huma Rojo* (meaning “red smoke”) by Barcelona-born choreographer Cayetano Soto. Named for the central character in the Spanish film, *All About My Mother*, and set to a medley of Latin retro beat songs by Ray Barretto, Nat “King” Cole, Xavier Cugat and His Orchestra, Abbe Lane, and Pérez Prado and His Orchestra, it features the company in flaming red pants and shirts designed by Kim Laursen. The movement, with undercurrents of classical technique, is playful and based in part on Latin American social dances while reflecting Soto’s sublime wit.

In addition to the six performances, the company will conduct outreach activities. These include a Student Discovery Matinee, Friday, May 5 at 10:30am, a master class, Friday, May 5 at 1pm, and post-performance chats after the Thursday 7:30pm and Saturday 2pm performances.

About Aspen Santa Fe Ballet

In 1996, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet Founder Bebe Schweppe invited Tom Mossbrucker and Jean-Philippe Malaty to create a ballet company in Aspen. In 2000, the company forged a dual relationship with Santa Fe, New Mexico diversifying and broadening its scope. ASFB’s mission places highest priority on developing new choreography and nurturing relationships with emerging choreographers. The company fostered the early careers of now in-demand global dance makers Nicolo Fonte (nine commissioned Fonte works in the ASFB repertoire), Jorma Elo (three commissioned Elo works), Edwaard Liang, Jacopo Godani, Helen Pickett, Cayetano Soto, and Alejandro Cerrudo. Works by late 20th century masters – William Forsythe, Jiří Kylián, Moses Pendleton, and Twyla Tharp – round out the repertoire. Based in the American West, ASFB now sits at the vanguard of its field, brandishing a strong national reputation. Repeat engagements at the American Dance Festival, Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, Joyce Theater, The Kennedy Center, Saratoga Performing Arts Center, and Wolf Trap testify to the company’s popularity and ability to please audiences. Overseas invitations arrived and ASFB embarked on international tours to Brazil, Canada, France, Greece, Guatemala, Israel, Italy and Russia. Premier funders – National Endowment for the Arts, New England Foundation for the Arts / National Dance Project, Joyce Foundation, Shubert Foundation, Wolf Trap Foundation, Jerome Robbins Foundation and Princess Grace Foundation – have supported ASFB’s growth.

NEXTMOVE DANCE

Artistic Director Randy Swartz created the first annual dance series in Philadelphia at the Walnut Street Theatre in 1970. In 1983, he launched the Dance Celebration series at the Annenberg Center for a 32-year run and initiated a new annual series at the Prince Theater in October 2015. NextMove Dance is recognized as one of the nation’s finest dance presenters. Known internationally for award-winning presentations for more than three decades, NextMove Dance provides a wealth of opportunities for the Delaware Valley community to interact with the artists through talk-backs, master classes, artistic collaborations, workshops, children’s programs and much more.

The presentation of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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