

Amy Seiwert's Imagery  
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**For Immediate Release: Dance**

Amy Seiwert's Imagery

Presents:

## ***SKETCH 3: Expectations***

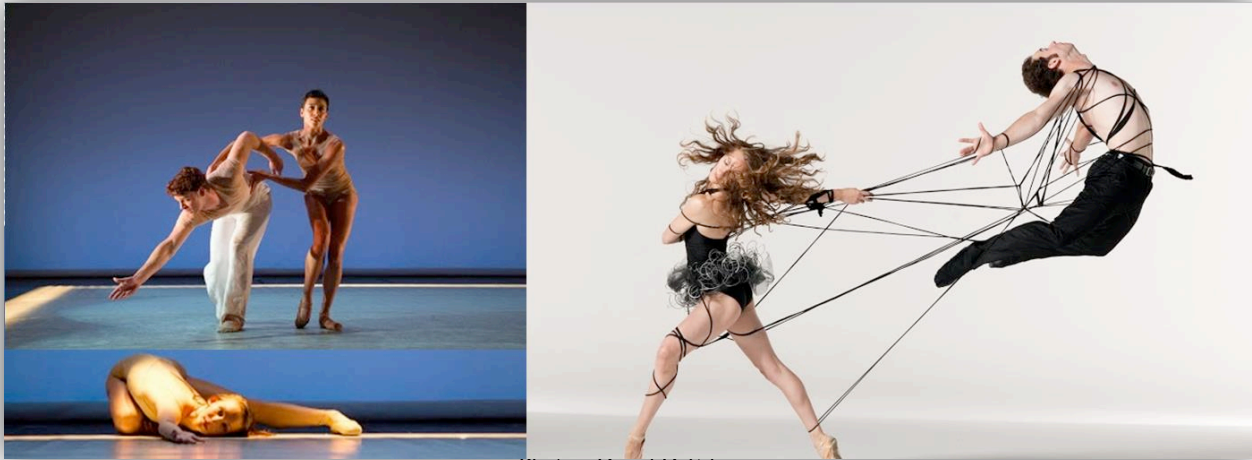
*World Première ballets by: Amy Seiwert, Marc Brew and Val Caniparoli*

July 25-28th

ODC Theater, San Francisco

\$25 in advance

\$30 at the door, \$25 student/senior



Photos: David DeSilva

*“Amy Seiwert calls her Imagery troupe's current engagement at ODC Theater a ‘sketch,’ but there was nothing indecisive or half-baked about the absorbing program that opened to a sellout crowd on Thursday evening.”*

Allan Ulrich's SKETCH 2 review  
San Francisco Chronicle, August 3, 2012

Since 2004, Amy Seiwert's Imagery (ASI) has strived to break preconceptions of what ballet is and can be. For SKETCH 3, we will challenge preconceptions of how ballets are created. *SKETCH 3: Expectations*, is a commissioning project that brings a diverse roster of choreographic innovators into the studio to create new works of contemporary ballet for the company. Now in its third year, the SKETCH series has already gained national media attention, (Dance Magazine, Pointe Magazine) and multiple award nominations.

The purpose of the SKETCH series is to provide a safe environment for risk-taking in

contemporary ballet choreography. The performances take place in intimate theaters, and works-in-progress showings with moderated Q&A's occurring throughout the process. The dancers chosen for this series are incredibly open and generous collaborators, highly invested in the creative process. It is Imagery's hope that by fostering environments that allow choreographers to take chances, we can do our part to further innovation in our art form. This is what SKETCH is about, letting the choreographers "play" in a workshop setting, without any strings attached. Reflecting on her experience in SKETCH, choreographer Julia Adam said "...There are not enough venues like this where artists get to kick back, work hard, discover and remember why we do this!" The SKETCH series continues in 2013 with *SKETCH 3: Expectations*. The world premieres will be presented July 25-28 at the beautifully renovated ODC Theater in the Mission district of San Francisco.

For SKETCH 3, ASI has engaged acclaimed choreographers Marc Brew and Val Caniparoli who, along with the Artistic Director, Amy Seiwert, will create a new work on the theme of challenging expectations. Both Brew and Caniparoli are dancers celebrating bodies that defy traditional expectations, and choreographers who challenge ballet's traditional parameters. Brew trained as a classical ballet dancer and experienced a horrific car accident at age 20 that left him paralyzed. Determined to continue his career in dance, his work is influenced by his experience as a dancer using a wheelchair. As a choreographer he strives to redefine expectations of physicality for both performers and audiences. Caniparoli, at age 61, has made a 30-year contribution to choreography in classical ballet that is international in scope and still growing, and he is also still performing, almost 40 years into his tenure with San Francisco Ballet. He will turn to true-life stories of inspiration through physical challenge as a genesis for his work in SKETCH. Seiwert is currently working on a commission with AXIS Dance, a Bay Area company of dancers of mixed abilities, and this experience has expanded her methods of creating; she is eager to reinvestigate the roots of her own vocabulary using this information with her own dancers.

### **About Artistic Director and Founder, Amy Seiwert**

A native of Cincinnati, Seiwert moved to San Francisco in 1999, the same year she won the Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur Choreography Competition in Quebec. A former dancer with Smuin and Sacramento Ballets, she is currently Choreographer in Residence for Smuin Ballet, where she had the honor of working with her mentor Michael Smuin for 8 years. Named one of "25 to Watch" by Dance Magazine in 2005, and has twice been invited to participate in the New York Choreography Institute by Peter Martins and had the opportunity to create on dancers from New York City Ballet.

Seiwert's choreographies have been commissioned by, and appear in the repertoires of: Smuin Ballet, Sacramento Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, Colorado Ballet, Oakland Ballet, Louisville Ballet, American Repertory Ballet, Carolina Ballet, Ballet Nouveau, Robert Moses' KIN, Ballet Austin, Cincinnati Ballet and Ballet Met.

Artistic Director Amy Seiwert is widely regarded as one of the most exciting ballet choreographers working today. Since founding ASI in 2004, Seiwert has premiered 15 new

works, garnering high praise in the media. In 2005 Allan Ulrich wrote in Voice of Dance, “More than any other independent choreographer in the Bay Area, [Seiwert] is exploring the language of classicism with an almost religious belief in its eloquence, power, and possibilities.” Over the years, ASI has worked with outstanding collaborators, including software artist Frieder Weiss; spoken word innovator Marc Bamuthi Joseph; lighting designers Heather Bassarab, Brian Jones, and Matthew Antaky; costume designers Jamielyn Duggan, Cassandra Carpenter, Mario Alonzo, and Christine Darch; composers Darren Johnston, Peter D’Elia, Ramon & Jessica, and Mason Bates; and musicians Rob Reich and Devin Hoff. The company has been presented several times on the WestWave Festival, and also tours extensively, including engagements at the McCullum Theater in Palm Desert, Contemporary Dance Theater’s season in Cincinnati, the Dancers Over 40 / Broadway Cares Benefit at the Ailey Citicorp Theater in New York City, and at the Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur in Quebec.

### **About Guest Choreographer Marc Brew**

**Marc Brew** has been working in the UK and Internationally for the past 16 years as a dancer, choreographer and teacher; with the Australian Ballet Company, the State Theatre Ballet Company of South Africa, Infinity Dance Theatre in New York and for 5 years up until early 2008 with CandoCo Dance Company. He was Associate Director Fellow with Scottish Dance Theatre, where he co-directed NQR and was a guest performer and media spokesperson for the London Hand Over Ceremony for the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games Closing Ceremony. Since 2001 Marc has been dedicating time to his own choreography with Marc Brew Company.

As a choreographer Marc seeks to challenge and be challenged. Providing the dancers with a new vocabulary that enhances their creativity, he tries to redefine expectations of physicality for both performers and audiences. His work is renowned for its tender, precise choreographic material that exemplifies the beauty of the moments shared between people, revealing the unusual and the inspiring in the everyday and the mundane.

Marc was the Victorian Arts Award Winner for the Young Australian of the Year Awards 2001 and received the Fringe Performance Award for Best Original Solo Work at the 2002 Melbourne Fringe Festival. In 2003 he was a recipient of the Shine On Award from Rotary International and received a Centenary Medal of Australia for outstanding service as a dancer and choreographer. Marc attended DanceEast’s international Rural Retreat for future leaders in January, 2008 and subsequently received a bursary for a placement with Scottish Dance Theatre through the Cultural Leadership Programme. Most recently Marc was featured by Time Out Magazine as the best of the new breed of London’s Rising Dance Talent.

Specialties: Recent works have included commissions by Axis Dance Company, DadaFest International, Velcro Dance Company, Candoco Dance Company, Scottish Dance Theatre, Without Walls Consortium, Greenwich and Docklands International Festival, Liberty Festival at Trafalgar Square, East London Dance for The Big Chair Dance as part of Big Dance, LCDS and InTransit Festival. Marc has choreographed for the British Fashion Awards 2009 National

Theatre of Scotland, Dundee Rep Theatre and Graeae Theatre Company.

### **About Guest Choreographer Val Caniparoli**

Val Caniparoli's versatility has made him one of the most sought after American choreographers in the United States and abroad. He has contributed to the repertoires of more than forty-five dance companies, including Scottish Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, Pacific Ballet, Ballet West (Resident Choreographer 1993-97), Richmond Ballet, Washington Ballet, Israel Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Singapore Dance Theatre, Atlanta Ballet, Sate Theatre Ballet of South Africa, Louisville Ballet and Tulsa Ballet (Resident Choreographer 2001-06). When in Boston Ballet danced the company premiere of Caniparoli's full-length *Lady of the Camellias* in 2004, the critic for the *Boston Herald* wrote, "Why have we had to wait so long to see a ballet by this very gifted choreographer?"

Caniparoli is most closely associated with San Francisco Ballet, his artistic home for over thirty years. He began his career under the artistic directorship of Lew Christensen, and in the 1980s was appointed resident choreographer of San Francisco Ballet. He continues to choreograph for the company under Artistic Director Helgi Thomason.

The recipient of ten grants for choreography from the National Endowment for the Arts, Caniparoli was also awarded an artist fellowship from the California Arts Council in 1991. He has twice received the Choo-San Goh Award from the Choo-San Goh and H. Robert Magee Foundation: in 1994 for *Lambarena*, choreographed for San Francisco Ballet, and in 1997 for *Open Veins*, created for Atlanta Ballet. *Lambarena* was also nominated for the *Benois de la Danse* Award from the International Dance Association at the gala at the National Theater of Warsaw, Poland in 1997. Dance Bay Area acknowledged Caniparoli's contributions to the local dance scene with an Isadora Duncan Award (or Izzie) for Sustained Achievement in 1996. In addition, he has twice won Izzies for Outstanding Choreography. He was also honored to have been selected to choreograph a pas de deux for Evelyn Hart and Rex Harrington for the Royal Jubilee Gala for Queen Elizabeth in Toronto.

Born in Renton, Washington, Caniparoli opted for a professional dance career after studying music and theatre at Washington State University. In 1972, he received a Ford Foundation Scholarship to attend San Francisco Ballet in 1973. He continues to perform with the company as a principal character dancer.

### **Amy Seiwert's Imagery Dancers:**

Annali Rose ~ Ballet San Jose, Trey McIntyre Project

Brandon "Private" Freeman ~ ODC/Dance, Wonderbound

Rachel Furst ~ LINES BFA Scholar

James Gilmer ~ Cincinnati Ballet

Sarah Cecilia Griffin ~ Oakland Ballet, Dance Theater of Harlem Ensemble

Weston Krukow ~ Arizona University BFA Scholar

Ben Needham-Wood ~ Louisville Ballet

Katherine Wells ~ Robert Moses' KIN, Lar Lubovitch Dance Company

### **About Amy Seiwert's Imagery**

Amy Seiwert's Imagery, a San Francisco-based contemporary ballet company, believes that ballet is an expressive and vital voice relevant to our times. ASI's artists share the belief that through collaboration and experimentation, vibrant and courageous ideas are expressed. Habitual reactions are discouraged.

ASI's mission is to expand the definition of ballet by exploding preconceptions of what ballet is and can be. Focused on the intersection of genres, its aesthetic defies classification and reflects a commitment to create and present work of excellence & influence. Constituencies are: 1) contemporary artists whose careers are enhanced through this artistic process, 2) dance audiences who have come to expect surprising, meticulous & memorable work.

### **Calendar Listing:**

**Who:** Amy Seiwert's Imagery

**What:** SKETCH 3: Expectations

**Where:** ODC Theater, 3153 17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110

Box Office: 415-863-9834

**When:** July 25-28

Thursday-Saturday 8pm, Sunday 7pm

**How Much:** \$25 in advance

\$30 at the door, \$25 student/senior

Group packages available

### **Link to images:**

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