MILWAUKEE BALLET MICHAEL PINK ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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Milwaukee Ballet to present highlights from its archives in uplifting season finale, *Encore*

Company celebrates its perseverance in program that includes a ballet featuring the music of The Beatles

MILWAUKEE, WIS – May 21, 2021 – Milwaukee Ballet announced the details of its season finale, *Encore,* which will bring scenes from fan favorites back for another moment in the spotlight. This dynamic program of classical and contemporary ballet will run June 3-13 at Baumgartner Center for Dance.

"I envisioned *Encore* as a celebration of all we have accomplished this year, despite the challenges," said Artistic Director Michael Pink. "I hope everyone will join us at the theater to be uplifted and inspired."

The production is led by selections from Trey McIntyre's *A Day in The Life*, a contemporary ballet featuring the incomparable music of The Beatles, and *ExiliO* by Spanish choreographer Aleix Mañé, which won Milwaukee Ballet's international *Genesis* competition in 2019.

Encore also includes scenes from treasured works of the classical ballet canon: *Don Quixote, Giselle,* and *Raymonda*.

"The classical scenes are true show-stoppers, highlighting the technical ability and athleticism of our dancers in exciting, virtuosic choreography. It's a rare treat to see this many revered scenes in one program," said Pink.

Encore is the finale of Milwaukee Ballet's Reimagined Season, following sold-out runs of *To The Pointe* and *Re.Gen*.

In memory of Jimmy Gamonet

Milwaukee Ballet presents *Nous Sommes* in the production to celebrate the life and contributions of its choreographer Jimmy Gamonet, who passed away earlier this year from COVID-19.

"Jimmy was an inspired choreographer and director who worked with Milwaukee Ballet in the late 1990s. His productions of *Carmen* and *Concerto for la Donna* left his distinctive mark in our history. It is

perhaps his beautiful pas de deux, *Nous Sommes*, that he will be remembered by most, which is why I chose this as our tribute to Jimmy," Pink noted.

Gamonet was the founding resident choreographer and ballet master for Miami City Ballet who went on to found his own company, Ballet Gamonet, in 2004. In 2015, he returned to his native country to become the Artistic Director of the Ballet Nacional del Peru.

Health & Safety

Milwaukee Ballet will perform to an audience of approximately 66 patrons per show, which is 33% of capacity of the performance space in its Baumgartner Center for Dance as part of its <u>health and safety</u> <u>protocols</u>, developed by its own committee in consultation with the City of Milwaukee. This capacity allows 6' feet between parties when seated.

All persons in Baumgartner Center for Dance are required to wear a mask at all times, including those who have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19.

The production is one hour with no intermission.

Encore will also be filmed to stream <u>On Demand</u>, thanks in part to support from United Performing Arts Fund Kasey's Fund.

Subject to change based on future guidelines from local health officials and the CDC.

Ticket Information

ENCORE June 3-13 Baumgartner Center for Dance and On Demand 128 N Jackson Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202

Tickets to in-person performances are on sale now. Seating is limited. Interested patrons are encouraged to purchase early to guarantee themselves a seat.

Tickets are only available at milwaukeeballet.org or through the Milwaukee Ballet box office at 414-902-2103. Walk-Up and Day-of-Show sales are not available at this time.

Performance schedule:

Thursday, June 3 | 7:30pm Friday, June 4 | 7:30pm Saturday, June 5 | 4:30pm and 7:30pm Sunday, June 6 | 12:00pm and 3:00pm Wednesday June 9 | 7:30pm Thursday, June 10 | 7:30pm Friday, June 11 | 7:30pm Saturday, June 12 | 4:30pm and 7:30pm Sunday, June 13 | 12:00pm and 3:00pm

Subject to change based on future guidelines from local health officials and the CDC.

Encore will also be available On Demand June 3-13 at milwaukeeballet.org. A VIP Package will be available with bonus footage from rehearsals and interviews with the dancers.

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.

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Note to Editors: Image attached. Interviews with Michael Pink and high-resolution images are available upon request.