

Amy Seiwert's Imagery
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For Immediate Release: DANCE

Amy Seiwert's Imagery presents
SKETCH 2: The Women Choreographers
World premieres by Amy Seiwert, Julia Adam and Gina Patterson
August 2,3, & 4 2012 8pm
ODC Theater
Tickets: \$20-\$25

How does a 500-year-old artistic language sustain and develop a relevant voice for today? For an art to evolve, it must be practiced continuously. Choreographers need the opportunity to create work in an environment that encourages risk and innovation. SKETCH creates that fertile, intensely creative environment. On August 2, 3, & 4, ODC Theater will become the sight of the final performances of a month long investigation in the process, and the glass ceiling in ballet. While there is not prescribed agenda regarding what the dances will "be about", there is no question what the process is about...women in ballet. Amy Seiwert's Imagery is commissioning some of the countries most talented and gifted dancers and choreographers to come together, collaborate, and investigate ballet in an environment where habitual reactions are discouraged. Risk, challenge, and questioning will be at the forefront of what is the evolution this artform, keeping ballet relevant in today's artistic landscape.

The lack of female ballet choreographers in a field where most of the participants are women is an odd phenomenon, and SKETCH 2 is a perfect vehicle for addressing this lack of opportunity within the field. The titles of the articles written on the topic say much, for example the *New York Times* article by Claudia La Rocco, "Often on Point but Rarely in Charge," or Evan Namerow's response to New York City Ballet's *Architecture of Dance* Festival - "Architecture of Ballet: Men on Top, Women on Stage" in the dancingperfectlyfree.com blog. The suspected reasons for this trend are many, and though suspected reasons can be debated, Ms. La Rocco states a simple truth in her article, "...as women have flourished as artistic leaders in modern dance (albeit with some struggles), ballet has lagged behind." Seiwert, Adam and Patterson were professional ballet dancers, and all three danced well into their 30s. All were training seriously by age 12 and came of age in an environment with few women in leadership positions. Imagery is dealing with this bias the best way we know how – creating opportunity.

Amy Seiwert, Artistic Director and Principal Choreographer of Imagery

Her collaborations with artists of other disciplines and commitment to experimental work from a classical base make her a unique voice in the Bay Area dance community. Rita Felciano, SF Bay Guardian, "She quite possibly is the Bay Area's most original dance thinker, taking what some consider a dead language and using it as a 21st century lingo

to tell us something about who we are." Awards include "25 to Watch" by Dance Magazine; "Hot 20 under 40" by 7x7 Magazine; "Goldie" Award, SF Bay Guardian; "Top 10" dance events of the year by the SF Chronicle in 2007 and 2010. She has participated in the NY Choreography Institute at the invitation of Peter Martins. Commissions include: Imagery, Ballet Austin, Ballet Met, Atlanta, Smuin, Sacramento, Colorado, Louisville, American Repertory Ballets and Robert Moses KIN.

Julia Adam, Choreographer

Ms. Adam has danced with the National Ballet of Canada before joining San Francisco Ballet. As a principal dancer, she performed a wide range of lead roles, retiring from dancing in 2002 to focus on choreography. She currently serves as Artistic Associate for Ballet Memphis and her commissions include SF Ballet, Houston Ballet, Alberta Ballet, ABT Studio Company, Atlanta Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theatre, and Danish Summer Festival in Copenhagen. She received an Isadora Duncan Award in 1996 for her ballet, 13 Lullabies.

Gina Patterson, Choreographer

Ms. Patterson has been hailed as a choreographer of "startling originality" (Back Stage) and "a standout on the soulful front" (Sun-Sentinel). A former principal dancer with Ballet Austin, Ms. Patterson has won the Choo San Goh Award, B. Iden Payne Award, Hubbard Street 2 National Choreographic Competition and has been a participant in the National Choreographic Initiative. She has created works for her own Austin based company, VOICE, as well as Richmond Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, Compania de Danza Siglo XXI, Ballet Austin, BalletMet, and DanceWorks Chicago.

Dancers:

Jamielyn Duggan: Oakland Ballet, San Francisco Opera Ballet

Sarah Cecilia Bukowski: Oakland Ballet, Dance Theater of Harlem

Peng-Yu Chen: Atlanta Ballet

Rachel Furst: LINES Ballet BFA scholar

Brandon "Private" Freeman: ODC, Oakland Ballet

Weston Krukow: University of Arizona Dance Department

Ben Needham-Wood: Louisville Ballet

David Barocio: Oklahoma City Ballet

Calendar Listing

Who: Amy Seiwert's Imagery

What: SKETCH 2: The Women Choreographers

When: August 2,3,4 2012 8pm

Where: ODC Theater 3153 17th Street, SF,CA 94110

How Much: \$20-\$25

www.asimagery.org