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**MILWAUKEE BALLET INVITES PATRONS TO VOTE IN  
GENESIS: INTERNATIONAL CHOREOGRAPHIC COMPETITION**  
*-Artists from Australia, Scotland and Spain will compete for top prize at The Pabst-*

**MILWAUKEE – Jan 9, 2019** – Milwaukee Ballet is pleased to announce the finalists of *Genesis: International Choreographic Competition*. The choreographers include Cass Mortimer Eipper (Australia), Aleix Mane (Spain) and Kenneth Tindall (Scotland). These three will each present a new work at *Genesis*, running Feb 14-17, 2019 at the Pabst Theater. Attendees are encouraged to vote for their favorite piece as a part of their theater-going experience.

Held every other year, *Genesis* is the nation's only choreographic competition to attract interest from international choreographers and allow them to create work on a professional Company. Milwaukee Ballet created the competition to offer up-and-coming choreographers a highly coveted chance to make a leap forward in their careers.

"The *Genesis* competition demonstrates our commitment to presenting innovative new works to excite and engage the next generation of dance lovers, and keep the art form accessible," explains Milwaukee Ballet Artistic Director Michael Pink. "There is always a lot of excitement around the Company and the city when we present *Genesis*. Our subscribers and patrons appreciate the opportunity to experience something new, something happening nowhere else."

Each finalist has built a foundation of success overseas but will make their American debut with *Genesis*. Cass Mortimer Eipper has won choreographic competitions in Australia and Europe, and had his work featured on "So You Think You Can Dance-Australia". Aleix Mane has won numerous awards throughout Europe and the Netherlands. Kenneth Tindall has had his work seen all around Europe, including a recent sold-out run at England's famous Sadler's Wells Theatre.

Audience members will join a panel of judges to vote for their favorite piece. This season's judges are international arts journalist Carla Escoda, Hubbard Street Dance Artistic Liaison Jonathan Emanuell Alsberry and Nashville Ballet Artistic Director & CEO Paul Vasterling.

**The Process**

Artistic Director Michael Pink reviewed 46 submissions from around the world and selected three finalists: Cass Mortimer Eipper (Australia), Aleix Mane (Spain) and Kenneth Tindall (Scotland).

Each finalist will arrive and begin their rehearsal process on the same day. First, they will draw the names of Milwaukee Ballet dancers out of a hat to determine their cast (four women and four men).

The choreographer will then have three weeks, a total of 90 rehearsal hours, to create a 20-minute new work, and present it at The Pabst Theater for *Genesis*, Feb. 14-17, 2019.

The winner of *Genesis*, as determined by a panel of high-profile figures in the dance world, will receive a commission to create another original work for Milwaukee Ballet in a future season.

The attendees will also cast a vote for the Audience Choice Award, with the winner receiving a cash prize.

### **Success Stories**

Milwaukee Ballet has a proven record of discovering bright young stars in the dance world through *Genesis*. Past winners and their accomplishments since winning the competition include:

- **John Utans, Australia** (2002) – enjoyed an international career, creating new works throughout the United States, Australia, Hong Kong and Europe.
- **Nelly von Bommel, France** (2007) – founded her own dance company and named one of Dance Magazine’s “25 to Watch”.
- **Timothy O’Donnell, Australia** (2009) – became Milwaukee Ballet resident choreographer.
- **Mauro de Candia, Italy** (2011) – appointed artistic director of Dance Company Theater Osnabrück in Germany.
- **Gabrielle Lamb, USA** (2013) – won a New York City Center Choreography Fellowship and the Princess Grace award for choreography. In 2018, participated in American Ballet Theatre’s first Choreographic Incubator, curated by ABT Principal David Hallberg.
- **Garrett Smith, USA** (2015) – premiered new works at New York City Ballet, Ballet West, Houston Ballet and Odyssey Dance Theater.
- **George Williamson, UK** (2017) – first-ever recipient of the BRB Ballet Now commission, an initiative between Birmingham Royal Ballet and Sadler’s Wells.

### **Tickets and Sponsors**

*Genesis: International Choreographic Competition* runs February 14-17, 2019 at the Pabst Theater, 144 E. Wells Street, Milwaukee. To order call 414-902-2103 or visit [milwaukeeballet.org](http://milwaukeeballet.org). The 2018-19 season is presented by Donna and Donald Baumgartner, with support from the United Performing Arts Fund.

### **About Milwaukee Ballet**

Milwaukee Ballet was founded in 1970. Led by Artistic Director Michael Pink, Milwaukee Ballet transforms lives and connects communities through inspiring performance, community engagement, education and training. Milwaukee Ballet hosts an international company of dancers and is one of the few companies in the nation to maintain 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. Milwaukee Ballet’s award-winning Community Engagement department serves nearly 40,000 people in Southeastern Wisconsin each year through original,

interactive programs. Milwaukee Ballet celebrates its 50th Anniversary next year in the 2019-20 season. In September 2019, Milwaukee Ballet will move its headquarters to a new facility in Milwaukee's Third Ward, the Baumgartner Center for Dance.

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