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# MILWAUKEE BALLET

MICHAEL PINK, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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## MILWAUKEE BALLET PRESENTS A POWERFUL TRIPLE-BILL WITH *ORIGINALS*

- *Contemporary ballet returns to The Pabst Theater February 9-12 as*

*Timothy O'Donnell stages final work as Resident Choreographer -*

**Milwaukee, WI – January 19, 2023** – Milwaukee Ballet kicks off the second half of its 2022/23 *Season of Timeless Tales* with a contemporary program that includes two world premieres, an original score, and the revival of an audience favorite.

***Originals* runs February 9-12** and marks Milwaukee Ballet's much-anticipated return to The Pabst Theater for the first time in three years. The program features work by three acclaimed and award-winning choreographers, each of whom is a past winner of the Company's acclaimed biennial *Genesis Choreographic Competition*.

"The three choreographers joining us for *Originals* each has a distinctive style of exploring themes and inspirations," explained Artistic Director Michael Pink. "Their very different works will showcase our dancers' amazing talents, from fierce athleticism to powerful emotional expression."

Winner of Milwaukee Ballet's 2022 *Genesis Choreographic Competition*, **Price Suddarth**, returns to stage a new work that interprets internal tension and conflict, alongside a hauntingly beautiful original score by Alfonso Peduto. Internationally celebrated choreographer and 2007 *Genesis* winner **Nelly van Bommel** returns to Milwaukee to restage *Gelem, Gelem*, which premiered at The Pabst Theater in 2008. **Timothy O'Donnell** explores the teenage experience in a new piece set to the cult favorite music of Radiohead, in what will be his final work before leaving his role as Milwaukee Ballet Resident Choreographer.

"Tim is one of the most talented artists I have had the privilege to work with. There seems no end to his artistic abilities. Beyond his obvious talents as a choreographer, he is an accomplished dancer, actor, graphic artist, teacher, and mentor," reflected Pink, "We wish him all the best and hope Milwaukee Ballet will, in some way, continue to be a part of his next adventure."

O'Donnell presents his seventh new work on the Company as he closes on more than a decade of service to Milwaukee Ballet. After winning *Genesis* in 2009 and returning as a guest choreographer the following year, he was invited by Pink to join the Company as a dancer in 2012. Quickly becoming a fan favorite, he danced a variety of roles, including, notably, his portrayal of the title character in *Dorian Gray* and Marcello in *La Bohème*. He retired as a leading artist in 2019. As Resident Choreographer, O'Donnell staged various pieces for Milwaukee Ballet II and Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy, in addition to works he created on the Company.

“It has been my pleasure to perform and create work for this wonderful city over the past 13 years, and while it is time for me to say goodbye to Milwaukee Ballet, I leave with nothing but gratitude,” shared O’Donnell. “Milwaukee Ballet is a shining star in our city’s culture, and I am proud to have been a part of it. I look forward to maintaining a strong artistic connection with the Company and our wonderful dance community in the years to come.”

### **Performance Information**

*Originals* runs February 9-12 at The Pabst Theater. Tickets start at \$44 and are available for purchase via the Milwaukee Ballet Box Office at 414-902-2103 or online at [milwaukeeballet.org](http://milwaukeeballet.org).

The performance schedule is as follows:

- Thursday, February 9, 7:30 PM
- Friday, February 10, 7:30 PM
- Saturday, February 11, 7:30 PM
- Sunday, February 12, 1:30 PM

Milwaukee Ballet’s 2022/2023 *Season of Timeless Tales* is presented by Donald & Donna Baumgartner with support from United Performing Arts Fund, Wisconsin Arts Board, CAMPAC, Milwaukee Arts Board, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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### **About Milwaukee Ballet**

Milwaukee Ballet was founded in 1970. Led by Artistic Director Michael Pink, Milwaukee Ballet creates a rich and diverse community through its inspiring dance performance, education, and outreach. Milwaukee Ballet hosts an international Company of dancers and maintains its own orchestra. Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy is the only professional dance school in the Midwest accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance, teaching beginner through pre-professional levels in three locations: Third Ward, Fox Point, and Brookfield. Milwaukee Ballet’s award-winning Community Engagement department serves nearly 30,000 people in Southeastern Wisconsin each year through original, interactive programs. Milwaukee Ballet is a proud cornerstone member of United Performing Arts Fund and holds a four-star rating from Charity Navigator.

*Note to Editors: Interviews with Milwaukee Ballet Artistic Director Michael Pink and high-resolution images are available upon request.*