

For Immediate Release

Media Contact  
Shannon Atlas  
415.203.4363  
Shannon\_atlas@mac.com

**AMY SEIWERT'S IMAGERY PRESENTS SKETCH 8: ORIGIN STORIES  
FEATURING WORLD PREMIERES BY  
JENNIFER ARCHIBALD, GABRIELLE LAMB & AMY SEIWERT**

*June 28-30  
ODC Theater*



*Photo credit: Dancer James Gilmer. Photo by Patrick Stull*

SAN FRANCISCO, February 27, 2018 – **Amy Seiwert's Imagery**, a contemporary ballet company, presents the **eighth annual SKETCH series June 28-30, ODC Theater**.

In this year's SKETCH, Imagery commissions new ballets by three female choreographers including:

- Jennifer Archibald, a NYC-based African American dancer and choreographer is the first female Resident Choreographer in Cincinnati Ballet's 40-year history, and is currently the Founder/Artistic Director of the Arch Dance Company. Archibald's works have been performed at venues including: New York's City Center, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, and Jacob's Pillow.

- Gabrielle Lamb, a NYC-based dancer and choreographer is the winner of a 2014 Princess Grace Award for Choreography and the Founder/Artistic Director for Pigeonwing Dance, NYC. Ms. Lamb danced for Morphoses under the direction of Christopher Wheeldon.
- Amy Seiwert, Artistic Director of Amy Seiwert's Imagery

Each choreographer will self-identify a creative risk they want to tackle, with the goal of breaking habits. The dance makers will center their work on the theme of Origin Stories. Both Gabrielle Lamb and Jennifer Archibald will make their Bay Area Debut.

Artistic Director Amy Seiwert says: "Imagery's mission is to challenge preconceptions of what ballet is and can be. That manifests not only in the work we present but also in our company's culture. Ballet dancers are not empty vessels solely meant to reveal a choreographer's' vision; instead, they are partners."

Seiwert continues: "We strive to change the conversation of who creates ballets and how ballets are created. Outside of original works by myself, Imagery has commissioned nine premieres: five of those have been by women, and one by a disabled choreographer. There is much discussion about the lack of female ballet based choreographers, and when you add women of color into that mix, the situation is even more disheartening."

Amy Seiwert's Imagery dancers performing in this year's SKETCH series include: Cory Betts (Eugene Ballet), Sarah Cecilia (Deborah Slater Dance Theater Summer Residency 2017), Alysia Chang (Oakland Ballet), Beth Maslinoff (Eugene Ballet), and Kelsey McFalls (Dance Theatre of San Francisco).

SKETCH 8 | Origin Stories is co-presented by ODC and supported in part by the Rainin Opportunity Fund at ODC, Zaccho Studio's Residency Program, San Francisco Grants for the Arts, Zellerbach Family Foundation, Fleishhacker Foundation, and the Lighting Artists in Dance Award, a program of Dancers' Group.

## CALENDAR LISTING

*Amy Seiwert's Imagery presents the eighth year of its SKETCH series, featuring new ballets by Jennifer Archibald, Gabrielle Lamb and Amy Seiwert.*

**WHO:** Amy Seiwert's Imagery, the San Francisco-based contemporary ballet company

**WHAT:** **SKETCH 8 | ORIGIN STORIES** featuring new ballets by three female choreographers: Jennifer Archibald, Gabrielle Lamb and Amy Seiwert.

**WHEN:** **Thursday, June 28, Friday, June 29 and Saturday, June 30.**

## **All performances at 8 pm**

**WHERE:** ODC Theater, 3153 17<sup>th</sup> Street, San Francisco 94110

**TICKETS:** <http://asimagery.org> \$20-\$50

For more information about Amy Seiwert's Imagery and the SKETCH series visit <http://asimagery.org/>

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

Amy Seiwert enjoyed a nineteen-year performing career dancing with the Smuin, LA Chamber and Sacramento Ballets.

As a dancer with Smuin Ballet she became involved with the "Protégé Program" where her choreography was mentored by the late Michael Smuin, and became Choreographer in Residence there upon her retirement from dancing in 2008. Named one of "25 to Watch" by Dance Magazine, her first full evening of choreography was named one of the "Top 10" dance events of 2007 by the SF Chronicle.

Twice she has worked with dancers from New York City Ballet, participating in the NY Choreography Institute. Collaborations include works with visual designers Marc Morozumi and Matthew Antaky, composers Daniel Bernard Roumain and Mason Bates, media designer Frieder Weiss and spoken-word artist Marc Bamuthi Joseph.

She is honored to have been an Artist in Residence at ODC Theater from 2013-15 and to have works in the repertory of Ballet Austin, BalletMet, Smuin, Washington, Atlanta, Oakland, Sacramento, Colorado, Louisville, Cincinnati, Carolina, Oklahoma City, Dayton, Milwaukee and American Repertory Ballets as well as AXIS Dance and Robert Moses KIN.

Amy Seiwert's Imagery, a contemporary ballet company in San Francisco, believes that ballet is an expressive and vital voice relevant to our times. Imagery's artists share the belief that through collaboration and experimentation, vibrant and courageous ideas are expressed. Habitual reactions are discouraged. Imagery's mission is to expand the definition of ballet by exploding preconceptions of what ballet is and can be.

In July 2018, Seiwert begins her appointment as Artistic Director of Sacramento Ballet.

### **About The SKETCH Series**

The SKETCH series began the summer of 2011 with SKETCH: New Works. Performed at Z Space, SKETCH brought together four choreographers and eight dancers in an incredibly intense but amazingly fertile environment. SKETCH has offered world premieres created by acclaimed choreographers Julia Adam, Marc Brew, Val Caniparoli, Adam Hougland, Matthew Neenan, Gina Patterson, Susan Roemer, KT Nelson, Nicole Haskins and Seiwert.

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&As 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.

# # #