Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet Brings Two Unique Programs to UCLA Live’s Royce Hall April 27-28

Featuring West Coast Premieres of New Work from Regina Van Berkel, Alexander Ekman and Crystal Pite

New York’s Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet returns to UCLA Live with two evenings of innovative modern dance, featuring new work from some of today’s most exciting choreographers.

Friday April 27 features the west coast premieres of Regina Van Berkel’s Simply Marvel and Crystal Pite’s Grace Engine, plus the first dance Alexander Ekman created for Cedar Lake, Hubbub.

The Saturday April 28 program includes the west coast premiere of Alexander Ekman’s new piece for Cedar Lake, titled Tuplet. The company also performs Regina Van Berkel’s Simply Marvel, as well as Hofesh Shechter’s second original work for Cedar Lake, Violet Kid.

Tickets are available via Ticketmaster, uclalive.org, or the UCLA Central Ticket Office at 310.825.2101 ($20-50). Performance begins at 8 p.m., doors open at 7 p.m. on both evenings.

Founded in 2003 by Nancy Laurie, Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet has distinguished itself through both its exceptionally talented corps of sixteen dancers and its concurrent emphasis on acquiring and commissioning new works by the world’s most sought-after emerging choreographers. Under the Artistic Direction of Benoit-Swan Pouffer, Cedar Lake offers a wide-ranging repertory, including works by Alexander Ekman, Hofesh Shechter, Crystal Pite, Jacopo Godani, Angelin Preljocaj, Ohad Naharin, Didy Veldman, Jo Strømgren, and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui.

Regina van Berkel was born in The Hague (Holland) and received her ballet training at Nederlands Dans Theater under the direction of Ivan Kramer and at Rotterdamse Dansacademie. Her new work for Cedar Lake, Simply Marvel is set to Paganini variations (with additional music by Theo Verbey) and contrasts sections of great chaos with cautious transformations using poetic duets and trios.

In Grace Engine, Crystal Pite’s latest work for Cedar Lake (Pite’s Ten Duets On A Theme Of Rescue premiered with the company in 2008) the choreographer continues her exploration of the familiar storylines that connect mankind. Pite positions and frames these narrative elements within her choreographic language. Vancouver-based choreographer and performer Crystal Pite is a former...
company member of Ballet British Columbia and Ballett Frankfurt. In 2001, she formed her own company, Kidd Pivot, and continues to create and perform in her own work.

Alexander Ekman’s new work for Cedar Lake, *Hubbub*, is a swift, pulsating eighteen-minute tour-de-force for six dancers. Using a score created in collaboration with the dancers own rhythmic impulses and employing their individual bodies as percussion instruments, the soundscape is integrated with original electronic music composed by Mikael Karlsson. Ekman’s works is known for clever ideas, fast-paced choreography and abundance of humor. He started his dance training at the age of five, began studying professionally at age 11 and at the age of 16 joined the Royal Swedish Ballet. Ekman continued his dance career with Nederlands Dans Theater between 2002-2005. In the fall of 2005, Alexander joined Cullberg Ballet in Stockholm Sweden.

*Violet Kid*, Hofesh Shechter’s second work for Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, is an original work for the full company accompanied by a music score created by the choreographer. In *Violet Kid* Shechter continues his unique examinations of man’s struggle for harmony within a complex and sometimes horrifying universe. In constant shifts between exhilarating charges and contradictory retreats, victims and aggressors, a glimpse into the essence of existence emerges.

Shechter graduated from the Jerusalem Academy for Dance and Music before moving to Tel Aviv to join the world renowned Batsheva Dance Company, where he worked with Artistic Director Ohad Naharin and other choreographers including Wim Vandekeybus, Paul Selwyn-Norton, Tero Saarinen and Inbal Pinto. Winner of the Critic’s Circle National Dance Award for Best Choreography (modern) in 2008, Hofesh Shechter is fast becoming recognized as one of the UK’s most exciting artists. In 2008, Shechter formed Hofesh Shechter Company which is touring globally to both critical and popular acclaim.

**IMAGES/ PRESS PASSES**
Limited press passes are available. Please contact Jessica Wolf at Jessica.wolf@uclalive.org. Hi-res images are available for download at uclalive.org/press.

**ABOUT UCLA LIVE**
UCLA Live presents world-class performing arts with a global perspective, enhancing the experience by engaging, cultivating and developing artists and audiences.

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