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MILWAUKEE  
BALLET  
MICHAEL PINK, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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**MILWAUKEE BALLET PRESENTS TWO WORLD PREMIERES IN *PUSH***  
**- The production is set for March 31-April 3 after a two-year postponement -**

**Milwaukee, WI – March 17, 2022** – Milwaukee Ballet will stage a powerful and innovative triple-bill featuring work by three internationally acclaimed and award-winning choreographers. Music and movement take center stage in a program that will include two world premieres and highlight the exceptional talent of Milwaukee’s professional dance Company.

***PUSH* opens March 31 at Marcus Performing Arts Center and will run through April 3.** Originally scheduled for March 2020, the program was postponed and ultimately canceled two weeks before it was set to open due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“After months of rehearsals and preparations, canceling *PUSH* in 2020 was heartbreaking for our dancers, choreographers, and staff, who put tremendous passion and work into every production,” shared Artistic Director Michael Pink. “To finally bring the program to life two years later will be quite emotional and reinvigorating for us all.”

Winner of the 2019 *Genesis Choreographic Competition*, **Aleix Mañé Sáez** presents a world premiere with *SixthBreatH*, a deeply personal piece more than two years in the making. **Alejandro Cerrudo**, Resident Choreographer at Pacific Northwest Ballet, returns to Milwaukee with *Extremely Close*, last staged by the Company in 2012. **Stephanie Martinez** makes her Milwaukee Ballet choreographic debut with *El Maestro*, an energetic and Latin-infused world premiere.

Milwaukee Ballet has a longstanding commitment to presenting new works on its stages and bringing in guest choreographers from around the world. *PUSH* marks the sixth and seventh world premieres on the Company this season, and the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> during Pink’s tenure.

“Our art form has a rich, storied history and foundation in classical ballet, but new works are paramount in our evolution and ability to connect with varied audiences,” explained Pink. “It’s vitally important for us to welcome fresh perspectives and diverse voices, and we are extremely proud to bring world-class choreographers and productions to Milwaukee.”

**Performance Information**

*PUSH* runs March 31-April 3, at Marcus Performing Arts Center. To purchase tickets, call 414-902-2103, or visit [milwaukeeballet.org](http://milwaukeeballet.org).

The performance schedule is as follows:

- Thursday, March 31, 7:30 pm
- Friday, April 1, 7:30 pm
- Saturday, April 2, 7:30 pm
- Sunday, April 3, 1:30 pm

*PUSH* marks the first performance this season for which Milwaukee Ballet and Marcus Performing Arts Center will remove COVID-19 restrictions. Proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test will no longer be required. Mask wearing will be voluntary for patrons.

Milwaukee Ballet's 2021/22 Season of Inspiration is presented by Donald and Donna Baumgartner and United Performing Arts Fund.

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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.*